

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, 24th 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 25th 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