

CONNECT

CHURCH UPDATE

**Whats on
Daily readings**

DEC 15-JAN 11

**CHRYSTON
PARISH CHURCH**



Hogmanay Party

A Hogmanay Party for all ages that may even include a wee bit of Ceilidh dancing. There will be food, fun and hopefully lots of laughs with everyone welcome. From 5pm to 8pm there is plenty of time to head out somewhere to see in the bells. Just let us know you are coming £6 for adult, £4 for a child (Only pay for first two children). Just let Mark know you are coming.

Getting going again

Hub Cafe Restarts on Wed 7th January

Tiny Tunes Restarts Mon 12th January

Small Groups Restart on week beginning 12th Jan

Gathered prayer is on Wed 17th Dec evening only. Restarts Wed 7th of January

X-Groups restart on Sunday 11th January

Can you help

On Sunday mornings, it would be good to have a few more people helping with either welcoming folk at the church door OR making/serving coffee after the service. You would be 'on duty' once every 2 months.

Please see Mary if you can help

New Years Day Walk

It's been an annual tradition to have a church walk on January 1st. We meet at the picnic benches next to the cafe at 2pm. Looking forward to seeing you there.



Songs Before the Manger

Sunday 21st Dec 7pm-7.30m

Elizabeth: The Song of Joy

Monday 22nd Dec 7pm-7.30m

Mary: The Song of Surrender

Tuesday 23rd Dec 7pm-7.30m

Zechariah: The Song of Hope

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Luke 1: 45

Christmas Celebration

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 14th Dec 6.30pm

Christmas Eve

All Age Service 6.30pm

Watch Night Service 11.30pm

Christmas Day

All Age Service 10.30am

All WELCOME

O Come All You Unfaithful Sovereign Grace Music

O come, all you unfaithful
Come, weak and unstable
Come, know you are not alone
O come, barren and waiting ones
Weary of praying, come
See what your God has done

Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you

O come, bitter and broken
Come with fears unspoken
Come, taste of His perfect love
O come, guilty and hiding ones
There is no need to run
See what your God has done

He's the Lamb who was given
Slain for our pardon
His promise is peace
For those who believe
He's the Lamb who was given
Slain for our pardon
His promise is peace
For those who believe

So come, though you have nothing
Come, He is the offering
Come, see what your God has done

Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you



Hark the Herald Angels Sing

The story behind the hymn

For Christmas 1738, John and Charles Wesley were in London. Sermons and joyful sacraments at Islington, crowds to hear the ‘glad tidings’ in Whitechapel, then the New Year love feast at Fetter Lane (between Fleet St and Holborn)—their Journals are brimful of prayer, praise, joy, and evangelism. This must surely have been the setting in which Charles produced one of the great hymns of the Christian faith, published the following year in *Hymns and Sacred Poems*. He was so pleased with some of the lines that he used them in other hymns (eg *Now in praise let us arise*, PHRW211); he did this elsewhere, but these are so familiar that we immediately notice them in another context. Ironically for the brothers who would allow nothing to be changed, it is a much-altered version which has come to be acclaimed as the indispensable hymn for the occasion; since 1918, for most of the 20th c and into the 21st , it has been the climax to the King’s College Cambridge carol service, now heard by millions worldwide. So sometimes second thoughts and alterations seem to work! Julian counted it among the top 4 hymns; Percy Dearmer (in 1933) called it ‘perhaps the most popular English hymn in the world’. As with 357, not its least merit is the use of controlled repetition, as in stz 3; Bernard L Manning commends this Wesleyan gift: ‘Nothing is weaker than repetition weakly done. Nothing is stronger than repetition strongly done. In Wesley’s jubilation we discern the dignity and the reverence due to the Son of God.’

