

## Carols on the Green



**The Village Green, Nether Heyford  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 3:00PM**



Please maintain a distance of two metres between yourselves and other households or bubbles.

**Welcome and Opening Prayer**

**O little town of Bethlehem,**  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet in the 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.

**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 face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

**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," he said,  
For mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled minds  
"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  
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign."

"The heavenly Babe  
You there shall find  
To human view displayed  
And 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 heaven to men  
Begin and never cease!"

**Little donkey, little donkey**  
on the dusty road  
Got to keep on plodding onwards  
with your precious load  
Been a long time, little donkey,  
through the winter's night  
don't give up now, little donkey,  
Bethlehems in sight

*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*

Little donkey, little donkey,  
journey's end is near  
There are wiseman 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  
Little donkey, carry Mary, safely on her way*

**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 you lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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

Reading: Luke 2:1-7 (ESVUK)

### ***The Birth of Jesus Christ***

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town 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 registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

#### ***Come and join the celebration***

*It's a very special day  
Come and share our jubilation;  
There's a new King born today!*

See, the shepherds  
Hurry down to Bethlehem,  
Gaze in wonder  
At the Son of God who lay before them

*Come and join the celebration  
It's a very special day  
Come and share our jubilation;  
There's a new King born today!*

Wise men journey,  
Led to worship by a star  
Kneel in homage  
Bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so

*Come and join the celebration  
It's a very special day  
Come and share our jubilation;  
There's a new King born today!*

"God is with us"

Round the world the message bring

He is with us

"Welcome", all the bells on earth are pealing

*Come and join the celebration  
It's a very special day  
Come and share our jubilation;  
There's a new King born today!*

### **Prayers**

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

Christ by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold Him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.  
*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!'*

## Blessing

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 baby Jesus  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you  
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please take this carol sheet home with you and  
take care on leaving the green to maintain a  
social distance of two metres from other  
households or bubbles.

On behalf of all the local churches, may I take  
this opportunity to wish you a safe and blessed  
Christmas.

Rev Stephen

**We wish you a Merry Christmas (x3)**  
And a happy new year!

*Good tidings we bring,  
to you and your kin;  
we wish you a Merry Christmas,  
and a happy new year!*

Now bring us some figgy pudding, (x3)  
and bring some out here.

*Good tidings we bring,  
to you and your kin;  
we wish you a Merry Christmas,  
and a happy new year!*

We all like figgy pudding (x3)  
So bring some out here

*Good tidings we bring,  
to you and your kin;  
we wish you a Merry Christmas,  
and a happy new year!*

And we won't go until we've got some (x3)  
So bring some out here

*Good tidings we bring,  
to you and your kin;  
we wish you a Merry Christmas,  
and a happy new year!*

