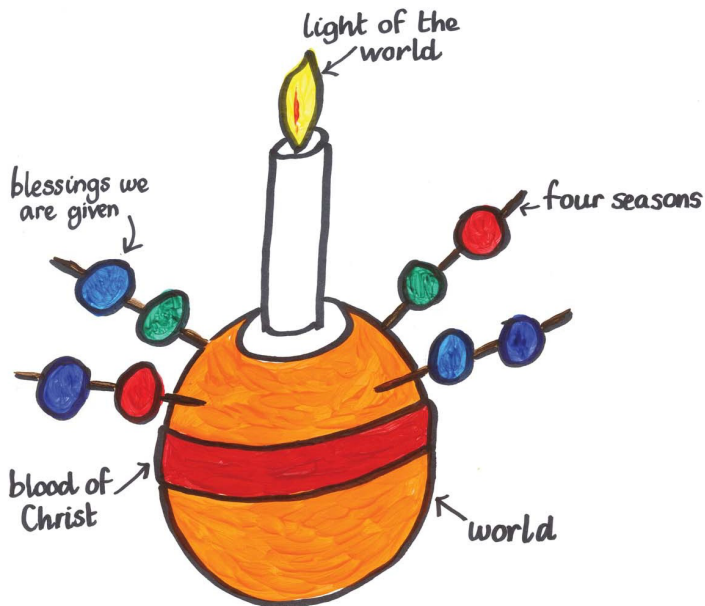




ST MARY MAGDALENE, GREAT HAMPDEN

CALM CHRISTINGLE



24TH DECEMBER 2025
11.15AM

Welcome to St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden for our Christingle Service.

Our service this morning is designed to welcome us into God's love and allow him to be present to us. We go out enabled to live a full life in the knowledge that we are cared for and loved by God and one another.

This church has stood here for many centuries, and the local community still gathers here to worship God and to demonstrate faith at work in our daily lives. This building provides a sacred space for prayer and meeting between God and his people.

We welcome all who seek God and invite you to join our efforts to be a strong facilitator of good in our community. We seek to build the Kingdom of God in our souls, our lives and our community here in Great Hampden and beyond.

This service also supports the work of the **Children's Society**. Their annual Christingle appeal raises vital funds for the children facing life's harshest challenges. Children who, this winter, find themselves sleeping rough in parks and shop doorways. The funds raised from Christingle help us to shine light into the darkness of their lives.

The Christingle began in the Moravian church in 1747. It is made up of a lighted candle symbolising Christ, the Light of the World, mounted on an orange (representing the world) with a red ribbon around (symbolising the blood of Christ). Four cocktail sticks with fruit symbolise the four seasons and the fruits of the earth.

There is a toilet with disabled and baby changing facilities in the churchyard, on the path behind the church.



Children's Society Christingle Collection

As you leave, please contribute to the collection for the Children's Society.

You can also donate to the Children's Society online, using this QR code: scan it and click the 'Make a donation' button. Your donation will go direct to the Children's Society and will be attributed to our total from Holy Trinity, Prestwood and St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden



Opening Carol

Please stand
(NEH 34)

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.

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.

And, through all his wondrous childhood,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

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.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Greeting and Welcome

The president says

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

The president welcomes and introduces the service

We have come together on Christmas Eve to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

So, let us pray:

Responses

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

All: Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

All: The Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

All: Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.

The Christingle Prayer

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Carol

(CAHON 859)

Little donkey, little donkey,
On the dusty road,
Got to keep on plodding onwards
With your heavy load.
Been a long time, little donkey,
Through the winter's night;
Don't give up now. Little donkey,
Bethlehem's in sight.

Little donkey, little donkey,
On the dusty road,
There are wise men, waiting for a
Sign to bring them here.
Do not falter, little donkey,
There's a star ahead;
It will guide you, little donkey,
To a cattle shed.

***Ring out those bells tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem,
Follow that star tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Little donkey, little donkey,
Had a heavy day,
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.***

Eric Boswell

The Christmas Story

Luke 2

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel. There were shepherds camping in the neighbourhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Saviour has just been born in David's town, a Saviour who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger." At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed

to us.” They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed. Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they’d been told!

The Christingle Talk

The Blessing and Presentation of the Christingles

The Christingles are distributed, lit and then blessed

Lord Jesus Christ, true Light of the World, all times and seasons belong to you. You fill this world with your gifts and give us new life through the shedding of your blood. May we who walk in your light, shed your light upon others. Bless these Christingles that they may be to us signs of your light and life in the world in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Carol

(CHON 776)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky.
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Anon (American, 19th century)

We blow out our Christingles

Now, as we blow out the candles,
Soon, as we say goodbye to each other,
Always and everywhere, as we travel homewards,

**All: Stay with us God.
All: Stay with us God.
All: Stay with us God.**

The Prayers

Christ, who was born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless.
In your mercy **All: hear our prayer.**

Christ, who fled into Egypt, give comfort to all refugees.

In your mercy **All: hear our prayer.**

Christ, who fasted in the desert, give relief to all who are starving.

In your mercy **All: hear our prayer.**

Christ, who suffered for us on the cross, give strength to all who suffer today.

In your mercy **All: hear our prayer.**

Christ, who died to save us, give peace to all who seek pardon.

In your mercy **All: hear our prayer.**

A prayer for the Children's Society

Loving Lord, we thank you for the Children's Society as it reaches out to young people experiencing pain and injustice. Guide and strengthen its work alongside children and young people who are homeless and on the streets, in prison or facing problems in the community. Grant us the wisdom to listen to the voices of the young and to recognize their gifts and insights. Help us to work with them to create a fair and just society where all may know the fullness of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. **Amen.**

Carol

(REH 48)

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:

glory streams from heaven afar,

heav'nly hosts sing, 'Alleluya,

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 face

with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

German, Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

tr John Freeman Young (1820-85)

Blessing the Crib

All: Let us pray that God our Father will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your son, Jesus Christ, was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation. Bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth. May all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who live and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Carol

(MP 589)

See Him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore -
the Prince of glory is His name.
***O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord appear to men -
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when He came.***

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world!

Refrain

Angels, sing the song you began,
bring God's glory to the heart of man;
sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be salvation to the soul.

Refrain

Mine are riches, from Your poverty,
from Your innocence, eternity;
mine forgiveness by Your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

Refrain

Michael Perry (1942-96)

The Blessing and Dismissal

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ child be ours this Christmas; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon us this Christmas and remain with us always.

All: Amen

Go in the peace of Christ, to bring light to all whom you meet.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

With grateful thanks to



for supplying our Christingle oranges.

The Reverend Nigel Spoor, the Reverend Kayleigh Lucas, the Churchwardens,
and people of Great Hampden, wish you all a very



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