

St Mary the Virgin Richmond

Rector: Revd. Canon Martin Fletcher



Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Led by: Revd. Lorna Heatley,
Assistant Curate

Sunday 21st December 2025

Christmas Eve:	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day:	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	10.00am	Christmas Communion

**You are warmly invited to join us in person or online
www.richmondhudswellparish.org.uk**

Carol 19

Once in Royal David's City
(verse 1: Solo, Verse 2 Choir)

Welcome and Bidding Prayer

We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity within the Church he came to build, and especially in this town of Richmond and diocese of Leeds.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has 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.**

1st Lesson	Genesis 3:8-14 <i>The Fall</i>
Choir	O come O come Emmanuel! (BBC Songs of Praise version)
Carol 11	Joy to the world!
2nd Lesson	Genesis 22:15-18 <i>The promise to Abraham</i>
Choir	Like a Candle flame: Graham Kendrick arr: Paul Leddington Wright
3rd Lesson	Isaiah 9:2, 6&7 <i>The prophecy of the Messiah's birth</i>
Choir	'Torches' John Joubert
4th Lesson	Isaiah 11:1-9 <i>The prophecy of the Messiah's kingdom of peace</i>
Carol 16	God rest ye merry gentlemen
5th Lesson	Luke 1:26-38 <i>The annunciation to Mary</i>
Duet	'Light of the World' John Dankworth 'As I outrode this enderes night' Gerald Hendie Soloists: Alison Hicks and Kelly Dent
Carol 1	O little town of Bethlehem
6th Lesson	Luke 2:1-7 <i>The birth of Jesus</i>
The former Trebles	'A Cradle Song' Ronald Corp North side: Kelly Dent, Alison Hicks South side: Chelsea Morison and Amanda White
7th Lesson	Luke 2:8-16 <i>The shepherds go to the manger</i>
Carol 7	While shepherds watched their flocks by night
Choir	In the Bleak midwinter: Harold Darke

8th Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus***Choir***Away in a Manger (Breton tune)***Carol 21**

We three Kings of Orient are

9th Lesson

John 1:1-14

*(please stand)**St John unfolds the great mystery
of the Incarnation***Choir***And the glory of the Lord : GF Handel***Carol 10**

Hark! the herald angels sing

Collect and Blessing

Almighty God,

you make us glad with the yearly remembrance

of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:

grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,

we may with sure confidence behold him

when he shall come to be our judge;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one

things earthly and heavenly,

fill you with peace and goodwill

and make you partakers of the divine nature;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.**Carol 12**

O Come, all ye Faithful

Church Music Directors: Colin Hicks / Andrew Christer