

Contact

DECEMBER 2024



Dear Friends,

'O Holy Night' is one of the most beloved Christmas songs of all time and in 2023 it was once again voted The Nation's Favourite Carol. Some 12,000 people voted in the Classic FM poll with the 1847 classic coming out on top for the eighth year in a row. Its fascinating story began in France, yet eventually spread around the world.

Composed by Adolphe Adam in 1847, the carol's music was originally set to a French poem, 'Minuit, Chrétien's' (Midnight, Christians) and released under the name 'Cantique de Noël'. The song debuted at a midnight mass and became a favourite among French congregations. Adam was a French composer and music critic who wrote mostly operas and ballets. Alongside the opera Giselle, 'O Holy Night' is one of his best-known works.

Placide Cappeau, the author of the French lyrics, was a wine merchant and poet. Although he was never particularly religious, Cappeau was asked in 1843 to write a Christmas poem to celebrate the recent renovation of the church organ in his home town. He obliged and, soon after, his Jewish friend, Adolphe Adam composed the accompanying music.

Almost a decade after 'O Holy Night' was composed, the lyrics were translated into English. Minister John Sullivan Dwight translated the French original into the lyrics we sing today in 1855.

It is claimed that 'O Holy Night' was the first song ever broadcast live. Canadian inventor Reginald Fessenden, a protégé of Thomas Edison, was an early pioneer of radio broadcasting. He alleges that on 21st December 1906, he broadcast a recording of Handel's 'Largo,' followed by himself reading from the Gospel of Luke and then playing 'O Holy Night' on the violin. This exciting placement in history, though, has been questioned. Some records say that Fessenden actually played 'Adore and Be Still' and misremembered it in the retelling!

Even if 'O Holy Night' can't claim the distinction, the song has been recorded hundreds of times throughout the world by artists such as Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, Josh Groban, Pavarotti, the cast of 'Glee,' Nat King Cole and Andrea Bocelli.

What we do know though is that the popularity of 'O Holy Night' has never waned across the centuries and every

Christmas, when we listen to the lyrics, we can reflect on the night of Jesus' birth as told in Luke Chapter 2.

'O Holy Night' reminds us that Jesus was born in a manger and through his humble beginnings, we remember to love one another through Jesus' example. There is much to be drawn from the familiarity of Christmas and the story of our saviour's birth and whilst the world around us may change, the Christmas story never does.

And as we recall the true meaning of Christmas and the birth of Jesus, the words and music of 'O Holy Night' show us that God's message can still shine through and serve as a poignant reminder of the love, joy, hope and peace of the Christmas message.

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*

Wishing you a very happy and blessed Christmas and many thanks for your continued support throughout 2024.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR 2024
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
11AM TO 2PM**

Please note that church will only be open from **12.30pm** on Friday 6th December and again at **6pm** for stall holders to set up.

Any help would be appreciated.

**Just a reminder that there will be
NO service at Springhead on
Sunday 29th December.
Worship will take place at Greenacres
at 10.45am.**

DIARY – December 2024

Sunday 1st December	10.30am	Advent Service led by Frank Wroe Lunch
Monday 2nd December	7pm	Deacons Meeting
Friday 6th December	12.30pm/6pm	Set up for Christmas Fair
Saturday 7th December	11am – 2pm	Christmas Fair
Sunday 8th December	10.30am	Family service led by Mary Jones
Wednesday 11th December	12.30pm	Scoffs Christmas Lunch
Friday 13th December	7pm – 9pm	Junior Christmas Disco
Sunday 15th December	10.30am	Carol Service
Sunday 22nd December	10.30am	Nativity
Tuesday 24th December	6pm	Christmas Eve Social
Wednesday 25th December	10.30am	Short Christmas Day Service led by David Lewis
Sunday 29th December	10.45am	Family Service at Greenacres led by Peter Butler
Sunday 5th January	10.30am	Christingle Lunch

Regular Activities

Sunday

Toddler Sundays 10am – 11.30am

Monday

Exercise Group 2pm

Wednesday

Scoffs 12 noon (2nd Wednesday)

Thursday

Rainbows Toddler Group 9.30am

Friday

Badminton 6pm

Offertories

3rd November - £59.75

10th November - £100.00

17th November - £127.85

24th November - £93.40

Standing orders - £767.00

Total £1,148.00

Other Income

Lunch - £9.60

Cake Sale - £52.33

Bacon Butties - £127.00

Hall Hire - £110.00

Flower Rota

December 2024

1st December - Joan

8th December - Justine

15th December - Liz

22nd December - Cath

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Many thanks to everyone who has provided flowers on Sunday mornings during the last year and to Jean Voss in her role of Flower Secretary.

The new flower rota for 2025 is now on the noticeboard in the hall. If you wish to provide flowers again next year, please add your name against a suitable date.

CHRISTMAS EVE SOCIAL

This will be held on Wednesday 24th December at 6pm and will include games, music, dancing and fun for all the family!

Adults £4 and children £1 including light refreshments.

Please let Justine know if you can make it as soon as possible.

LUNCH

The next themed lunch is after the service on Sunday 1st December
All welcome to stay and join us.

SCOFFS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 11th December at 12.30pm.

JUNIOR CHRISTMAS DISCO

Friday 13th December 7pm – 9pm
All additional volunteers would be much appreciated.

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 15th December at 10.30am followed by coffee and mince pies.

NATIVITY

Please join us on Sunday 22nd December for the highlight of our church year!
Huge thanks to Joan for all her hard work and to everyone taking part.

CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 5th January 2025 at 10.30am followed by lunch.
If anyone would be happy to read, please let me know as soon as possible.

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