



A Festival of Lessons and Carols

**Sunday 16 December 2018
at 4.00 pm**

**ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER
BYWARD STREET, LONDON EC3R 5BJ**
Shining Christ's light on Tower Hill since AD 675

Music before the Service

Schübler Prelude BWV 545: "Sleepers wake!" - J. S. Bach
Chorale-Prelude "Uns ist geboren eir Kindelein" - Flor Peeters

Please stand. Light spreads around the church as our candles are lit.

Carol
Solo 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.

All **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.**

**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;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.**

Remain standing for the welcome

Introduction and Bidding prayers

concluding with

**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,
For ever and ever.
Amen**

Carol **Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Please sit and extinguish your candles

Lesson 1 Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7
Christ's birth and kingdom foretold by Isaiah

Solo 'The truth from above' - Traditional English
sung by Sarah Wilson

Lesson 2 Micah 5: 2-4
The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem

Carol **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.**

Lesson 3 Luke 1: 26-38
The angel Gabriel comes to Mary

Organ Meditation on 'My Shepherd will supply my need' -
Robert Hebble
played by Jonathan Melling

Lesson 4 Luke 2: 1-7
The birth of Jesus

Solo The Little Road to Bethlehem - Michael Head
sung by Sarah Wilson

Crib Figure Procession

Members of the congregation bring the crib figures to the altar

Carol **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 side until 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.**

Lesson 5 Luke 2: 8-20
The shepherds and angels visit Jesus

Carol **In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But his mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Belovèd with a kiss.**

**What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

Lesson 6 Matthew 2: 1-12
The Wise Men are led by the star

*During the next carol there will be a collection taken for the **Tower Hamlets Foodbank** and Christian Aid's **Yemen Crisis Appeal**. Please give generously to provide emergency support this Christmas and beyond. If you are a UK taxpayer, you can increase the value of your gift by 25% by using one of the Gift Aid envelopes which are available in the pews.*

Carol
All **We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we travel afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

Men **Born a king on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.**

All **O star of wonder ...**

Women **Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worshipping God on high.**

All **O star of wonder ...**

Men **Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.**

All **O star of wonder ...**

All **Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Heav'n sings Alleluia,
Alleluia the earth replies!**

O star of wonder ...

Please remain standing for our Gospel reading

Gospel John 1: 1-14
St John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation

Please sit

Solo A Maiden most gentle - Andrew Carter
sung by Sarah Wilson

A Christmas Message

Martin Carr, Licensed Lay Minister, All Hallows by the Tower

Please stand

Carol **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 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 Emmanuel.**

*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.*

Please remain standing for

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Music after the Service

Toccata in G - Theodore Dubois

*You are invited to stay for mulled wine and mince pies
at the end of this service.*



**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT
ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER**

**Wednesday 19 December, 6pm
Taizé Prayer around the Crib**

*A special service of Taizé prayer
as we prepare to welcome the Christ child*

**Thursday 20 December, 6.30pm
Carols by Candlelight**

*Traditional carols and readings,
followed by seasonal refreshments*

**Christmas Eve, 11.30pm
Midnight Mass by Candlelight
with Music and Carol Singing from 11pm**

**Christmas Day, 11.00am
Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols
followed by seasonal refreshments**

***You are warmly invited to join us for any or all of
our Christmas services.***

*Please note that after our service on Christmas Day the church will close
for the holidays and reopen on Wednesday 2 January.*

*There is no Taizé Service on 26 December and
no Sunday service on 30 December.*

THE TEAM AT ALL HALLOWS

Vicar designate:	The Rev'd Katherine Hedderly <i>(in post from April 2019)</i>
Associate Vicar:	The Rev'd Sophia Acland
Licensed Lay Minister:	Martin Carr
Operations & Finance Manager:	Angie Poppitt
Education & History Officer:	Adey Grummet
Organist and Director of Music:	Jonathan Melling
Church Wardens:	Ken Marshall, Di Robertshaw

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER

with **St Dunstan's in the East**

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Registered Charity No. 1129137

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SECURITY NOTICE: THEFTS HAPPEN DURING SERVICES

Please **never** leave your personal belongings unattended in the church and keep them safe at all times. Do not put bags on the floor by your feet, and make sure you take any valuables with you when you go forward to receive Communion. For your safety and security, 24 hour CCTV recording is in operation on these premises.



For your convenience, this church has an induction loop system