

St Mary's Church, Walkley



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

The Holy Innocents Eucharist

28th December 2025

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley

President: The Revd Mike Gilbert, Associate Archdeacon
Preacher: The Revd Mike Gilbert, Associate Archdeacon
Team Warden: Janet

The Gathering and Opening Hymn

We stand and we sing the opening hymn.

President In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

President Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

All **and also with you.**

The Confession and Absolution

Minister On this day when we recall the murder of innocent lives,
let us stand before our just and holy God,
and remembering the violence and injustice of our world,
confess our sins in penitence and faith.

We keep a time of silence.

All **Father we have sinned.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

We remain standing and we sing:

Cantor Kyrie éléison

All **Kyrie éléison**

Cantor Christe éléison

All **Christe éléison**

Cantor Kyrie éléison

All **Kyrie éléison**

Cantor Kyrie éléison
All **Kyrie éléison**
Cantor Christe éléison
All **Christe éléison**
Cantor Kyrie éléison
All **Kyrie éléison**

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

All **Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,
Glory to God in the highest, 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.
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,
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,
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the
Father: receive, receive our prayer.
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you
alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with Holy Spirit, in the
glory of God the Father. Amen. In the glory of God the Father,
Amen.**

The Collect

President Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,
though they had done no wrong:
by the suffering of your Son
and by the innocence of our lives
frustrate all evil designs
and establish your reign of justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

We sit.

The Reading: Jeremiah 31. 15 - 17

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord:
A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

Thus says the Lord:
Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears;
for there is a reward for your work,
says the Lord:
they shall come back from the land of the enemy;
there is hope for your future,
says the Lord:
your children shall come back to their own country.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn

We stand and we sing. 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: Matthew 2. 13 - 18

Minister Alleluia, alleluia.
Never despise these little ones;
their guardian angels in heaven look continuously
on the face of my heavenly Father.

All **Alleluia.**

Matthew 18.10

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

Now after the Magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

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 Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers**
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

We stand.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President 'I will comfort you,' says the Lord, 'as a mother comforts her child, and you shall be comforted.'

Isaiah 66.13

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 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,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In love for our fallen human race,
you sent your Son into the world to lighten our darkness.

In his life

he rejoiced in the innocence and beauty of children;
in his death

he carried in his body the violence and cruelty of our world;
in his resurrection

he brought life and salvation to his people
and began the new creation.

As our ascended and merciful high priest,
he hears our cries and knows our grief;
and will come as universal Lord to whom all must give account.

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 Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

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**

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, the Holy Innocents
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 as you approach the front.

We are now able to receive the wine as well as the bread. 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.

The Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your humility you have stooped to share our human life
with the most defenceless of your children:
may we who have received these gifts of your passion
rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents
to the purity of your sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross;
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

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 Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
fill us with peace and goodwill
and make us partakers of the divine nature;
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 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.**

Coffee and tea are served after the service.

For more information: stmaryswalkley.co.uk

