



Carol Service 2025

Introduction and Welcome:

Sofia: Welcome to our Christmas Carol Service. We live in a world where we are surrounded by words: at the moment we are seeing signs everywhere like "Happy Christmas", "Season's Greetings" or "Santa's Grotto". Words are our main means of communicating with others. It is of great significance then, that Jesus is referred to in the gospels as the "Word of God".

Chinyere: Jesus is the sign of God's great love for all humankind. God wanted people to know that they were loved. So, God decided to take human form and become Emmanuel – 'God With Us'.

Margaret: In these last few days before Christmas, we take time out to reflect upon the coming of Jesus. This Christmas Carol Service will help us to reflect on that very first Christmas when Jesus came into the world and encourages us to once again allow the light of Christ to shine through our lives this Christmas time.

Lilly: As we begin our carol service, we gather around the Advent Ring. The Advent candles remind us that the light of Christ is coming into the world. We now invite Father Jakub to light the Advent candles as the whole school sings together.

Wait for Fr Jakub to light the advent wreath

KS2 to stand

Carol - KS2: Christmas is coming

KS2 to sit

Opening Prayer:

Eloise: We now invite you to make the sign of the cross as we begin our time in prayer: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Eloise: Loving Father, at the Birth of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the angels in heaven came together to sing His praise and to announce His coming. Be with us this evening, as we join together to celebrate the Nativity, and with the wise men, the shepherds and the angels, may we worship you with our songs of praise. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen

Edward: As we give thanks for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we now invite you to join us in song to remember the place where His story began. Please stand and join us as we sing together: "Once in Royal David's City,

KS2 and congregation to stand

Carol – KS2 and the congregation: Once in Royal David's City

KS2 and congregation to sit

Valentina: Christmas seemed a long time coming to our world. From the beginning chapters of Genesis onward, God began to speak through his prophets to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah, the Saviour of the World.

Ayda: Our first reading is from the prophet Isaiah. He wrote this 700 years before Jesus was born. Isaiah was looking forward to the new life that Jesus would bring.

Reading 1: Isaiah 9; v 2, 6 and 7.

Nathan: This is a reading from the Prophet Isaiah: The Prophecy. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. A child is born to us! A son given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, "Wonderful Counsellor," "Mighty God", "Eternal Father," "Prince of Peace." His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David's successor, basing his power on right and justice, from now until the end of time.

Anais: The prophet Isaiah reminds us that long before Jesus was born, people were waiting and hoping for a Saviour who would bring peace and light to the world. Key stage 2 will now join together in our next carol, which celebrates that promise fulfilled.

KS2 to stand

Carol - KS2: For unto us a child is born

KS2 to sit

Gospel reading 1: The Annunciation (Luke 1: v 26 – 38)

The Angel Gabriel (Y4) and Mary (Y5) to enter. Mary stands to one side looking prayerful. Mary to act shocked when the Angel Gabriel (Y4) starts speaking.

Archie: Our next few readings come from the Gospels. They tell the story of how God's promise was fulfilled — how Jesus was born and welcomed into the world.

Cora: Our first Gospel reading comes from the Gospel of St Luke. Many years after Isaiah's prophecy, God's promise began to come true. The angel Gabriel was sent by God to Mary with wonderful news — that she would become the mother of God's Son, Jesus.

Jeremiah: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, "Rejoice, you who enjoy God's favour! The Lord is with you."

Mila: She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Look! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the house of Jacob for ever, and his reign will have no end."

Joel: Mary said to the angel, "But how can this come about, since I have no knowledge of man?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so, the child will be holy and will be called the Son of God. And I tell you this too: your cousin Elizabeth also, in her old age, has conceived a son, and she whom people call barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible for God! Mary said, "You see before you the Lord's servant, let it happen to me as you have said." And the Angel left her.

Grayson: The angel Gabriel brought Mary wonderful news — that she would become the mother of God's Son. Mary trusted in God's plan and said "yes" to Him with faith and love. Year 4 will now lead us in singing about this moment in our next carol, which tells the story of the angel's message.

Year 4 stand

Carol – Year 4 – The Angel Gabriel

Year 4 to sit down

The Angel Gabriel (Y4) to go back to their class. Joseph (Y5) to join Mary (Y5).

Gospel reading 2: The birth of Jesus (Luke 2: v 1 – 7)

Mary (Y5) and Joseph (Y5) walk around the church and move towards the manger, lovingly looking at Jesus.

Sienna: Like countless others before us at this time of year, we turn our thoughts to that town of Bethlehem, a simple farming community, with fields of wheat, groves of olives and vineyards. The centre of our interest is where in a simple lowly place a child is born, the one we call the Son of God.

Isla: Our next Gospel reading tells us of that Holy night – The birth of Jesus. Now, it happened that at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be made of the whole inhabited world. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.

Leksi: So, Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee for Judea, to David's town called Bethlehem, since he was of David's house and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

Quentin: In Bethlehem, the promise made to Mary was fulfilled. In a quiet, humble place, the Son of God was born — bringing hope, peace and joy to the world. Year 3 will now lead us in singing about that special night and the tiny child lying in the manger.

