



9 Lessons & Carols

15 December 2024

6pm



ST MARGARET'S
PUTNEY

Welcome to St Margaret's, Putney

St Margaret's is a diverse and friendly community in leafy West Putney. A space to meet God, to connect with others, celebrate life and find support when we need it most. We are building a vibrant community and making a positive change, through prayer, friendship, charity and care of the environment.

Our services and music are rooted in the traditions of the Church of England. We want church to be inclusive, thought-provoking and fun, and we strive to make God's Word relevant and connected to everyday life. People of all ages fully participate in Sunday Mornings and activities throughout the week.

Whether you want to be part of something bigger or need a quiet moment to yourself, there's a warm welcome waiting for you here at the heart of your community.

St Margaret's Putney. Reflect. Connect. Grow.

The choir is directed by Dominic Lee. Our organist is Ben Frost. Our thanks go to tonight's readers, our churchwarden John Roberts; Steffi Sutters, our local councillor; Jonathan Crane, who project-managed the construction of our parish centre, celebrated tonight; Nikki Rosner from Roehampton Community Box, with whom we will distribute Christmas parcels this week to local families, Robert Arguile chair of Putney Society, Jenny Harrison of Beehive Nursery, which operates in our parish centre and halls, Fleur Anderson, our Member of Parliament, and Matthew Falk, Director of Services, Glass Door Homeless Charity, for whom we raised £2650 at this year's Sleep Out. Please light your candle as you enter the church. Sit for the readings and anthems and stand as you are able to sing the carols. Children are very welcome at this service. If they need some time out please feel free to take them out to the parish centre. There will be a collection during the service. St Margaret's receives no funding except from our congregation and raises significant amounts for external charities including Glass Door, Roehampton Community Box, Christian Aid, the Royal British Legion, Movember and the Disasters Emergency Committee campaigns. Please fill in the gift aid form if you are a UK taxpayer so that we can make the most of your donation. There are also machines for card donations near the door. St Margaret's operates a hearing loop. Please stand for the procession of the clergy and choir.

Solo by Edward Osborne:

*Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

Choir only:

*He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all;
and his shelter was a stable
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

All:

***And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden
in whose gentle arms he lay.
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.***

***And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.***

***Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.***

IRBY

*C. F. Alexander 1818-95,
H. J. Gauntlett 1805-76, arr. A. H. Mann 1850-1929*

Please be seated for words of welcome, concluding with the Lord's Prayer:

All **Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

May the Almighty God bless us with his grace;
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of the Angels bring us all.

All **Amen.**

In the Beginning was the Word

John 1:1-3; Rosephanye Powell b. 1962

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God.
All things were made that have been made. Nothing was made, He has not made.*

The First Lesson

Read by John Roberts, Churchwarden

The first lesson is from the third chapter of the book of Genesis.

Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Adam Lay Ybounden

Traditional 15th Century, Boris Ord 1897-1961

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond. Four thousand winter thought he not too long. And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, as clerkës finden written in their book. Nor had one apple taken been, the apple taken been, then had never Our Lady a-been heaven's queen. Blessed be the time that apple taken was; therefore we may singen "Deo gratias!"

The Second Lesson

Councillor Steffi Sutters, Wandsworth Borough Council

The second lesson is from the twenty-second chapter of the book of Genesis.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Please stand as you are able.

***O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.***

***O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.***

***How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.***

***O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.***

FOREST GREEN

P. Brooks 1835-1893,

English Traditional, harmony by R. Vaughan Williams 1872-1958,

Descant by T Armstrong 1898-1994

Please be seated.

The Third Lesson

Read by Jonathan Crane, Project Manager of the Worth Parish Centre Project

The third lesson is from the ninth chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

For Unto Us

Isaiah 9:6; G.F. Handel 1685-1759

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

The Fourth Lesson

Read by Nikki Rosner, CEO Roehampton Community Box Programme.