But Wesley wrote ‘Hark, how all the welkin rings,/ Glory to the King of kings!’ (there was even a misprint in line 2 on its first appearance!) in ten 4- line stzs. The frequent ascription to CW ‘and others’ is a hint of the part played among these others by George Whitefield and Martin Madan. In 1753, the former ventured to omit stzs 8 and 10 (which have never resurfaced in hymn-books exactly as written), and recast the rest in their now familiar shape. In 1760, the latter rewrote the closing couplet of stz 1, from ‘Universal nature say,/ Christ the Lord is born today’. Another milestone came in 1782, when a new edition of ‘Tate and Brady’ featured the hymn as three 8-line stzs, for the first time repeating the opening couplet after each one. Since then, some books have tried to recapture some of the original; although ‘welkin’ (sky) has gone for good, among hymnals providing four stzs are the *Anglican Hymn Book 1965*, *Christian Worship 1976*, *CH*, the *New English Hymnal 1986*, and *PHRW*.

More recent changes have involved debates by many committees over 2.7 ('pleased as Man with man ...') and 3.6 ('Born that man no more may die'). For some, 'us' seems weaker; for others, to persist with 'man/men' would be unacceptably insensitive. The smaller differences are hardly noticed in the singing, and cannot detract from the effect of the hymn. A late-19th-c hymn-book survey (by James King) showed that no hymn was printed more often than this; the position has not changed greatly more than a century later. In Cotterill's Selection... (5th edn) it appears as no.1, in four 4-line stanzas. For Christmas 2004 a secular recording briefly featured in the pop music charts. This hymn is the Christmas favourite for both Noël Tredinnick and Christopher Idle.

Wesley, of course, never heard the tune which some call BERLIN (a name also given to a different Mendelssohn tune) but which most of us now know as MENDELSSOHN, named after its composer. It was first heard in 1840 at Leipzig, as a 'Festgesang' at the festival for which it was composed and which was held to celebrate 4 centuries of printing since Johannes Gutenberg. There it was arranged for male voices and brass instruments; the composer later suggested to his English publishers that it needed some new words—so long as they were not sacred! 'There must be a national and merry subject found' he wrote '... and the words must express something popular, as the music tries to do it.' In 1855–6 William H Cummings (Prof of Singing at the Royal Academy of Music) wrote out an adapted arrangement, first sung at Waltham Abbey where he was organist. Richard Chope was the first to publish it with these words, with the name ST VINCENT. Others called it BETHLEHEM but, as often, it was the 1861 A&M which both cemented the relationship and gave the tune its present name. David and Jill Wright suggest that the repeated notes beginning lines 5, 6 and 7 'could possibly suggest the sound of a printing press', and that the words at 4.6 are also appropriate to the tune's origins.

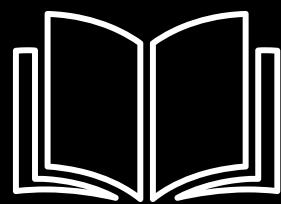


DAILY READINGS

PRAYING THE BIBLE

“In listening to his voice we find our own”

Each day there is a short passage to read.
As you read ask yourself these three questions.
What in the passage is there something to...



ADORE- What did you learn about God for which you should praise or thank him?

ADMIT- What did you learn about yourself for which you could repent?

ASPIRE- What did you learn about life that you could aspire to ask for

M 15 Genesis 3 v 1-16 **M 29** John 14 v 25-31

T 16 Genesis 12 v 1-9 **T 30** John 15 v 1-11

W 17 Hosea 11 v 1-12 **W 31** John 15 v 12-17

T 18 Jeremiah 23 v 1-8 **T 1** John 15 v 18-16 v 4

F 19 Jeremiah 31 v 15-20 **F 2** John 16 v 5-15

S 20 Micah 5 v 1-6 **S 3** John 16 v 16-24

S 21 2 Corinthians 8 v 1-7 **S 4** John 16 v 25-33

M 22 2 Corinthians 8 v 8-15 **M 5** John 17 v 1-19

T 23 Isaiah 8 v 11-22 **T 6** John 17 v 20-26

W 24 Isaiah 9 v 1-7 **W 7** Ephesians 1 v 1-14

T 25 Matthew 2 v 18-25 **T 8** Ephesians 1 v 15-23

F 26 John 14 v 1-7 **F 9** Ephesians 2 v 1-10

S 27 John 14 v 8-12 **S 10** Ephesians 2 v 11-22

S 28 John 14 v 15-24 **S 11** Ephesians 3 v 1-6