Year 3 to stand

Carol – Year 3 – Away in a manger

Year to sit

Gospel reading 3: The Shepherds visit Jesus (Luke 2: v 8 - 17.)

The Angels (Y4) and Shepherds (Y3) appear and stand in separate groups. Shepherds (Y4) are to look afraid at the angels (Y4) and bow to them.

Eben: It was unexpected, wasn't it? But perhaps not so strange really, that the first to hear of the birth of Jesus, would be a group of humble shepherds, at work on a Judean hillside. God did not, and does not, dismiss them as worthless. His message of salvation is for everyone, this Christmas.

Alex: Our next reading from the Gospel of St Luke tells us how the good news of Jesus' birth was first shared with those shepherds.

Holly: In the countryside close by, there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of night. An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said "Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you, you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger".

Caoimhe: And all at once with the angel, there was a great throng of the hosts of heaven, praising God with the words: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours.' Now it happened that when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another. "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us." So, they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Ben: The shepherds were the first to hear the good news of Jesus' birth. They listened, believed, and hurried to see the child lying in the manger — a reminder that God's message of love is for everyone, no matter who we are. Key stage 2 will now join together in our next carol, which celebrates that special night when heaven and earth rejoiced together.

KS2 to stand

Carol – KS2 - Calypso Carol

KS2 to sit

The angels (Y4) go back to their seats. The Shepherds (Y3) go to see Jesus before returning to their seats.

Maddie: The shepherds were filled with joy as they hurried to see the baby Jesus. They found Him lying in a manger, just as the angel had said. And there, in that quiet place, God's love shone out for all the world to see. Year 5 will now lead us in a carol that reminds us of that love, born in Bethlehem on that holy night.

Year 5 to stand

Carol – Year 5 – Love shone down

Year 5 to sit

Gospel reading 4: Matthew 2: v 1 - 12 - The Visit of the Wise Men

The wisemen (Y6) and one angel (Y4) walk around the church with a star. The angel stands behind Mary (Y5) and Joseph (Y5) and the wisemen kneel in front of Jesus.

Thiago: The good news of Jesus' birth soon spread far and wide. Not only nearby shepherds, but wise men from distant lands came to find Him. They followed a bright star, believing it would lead them to the new-born King.

Sofia: Our final Gospel reading, from St Matthew, tells us about the visit of the Wise Men. After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of King Herod, some Wise men came to Jerusalem from the east asking, "Where is the infant King of the Jews? We saw this star as it rose and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

Chinyere: They told him: "At Bethlehem in Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least among the leaders of Judah, for from you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod summoned the Wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared and sent them on to Bethlehem with the words, "Go and find out all about the child, and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage."

Margaret: Having listened to what the King had to say, they set out. And suddenly the star they had seen rising went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage.

Lilly: The Wise Men brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh — signs of love, worship, and faith. We too bring our gifts of praise and joy as Yea 6 sing our next carol.

Carol – Year 6 – Follow That Star

The wisemen (Y6), angel (Y4) and Mary (Y5) and Joseph (Y5) return to their seats.

Closing Prayers

Valentina: We have followed the story from the angel's message to Mary, to the joy of Jesus' birth, and the visitors who came to see Him. As our celebration draws to a close, let us take a quiet moment to give thanks, and to pray for peace and love in our world this Christmas.

Ayda: We pray that as Christmas comes round each year we are not tempted to say, "We've heard all this so many times before; we know the story of by heart." Lord, remind us of the difference between knowing the story and knowing the one the story is about. Help us to practice in our lives the real message of Christmas.

PAUSE

Lord in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer

Nathan: As Christmas approaches, we pray that like Mary, people will be open-hearted and give to many charities both at home and abroad which help the poor and those who are most in need.

PAUSE

Lord in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer

Anais: We pray that Christians and people of goodwill throughout the world will see the birth of Jesus as an opportunity to begin anew. May your spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness make us sharers in your work of creation

PAUSE

Lord in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer

Edward: As we come to the end of our Christmas Carol service, we give thanks for all we have heard and shared together — for the story of Jesus' birth, for the songs we've sung, and for the love that brings us here as one family. We now invite Father Jakob to come forward to share a special Christmas blessing with us all.

Priest's Blessing

Fr Jakob: Please all stand and join in our final Carol, O Come all ye Faithful

Carol – KS2 and congregation – O come all ye faithful

Headteacher's Address

Songs:

KS2 – Christmas is coming

KS2 and the congregation – Once in Royal David's City

KS2 – For unto us

Year 4 – The Angel Gabriel

Year 3- Away in a manger

KS2 – Calypso song

Year 5 – Love shone down

Year 6 – Follow that Star

KS2 and the congregation – O Come all ye faithful

Seating arrangement for Y5 (TBC)

Bench	Thiago	Maddie	Holly	Alex	Eben	
Bench	Ben	Caoimhe	Quentin	Leksi	Isla	Sienna
Bench	Grayson	Joel	Mila	Jeremiah	Cora	Archie
Floor	Valentina	Ayda	Nathan	Anais	Edward (Joseph)	
Floor	Sofia	Chinyere	Margaret	Lilly	Eloise (Mary)	