The fourth lesson is from the fifth chapter of the book of the prophet Micah.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in travail has brought forth; then the rest of his brethren shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Please stand as you are able.

***Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!***

***Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy fave,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.***

STILLE NACHT

***J. Mohr 1792-1848, trans. John Freeman Young (1820-1855)
F. Grüber 1787-1863, arr. Joseph M. Martin***

Please be seated.

The Fifth Lesson

Read by Robert Arguile, Chair of the Putney Society

The fifth lesson is from the first chapter of the Gospel according to St Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Hail Holy Queen

Traditional; arrangement by Marc Shaiman b. 1959, adapted by Roger Emerson b. 1950

*Hail, Holy Queen enthroned above, O Maria! Hail, Mother of mercy and of love, O Maria!
Triumph all ye cherubim! Sing with us ye seraphim! Heaven and earth resound the hymn!
Salve, salve, salve, Regina! Alleluia! Mater a-mater inter-merata, Sanctus, sanctus Dominus!
Virgo respice mater ad spice, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus!*

The Sixth Lesson

Read by Jenny Harrison, deputy-headteacher of Beehive Nursery

The sixth lesson is from the second chapter of the Gospel according to St Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Please stand as you are able.

***While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.***

***‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.***

***‘To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
a saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:***

***The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid.'***

***Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:***

***'All glory be to God on high
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
begin and never cease.'***

*WINCHESTER OLD
Nahum Tate 1652-1715
First published in Thomas Esté's Psalter 1592*

Please be seated.

The Seventh Lesson

Read by Fleur Anderson, MP

The seventh lesson is from the second chapter of the Gospel according to St Luke.

In that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Coventry Carol

Traditional, Philip Stopford b. 1977

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, bye bye, lully, lullay. thou little tiny child, bye bye, lully, lullay. O sisters too, how may we do For to preserve this day This poor youngling for whom we sing, "Bye bye, lully, lullay?" Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day his men of might in his own sight all young children to slay. That woe is me, poor child, for thee and ever mourn and may for thy parting neither say nor sing, "Bye bye, lully, lullay."

The Eighth Lesson

Read by Matthew Falk, Director of Services, Glass Door Homeless Charity

The eighth lesson is from the second chapter of the Gospel according to St Matthew.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." And lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

A collection will be taken for the music of the parish during this hymn.

***O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

***See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

*Lo! star-led chieftains, magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ child bring our hearts' oblations:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God in the highest:"
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Latin 13th century, Trans Frederick Oakeley 1802-80 and others
Melody probably J F Wade 1711-86*

Please remain standing for the Gospel reading.

The Ninth Lesson

Read by Sarah Cooper, Licensed Lay Reader, St Margaret's, Putney

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Gospel is followed by a fanfare.

The Christmas Message

Please be seated for the Revd Sarah Curl

Cantique de Noel (“O Holy Night”)

Adolphe-Charles Adam 1803-1856, John Sullivan Dwight 1813-1893

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night divine! O night, O night divine!*

*Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wise men from the orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger. Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, your King, before Him lowly bend!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another; his law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother; and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we! His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

The Collect

O God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able for the final hymn.

***Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

***Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:
hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

MENDELSSOHN

C. Wesley 1707-1788 et al.

G. Whitefield 1714-1770 & F. Mendelssohn 1809-1847

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

May he, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, bestow upon you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Voluntary

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel' - Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

After the service we will be celebrating the first anniversary of the Worth Parish Centre.

Please do join us for fizz and canapes, which will circulate in the parish centre.

Head outside and in through the front, or through the South transept door.

Thank you for joining us and a very happy Christmas to you and your family!

Every year we support Roehampton Community Box who send our food parcels to families across our local area.

St Margaret's provides a Christmas parcel stuffed with treats, games, toys, snacks and delights to make the festive season special. If you would like to sponsor a parcel you can make a donation by bank transfer to:

PCC St Margarets Church

SC: 60-17-11

AN: 86592939

Reference: CHRISTMAS

