

At the heart
of Christmas



St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock

Christingle & Nativity Service

Sunday 19th December 2021 at 9.30 am

This service will take place outside in the churchyard. Please remember the following:

- Bring a folding chair if possible.
- Download the order of service from www.burtonbradstockvillage.org if you can
- The wearing of masks inside is mandatory. When outside, please be considerate and protective of those around you by wearing masks where possible, including when singing unless you are able to maintain adequate social distancing.
- Cash offerings at all the Christmas services are in aid of charities.
- Refreshments will be served to your seat after the service.

Welcome:

Welcome to our Christingle service – an opportunity during this special season to pause and remind ourselves what it is all about, why we celebrate and who it is that stands at the centre of Christmas. This is an act of worship but also a fun and family occasion, so if you're new to church or worried that your children might be a little restless, please feel at home – this service is planned with you in mind. Similarly, if you're not familiar with the Christingle, don't worry, for you'll soon learn more about it as the service progresses – not only how to make a Christingle, but also the history and symbolism that lies behind it. The main symbol, of course, is light – light that shone in Bethlehem so long ago, that has continued to shine in the lives of innumerable people across the years, and that God longs to ring to our lives and world today.

Carol:

Ding dong! Merrily on high,
in heaven the bells are ringing;
Ding dong! Verily the sky
is riven with angel singing.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io by priest & people sungen.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, he ringers;
May you beautifully rhyme
Your evetime song, ye singers.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Prayer:

Loving God, help us, in this wonderful season, to meet you, so that the one born in Bethlehem so long ago may be born in us today. Uplift our hearts, thrill our souls and light up our lives through meeting with Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. **Amen**

Reading (John 1: 6-14):

A messenger of God called John came to point to the light, eager that everyone might come to faith. He wasn't the light himself but came to testify to it. The true light, able to illumine the lives of all, was coming into the world. He was in the world – a world that owed its very existence to him – yet the world did not acknowledge him., He became part of what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. To all, though, ready to receive him and believe in his name, he gave the right to become God's children – his offspring born not of blood or any union of the flesh, nor of any human desire, but of God. The Word became flesh and lived among us, so that we saw his glory for ourselves: glory as of a Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

Carol:

1 In the bleak mid-winter
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 mid-winter, long ago.

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

3 Enough for him, whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breast full of milk
and a manger full of hay;

enough for him whom angels
fall down before
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

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

5 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.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Public Domain

Offertory Prayer:

Father God, take this money and through it further the work of the Children's Society, for we recognise there your love and concern, your desire to bring light into the lives of young people, your yearning to break into the darkness of our world. By your grace and power, use it to bring light and hope to many, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Drama: Making the Christingle

... The whole point of the Christingle is to shed light, and to do that the candle must be lit. We'll do that in a moment, not just one candle but lots, for a team has been busy behind the scenes making lots of Christingles.

Reading:

From Psalm 36: 9: 'You are the fountain of life; in your light we see light in turn.'

From John's Gospel: 'The true light, able to illumine the lives of all, was coming into the world' (John 1:9). And finally, the words of Jesus: 'I have come to bring light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me will not remain in darkness' (John 12:46).

In a moment, we will sing of the coming of that light, born in a stable and lying in a manger, but first, let us pray.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, light a torch in our hearts, a fire in our eye, a flame in our hearts, a candle in our lives and a beacon in our world. Shine on us, in us and through us, to your glory. Amen

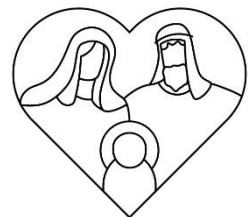
Carol:

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.

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Prayer:

In a beautiful but broken world, full of so much good yet so much evil, we bring you, Lord, our prayers for others.

Where hardship has crushed the spirit, destroying faith in the future,
Lord Jesus Christ, **may your love bring light.**

Where war and suffering scar your world, erupting into violence,
Lord Jesus Christ, **may your love bring light**

Where disaster has brought devastation, shattering people's lives,
Lord Jesus Christ, **may your love bring light.**

Where hearts are closed to you and others, fear and prejudice causing division,
Lord Jesus Christ, **may your love bring light.**

Come to our world, Lord, and heal its wounds, shining in the darkness and restoring joy, faith, hope and love. Lord Jesus Christ, **may your love bring light. Amen**

Carol:

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace & mercy;
Send forth your Word, Lord,
and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my
darkness.

Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine ...

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your
story.

Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine ...

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Blessing:

As light filled the sky for the shepherds, so, gracious God, may your glory shine in our hearts. As a star guided wise men from the east, so may our love guide our footsteps. As John the Baptist witnessed to the light, so may we bring light in turn to others. As you came through your Son, shining in the darkness, so be with us even in life's bleakest moments. In your grace and mercy, may Christ, the light of the world, be our light and our life, now and for evermore. Amen

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Children's Society