

# St Mary's Church, Walkley



**The Church on the Road:**  
*Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God*

## Christmas Day Eucharist

**25<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley**

**President: The Revd Canon Dr Alan Billings**

**Preacher: The Revd Canon James Wilson**

**Team Warden: Janet**

## The Gathering and Opening Hymn

*We stand and we sing carol number 84 in the green books.*

*President* 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

*All* **Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.**

*President* From eternity to eternity you are God,

*All* **and now we see you as a newborn child.**

## The Greeting

*President* God our Father,  
today the Saviour is born  
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.  
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,  
to live in the light of your Son  
and to share the good news of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who has come into the world.

*All* **Amen.**

*The fifth candle is lit.*

*President* Reveal among us the light of your presence

*All* **that we may behold your power and glory.**

*We remain standing and we sing:*

*All* **Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,  
changed for gladness  
on that Day.**

**Advent candles tell their story  
on this Christmas Day.  
Those who waited for God's glory:  
they prepared the way.  
Christ is with us: loving, giving,  
in us living,  
here today!**

## The Confession and Absolution

*Minister* Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

*We keep a time of silence.*

*Minister* God our Father,  
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Minister* Jesus our Saviour,  
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:  
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Minister* Spirit of love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*President* May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw us to himself,  
that we may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all our sins,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*We remain standing and we sing:*

## The Gloria in Excelsis

*Cantor* Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

*All* **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

*Cantor* Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

*All* **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

*Cantor* Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

*All* **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

*Cantor* For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

*All* **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

## **The Collect**

*President* Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration  
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

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.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## **The Reading: Isaiah 9. 2 - 7**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gradual Hymn**

*We stand and we sing carol number 439 in the green hymn book. During the hymn we turn to face the processional cross as the book of the Gospels moves to the middle of the people.*

## **The Gospel Reading: Luke 2. 1 - 20**

*Minister* Today Christ is born:  
*All* **Alleluia.**

*Minister* Today the Saviour has come:  
*All* **Alleluia.**

*Minister* Today the angels sing on earth:  
*All* **Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.**

*Minister* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Minister* This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

*We stand.*

## The Creed

*President* Let us declare our faith in God,

*All* **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

*We sit or kneel.*

## The Prayers of Intercession

*Intercessor* Jesus, saviour,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Or another response is used.*

*Intercessor* Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,  
*All* **you know us and love us,  
you share our lives  
and hear our prayer.  
Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

*We stand.*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*President* Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

*President* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

*Minister* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange the peace through smiles, waves and handshakes  
with those around us, as you feel comfortable.*

### The Offertory Hymn

*We stand and we sing carol number 182 in the green book as the  
altar is prepared. If you would like to support St Mary's, donations  
can be made after the service at the back of church using the  
collection plate or contactless card giving station. If you would like to  
give regularly to St Mary's please speak to the Treasurer, or one of  
the Team Wardens.*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*President* The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

*President* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President* All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,  
and was born of the Virgin Mary  
by the power of your Spirit,  
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*Cantor* Holy Holy Holy Lord

*All* **Holy Holy Holy Lord**

*Cantor* God of power and God of might

*All* **God of power and God of might**

*Cantor* Heaven and earth are full of your glory

*All* **Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

*Cantor* Hosanna in the highest

*All* **Hosanna in the highest**

*Cantor* Blessed is he who comes

*All* **Blessed is he who comes**

*Cantor* In the name of the Lord most High

*All* **In the name of the Lord most High**

*Cantor* Hosanna

*All* **Hosanna**

*Cantor* Hosanna

*All* **Hosanna**

*Cantor* Hosanna in the highest  
*All* **Hosanna in the highest**

*President* We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

*Minister* Great is the mystery of faith:

*Cantor* Dying you destroyed our death  
*All* **Dying you destroyed our death**

*Cantor* Rising you restored our life  
*All* **Rising you restored our life**

*Cantor* Lord Jesus come  
*All* **Lord Jesus come**

*Cantor* Lord Jesus come  
*All* **Lord Jesus come**

*Cantor* Come again in glory  
*All* **Come again in glory**

*President* Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Mary, Mark, John and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit or kneel.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*President* Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*All* **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*President* We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

*All* **God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

## The Giving of Communion

*President* Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.  
*All* **Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The president will give instructions on how to come forward for communion and on returning to our seats. All are welcome to come to front for the bread and wine or a blessing. If you would like a blessing please keep your arms folded across your chest at you approach the front.*

*The president will dip the wafer in the wine before giving it to you. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask at the altar. During the distribution we sing and music is played.*

*During the distribution we sing carol number 75 and 251 in the green book.*

## The Prayer after Communion

*President* Let us pray.

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **We praise and thank you, creator God,  
for you have not left us alone.  
Every year we celebrate your coming as Emmanuel.  
Every eucharist celebrates his death,  
in the bread we break and the cup we share,  
until that day when we shall see you face to face,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Notices

*We stand.*

## The Blessing

*President* May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon us his children.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill us with joy and peace.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
give us grace to carry the good news of Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Closing Hymn

*We remain standing and we sing carol number 199 from the green hymn book during which we turn to face the back of church as the robed ministers process.*

## The Dismissal

*Minister* Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

*All* **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

## ***Merry Christmas!***

*Coffee and tea are served after the service.*

For more information: [stmaryswalkley.co.uk](http://stmaryswalkley.co.uk)

