

Come and Join the Celebration - all

We give you a warm welcome to our Carol Service .

This year we have been rushing around getting ready for the Christmas Concerts, parties, making cards, shopping for presents and putting up decorations. Christmas is such a busy time of year as we spend so much time searching for the perfect Christmas gift.

While all the hustle and bustle is going on, let's take a moment to remember what the fuss and excitement is about, the true meaning of Christmas. The first Christmas began with a gift from God.

Ding dong merrily

1) The Christmas Story begins with two ordinary people, Mary and Joseph. One day in Nazareth, Mary was busy in her house when, suddenly, there was a flutter of wings and a bright light. She turned to see an angel standing before her. He told her not to be afraid, and that he was the Angel Gabriel, a messenger from God.

2) I bring you good news, Mary. God has a special plan for you. You are going to have a baby. A very special child who will be God's son. You must call him Jesus.

3) Mary was surprised, but Gabriel said that God would take care of everything and she didn't need to worry. The angel disappeared. Full of excitement, she went to tell Joseph all about it. God had told him about Mary's special baby too in a dream. "We will look after him together" he said.

4) After they were married and the baby was nearly due to be born, a messenger came from the Roman Emperor of the land. The Emperor wanted all the people to be counted and everyone had to return to their home town. So Mary and Joseph set off on a very long journey to their hometown, Bethlehem, riding a donkey. When, at last, they arrived in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph began to look for a place to stay, but everyone they asked said there was no room.

No room in the Inn- choir

5) Later that night, Mary's baby was born in a dark, cold cattle shed. They wrapped him well and laid him down in a manger. "His name is Jesus," Mary said.

Away in a Manger - 1st verse a solo

6) At the same time Jesus was born, on a nearby hillside were shepherds watching over their sheep. Suddenly, they were startled by the sound of heavenly music and a bright light shone on them.

"Glory to God in the highest. Peace on Earth, and goodwill to all people. "

One of the angels then spoke to the nervous shepherds.

"Don't be afraid, we bring you good news. The saviour of the world, Christ the Lord is born today. You will find him lying in a manger, in a stable in Bethlehem."

Unto us a Son is born

7) The shepherd found the baby in a stable lying in a manger, just as the angels had said, fast asleep. They fell to their knees in wonder. Later they told everyone they met about the angels' message and the new born Saviour of the world.

Silent Night 2 verses

8) Meanwhile, far away, three wise men saw a bright new star in the sky.

"A new king has been born" they agreed and set off to find him. They travelled, following the star, until they came to a palace.

" This must be where the new king would be born" they said and went inside.

9) "Where is the new born king?" They asked King Herod. "We have followed a bright star to come and worship him."

Herod didn't like the sound of this. **HE** was the king and **NO ONE** else was going to take his place. But he just smiled at the wise men and said,

"Tell me when you have found him and I will come and worship him too. "

Secretly he thought to himself,

"When I know where he is, I will kill him!"

10) The three wise men travelled on, but they could see that King Herod was wicked. They were never going to tell him where Jesus was!

When the wise men found Jesus, they bowed down and worshipped him, giving him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

We 3 kings

11) Later that night, an angel came to warn the family of King Herods' evil plan. It wasn't safe for them in Bethlehem any longer. So Mary and Joseph took their baby and travelled to a place where King Herod could not hurt them. Baby Jesus was safe.

Midnight -Choir

As he grew up the world would hear the special message the Son of God had brought for all people. The story we have told today is to remind ourselves of what Christmas really means.

Calypso Carol

13) Let us pray

More that 2000 years have passed since that night in a stable, but everywhere this is a special time to thank you for giving us your only son. Thank you Lord for Christmas time, for all the joy and happiness it brings. Thank you for all the gifts we give and receive and most of all for the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

Amen

Thank you for taking part in our special celebration. Please join in with our final song **Hallelujah** and Have a lovely Christmas.

Hallelujah