

The Parish Church of St John the Evangelist

Welcome to our guide for Christmas

The Angel said to the shepherds.

“Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord”.

Song: Jesus shall reign

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVN2bnjBICU>



We Pray:

The Word was that was made flesh, and lived among us

and today we see his glory.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

Jesus is our Way.

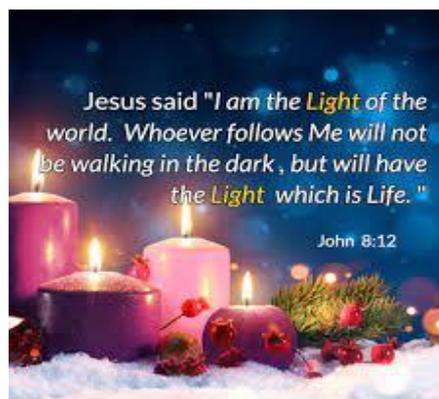
With Jesus even dark places are light;

Jesus is the Truth.

In Jesus we shall live for ever;

Jesus is our Life and hope.

Amen



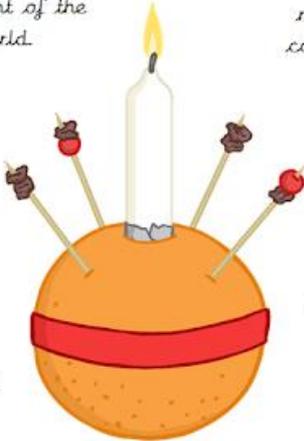
<p>For everyone Christmas is special</p> 	<p>It's a time for presents</p> 	<p>It's a time for parties</p> 
<p>The Angels said <i>“Glory to God in the highest”</i></p>	<p>And when Jesus was born It was a really special time</p>	<p>The Angels said <i>“Peace on earth for everyone”</i></p>
<p>The Angel Gabriel promised Mary that she would have a son. <i>His name is Jesus which means God saves. Jesus will be called Emmanuel which means God is with us</i></p> 	<p>The Angels proclaimed the birth of Jesus to shepherds in the hills. <i>Today a saviour has been born to you. He is the Messiah which means God's chosen</i></p> 	<p>The star led the wise men to where Jesus had been born <i>We seek the one who was born to be king</i></p> 

Song: The Angels bring the news of Jesus' birth – Hark the Herald Angels sing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9IAGklrAoc>

Christingle activity

Christingles are a way of showing just how important Jesus' birth is to the world. If you want to create your own just look at the picture below and see how each bit represents Jesus as light to the world.

<p>The lit candle represents Jesus as the Light of the World.</p> <p>The 4 sticks represent the four compass directions and the four seasons.</p> <p>The fruits or sweets skewered on sticks represent the fruits of the Earth.</p> <p>The orange represents the world.</p> <p>The red ribbon (or red paper frill) represents the blood of Jesus.</p> 	
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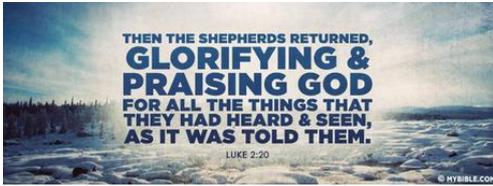
Have a go at making your own Christingle and light the candle through the Christmas season and why not listen to some carols such as:

Silent night: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePmp_fba-tl

Away in a manger: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4xFSdNqH1s>

While shepherds watched their flocks at night: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ecBt7uthC4>

Jesus' birth changes everything. That's why Christmas is so special

<p>The Angel told Mary that that Jesus what God's gift to all people. It changed Mary's life.</p> 	<p>She was not just Jesus' mother. She followed Jesus as he told everyone about God and His kingdom She was with Jesus when he died on the cross She was present when Jesus rose again</p>	<p>Mary believed Jesus was the Son of God and was faithful and followed him always</p> 
<p>The Angels told the shepherds that the Messiah they were waiting for had been born in Bethlehem</p> 	<p>And when they found Jesus, they worshipped Him and told everyone they met of the good news</p> 	<p>The shepherds knew they were with God's Son when they saw him and they spread the good news</p> 

<p>The Wise Men had been shown God's promise to send Jesus and they travelled far to find Him</p> 	<p>The star led the wise men to Jesus in Bethlehem. They had left their country to find Jesus, God's chosen saviour</p> 	<p>When they found Jesus, they bowed down and gave him gifts</p> 
<p>After Jesus was born Mary and Joseph took him to the temple where a man called Simeon saw Jesus. Simeon had been told by God he would see the Messiah before he died</p>	<p>Simeon praised God for Jesus</p> 	<p>Simeon had been waiting for God's promise. Jesus was truly God's Son and Simeon knew that to be true</p> 
<p>Our Christmas celebrations are because Jesus is God's Son</p> 	<p>We need to remember what God has done for the world when we enjoy Christmas</p> 	<p>We welcome Jesus into our Christmas celebrations</p> 

You can read St. Luke's version of the Christmas story by following this link:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2&version=GNT>

It tells us about Jesus' birth and also about all those who found Jesus and how they recognised Jesus as God's Son.

Song: Joy to the world

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqxMvvptf9I>

Christmas prayers:

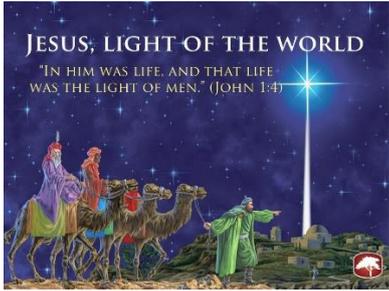
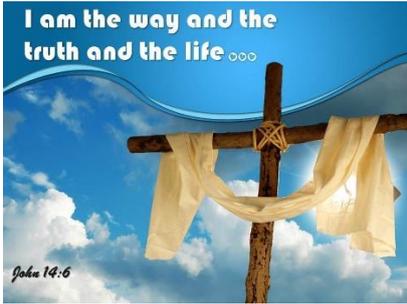
Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,
That we may share in the song of the angels,
The gladness of the shepherds,
And worship of the wise men.
May this Christmas make us
Happy to be called children of God

In Jesus, our Saviour and Lord

Amen.



Christmas 2021

<p>Jesus has come to be the light of the world</p>  <p>JESUS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD "IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THAT LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN." (JOHN 1:4)</p>	<p>Jesus said he is the way to God the Father</p>  <p>I am the way and the truth and the life</p> <p>John 14:6</p>	<p>Jesus said He came to bring hope to the poor, the suffering and the lost</p>  <p>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. Psalm 23:1</p>
<p>Our kindness brings light into the lives of others</p> 	<p>When we believe Jesus is God's Son we become the children of God</p> 	<p>God's love becomes our love and we care for our neighbours by being generous and loving</p>  <p>Everyone CAN MAKE A Difference PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY</p>
<p>Let us pray everyone has a really Happy Christmas</p> 	<p>“May we all be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever.” Amen</p>	<p>We pray for those who bring hope to others this Christmas</p> 

Songs: Praising God for Christmas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KO3odnneN4M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW4c6DcxqGc>

The true message of Christmas



It started with the birth of Jesus in a manger

But God's message of love
Is made real
By you and me

So what can we do to make it a special Christmas?

Have a happy and blessed Christmas

