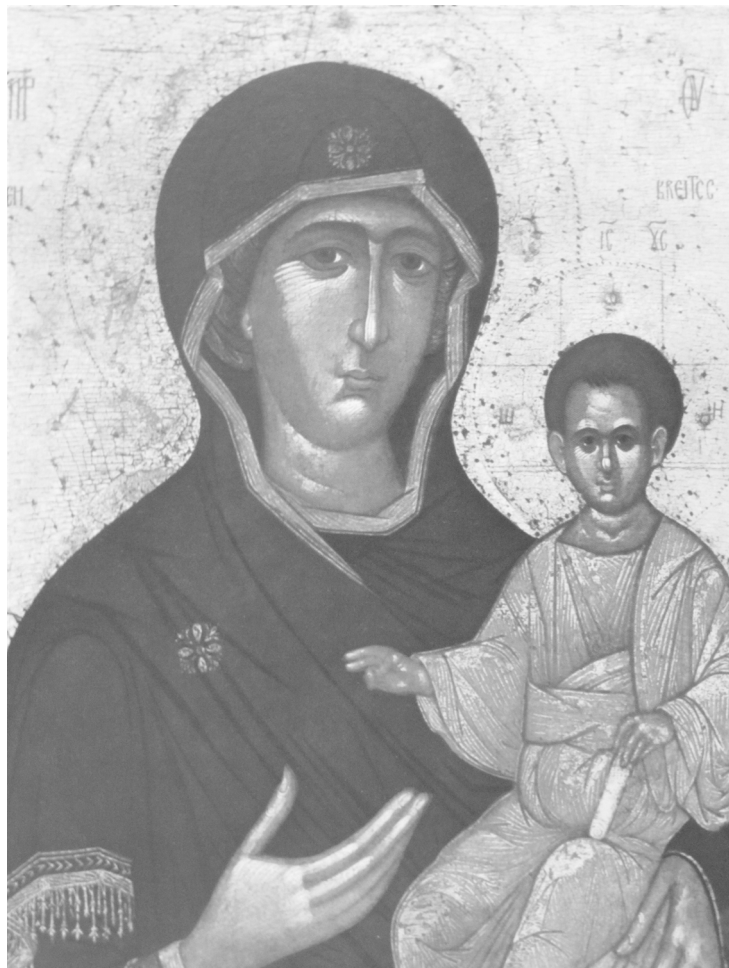


ST ANNE'S, SOHO

25TH DECEMBER 2025

CHRISTMAS DAY



The Eucharist

You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you.

Welcome to St Anne's Church, Soho

The Celebrant is
The Revd Simon Buckley
Rector of St Anne's, Soho

The Preacher is
The Revd Martha Pennel
Curate of St Anne's, Soho

Organist
Annie Lydford-Holland

Soloist
Sarah Prestridge

We warmly welcome you to share in this service at St Anne's Soho on the day when we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christmas is often a time when people return home to be with their families or gather with friends, but it can also be a time when any divisions within a family are most acutely felt and many people feel quite lonely.

At St Anne's this is often our least well attended service of the year, as many locals have gone away, and those who usually travel in are prevented from doing so by the lack of public transport... and donkeys and camels aren't a viable alternative! But like the stable in Bethlehem our doors are open to welcome in any who wish come in.

Whether you are with us in church or joining us on-line, we pray that you will know you are not alone; but that you are part of the huge family of God- dispersed, diverse (and sometimes fractious), and in which there is a special place for you. A family whose Father gave his Son the name 'Immanuel' meaning God with us, and who calls us to know his love for us and presence with us.

May this time of worship, and Christmas be a blessing to you.

All are invited to share the refreshments served after this service.

<p>Please ensure your phone is switched off before the service starts.</p>

Welcome

We meet in the name of the Father and
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Lord be with you.

All: and also with you.

Words of Welcome

Carol

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us...

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God in the highest:"
O come, let us...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us...

The Advent wreath

We light the final candle

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

The new light of your incarnate Word
gives gladness in our sorrow,
and a presence in our isolation.

**All: Fill our lives with your light,
until they overflow with gladness and praise.
Blessed be God for ever.**

Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
' You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.'
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

All: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

All: **Amen.**

∞ The Liturgy of the Word ∞

First reading: Titus 3: 4-7

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

We remain seated to sing.

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
no-wells ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow,
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.

Trans.

Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed (1885-1933)

Tune: WZLOBIE LEZY

Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel

Gospel Reading

The Priest sings the Alleluias before we all sing them together.

♩ = 104

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(Al - le - lu - ia)

cf Revelation 1.8

All: Alleluia. (sung twice)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2: 8-20

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

All: Alleluia. (sung twice)

Sermon

Anthem

*Sarah will sing
"Joy to the World"*

Please save showing your appreciation for our musicians until the end of the service.

The Creed

All: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

The Intercessions

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

To the words: Lord in your mercy.
We respond: Hear our prayer.

And at the end

All: Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All: And also with you.

*Please greet those around you
then be seated as the altar is prepared and incense is used*

*No collection is taken today but you are welcome
to make a donation as you leave.*

Carol

We remain seated to sing.

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega;
He the source, the ending He,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore!

Soloist: O that birth forever blessed,
when a virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore Him,
angel hosts, His praises sing,
pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the Father
and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honour, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory
evermore and evermore!

*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413)
Trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) alt.*

Tune: CORDE NATUS

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise, singing:



Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for
counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one
in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Anne
and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All: 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.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

Agnus Dei

Sung by all

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin ____ of the world:
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin ____ of the world:
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin ____ of the world: grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All: Lord, give us this bread always.

Please come forward, gathering in a circle around the altar to receive Communion or a blessing. If you are visiting from another church where you usually receive Communion you are welcome to receive here.

*During Communion Sarah will sing
"See amid the winter's snow"
by Edward Caswall*

Prayer after Communion

All: God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.
Amen.

Carol

Hark! The herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark! The herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark...

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give them second birth.

Hark...

Charles Wesley (1707-1788),
George Whitefield (1714-1770),
Martin Madan (1726-1790) and others, alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN

Notices

Blessing & Dismissal

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Thankful for Christ's coming among us,
let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ.
Amen.**

Our usual Sunday Eucharist will be on December 28th.

The following Sunday (4th January) we will keep as Epiphany
with services at 11am and 5pm.

The church will be closed, except to host 12-step meetings,
and there will be weekday services next week.

The Parish Office is now closed until Monday 5th January.

Sacred Grounds is now closed until Saturday 3rd January.

On behalf of the Clergy, Churchwardens & Staff of St Anne's
we wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas
and every blessing in 2026.



www.stannes-soho.org.uk



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