

**Welcome and Bidding Prayer** by Rev Dr David de Pomerai

In the beginning was the Word (John 1:1)...  
He who comes  
comes to us now

in the silence  
in the darkness  
in the confusion  
in the loneliness

as Word and as Light  
as Truth and as Love

Emmanuel  
God-with-us  
now

(Harry Wiggett, South Africa)

**Reading 1:** The prophet Isaiah foretells the Messiah  
Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

**Carol:** 16 God rest ye merry gentlemen

**Reading 2:** The annunciation Luke 1:26-38

**Carol:** CHOIR The Angel Gabriel from heaven came.

**Reading 3:** The birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-7

**Poem:** "Christmas" by Sir John Betjeman

**Carol:** 19 Once in royal David's city

**Reading 4:** The shepherds in the fields Luke 2:8-20

**Poem:** "The Christmas Life" by Wendy Cope

**Carol:** 18 Angels from the realms of glory

**Reading 5:** Visit of the wise men Matthew 2:1-12

**Poem:** "The Magi" by Godfrey Rust

**Carol:** 21 We three kings of Orient are  
Men - verse 2 Women - verse 3 Choir - verse 4

**Reading 6:** John proclaims the mystery of the incarnation  
John 1:1-14

**Prayers of intercession, concluding with The Lord's Prayer**

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

**Carol:** 12 O come all ye faithful (omitting final verse)

**Final blessing**

**Celtic Blessing** (choir)

**You are warmly invited to join us at our Christmas services:**

**Christmas Eve Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm**

**Midnight Communion  
Led by Rev Dr David de Pomerai**

**Prayer for Christmas Night**

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this night  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



**Christmas Day, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10am**

**Short family service with Holy Communion  
to celebrate the birth of Christ  
Led by Rev Dr David de Pomerai**

**Prayer for Christmas Day**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven  
touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.

***St Peter's Church***  
*Hartshorne*

## **CAROL SERVICE**

**Sunday 22 December**

**4pm**