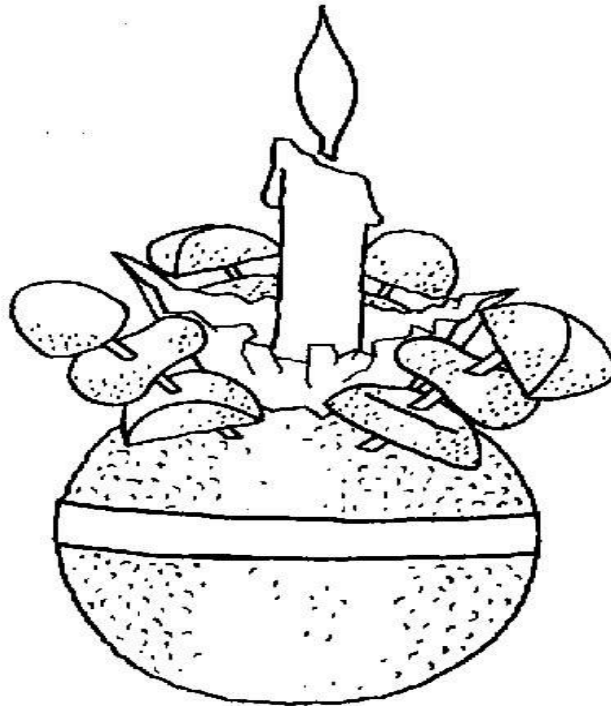




Christingle Service



St Mary's Church

Sunday 24th December 2023,

3pm

Welcome to St Mary's Christingle Service

Hymn: While shepherd watched their flocks by night

- 1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around**
- 2. "Fear not", said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind"**
- 3. "To you, in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
The Savior who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign"**
- 4. "The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands
And in a manger laid"**
- 5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song**
- 6. "All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease"**

Minister: Welcome and introduction to the service

Minister: Christ has brought us out of darkness:

All: To live in his glorious light

Minister: Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth:

ALL: JESUS IS OUR KING (LIGHT ADVENT WREATH)

Minister: Lord Jesus, light of the world, you came down from heaven and entered our world as a child, born of Mary.

All: Open our eyes to see your light today.

Minister: Lord Jesus, from the crib to the cross you stood among the people who had the least and suffered the most.

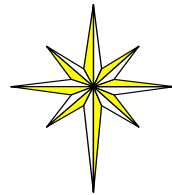
All: Open our eyes to see your light today.

Minister: Lord Jesus, you promise that when two or three are gathered in your name, you are there in the midst of them.

All: Open our eyes to see your light today.

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

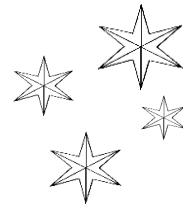
**1. O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight**



**2. 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**

**3. 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.**

**4.O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel**



Bible Reading: The Birth of Jesus Luke 2: 1-7

Hymn: Away in the manger

**1. Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
—The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.**

**2. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes.
—But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky.
And stay by the cradle till morning is nigh.**

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray!
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to heaven, to Live with Thee there.**



Address by the minister and the making of the Christingles



Hymn: This Little Light of Mine

**1 This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

**2 Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.**

**Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

**3 Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

Blessing of the Christingles

Minister: Lord Jesus, Light of the world, I hold this Christingle as a sign of your love.

The candle, planted deep within the world, as a sign that you made your home among us, that you lived with the poorest and most neglected.

The ribbon, wrapped around the earth, a sign of your blood poured out on the cross, enfolding the whole world with your saving love.

The fruits, a sign of all the good things of creation given to us that we might share them fairly so everyone can delight in the life you have given them and the world you have made.

All: Lord Jesus, Light of the world, as I hold this Christingle and think about your great love for me, help me to become a light bearing that love to others. Amen.

Minister: Let us
pray:

Glory to Jesus, light of the world, born as a baby to live with us, come now and shine your light into our hearts.

All: May the Glory of God shine through our lives.

Glory to Jesus, perfect love made known as a baby to save,
come now and make us more like you.

All: May the Glory of God shine through our lives

Glory to Jesus, champion of the littlest and the least born as a
baby to lead, come now and help us to follow your path of love.

All: May the Glory of God shine through our lives.

Lord Jesus, who came to a world in darkness, we lift to you all
who are scared, lonely, sad or unwell – particularly those we
know and those who are children- we thank you that you see
everyone, no matter how hard their situation might seem.
Comfort them, protect them and surround them with people
who will love and help them.

All: May the Glory of God shine through our lives.

We are sorry for when we make the Christmas season more
about us than about you. And for the times when we think, act
or speak as if the story of Jesus' birth, and his love for us, is
more about making ourselves feel good, than following you in
loving others. Father forgive us, and remind us through the
Christingle symbol of your greatest gift to us in Jesus, and the
example he is to us. **Amen.**

As we offer our prayers to God let us say together the prayer
Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Blessing and Dismissal

Blessing: May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Mary, and the peace of the Christ Child be ours this Christmas. May God Bless us and keep us, may He make His face to shine upon us and grant us peace. **Amen.**

As we leave we sing:

**The Christingle begins with an orange,
like the world which the Lord God made.
For creation is full of his glory;
all around we see his love displayed.**

***Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ.
Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, light of Christ.***

**Every year we give thanks for the seasons,
and the fruits of the earth to share.
The Christingle is here to remind us
that the love of God is everywhere.**

Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!...

**God of love, we give thanks now for Jesus;
we remember his birth again.
But the red ribbon round the Christingle
tells the story of his cross and pain.**

Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!...

*Let us take the light of Christ into our homes, into our
communities, into the world...*

*A big thank you to Kingston Fruiterers
for the donation of the oranges*

Come and sing with us!

St Mary's Choristers is a mixed choir for children aged 7+, based at the beautiful St Mary's Church, Kidlington



We rehearse on Friday evening during school terms, and perform regularly at Sunday services and other special services and concerts at Christmas and Easter.

Benefits for choristers:

- free, expert tuition in singing, music reading and music theory
- regular performance opportunities
- no membership fees
- build confidence, independence, leadership and teamwork skills
- make friends from other schools
- be part of a rich musical tradition



For details contact Dr David Hewett,
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or email stmaryschoristers@gmail.com

kidhp.org.uk/choristers-at-st-marys-kidlington