

Notice Board

There is a board at the front of the church next to the font where you may place a Christmas card to the whole church family. Donations will be gratefully received in the box provided, for Save The Children Fund.

Can you help? We desperately require more people to join the church cleaning Rota. Cleaners work in pairs and it requires about two hours each per session. At present it is about every three to four weeks but the more people we can get to help, obviously it will be less often. If you can help please speak to the Churchwardens.

The week ahead

This evening There is no CYFA Group.

6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by seasonal light refreshments.

Wed 23 Dec 4.00pm to 5.00pm Slam Jam rehearsal at 25 Orchard Close.

5.30pm Carol Singing around the village (meet at Crown Mill) finishing at 6.30pm at Sylvia's garage for seasonal refreshments. (to assist with catering if you are planning to join the carol singing please add your name to the list at the back of the church).

Thu 24 Dec 3.30pm 'I can't wait for Christmas' - Family Carol Service.

11.30pm Christmas Eve Late night Communion (Common Worship).

Fri 25 Dec 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Christmas Morning Service (all age).
Bring an opened present!

Looking Further Ahead

Wed 6 Jan 7.30pm - 8.30pm Epiphany Service



Please take this notice sheet home with you as a reminder of future events



Next Sunday... NO 8.00am SERVICE TODAY
10.30am Informal Communion (all age)

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

Welcome

to
St John's Church, Elmswell



All Age Service
with Holy Communion
and the Baptism of Kieran Hall

Sunday 20th December 2015
10:30am

Our aim is to know Christ and make Him known

If you are here for the first time, a warm welcome to you.

Everyone is invited to stay for tea and coffee in the church room after the service.

Welcome and Greeting

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Carol See him lying on a bed of straw,
a draughty stable with an open door,
Mary cradling the babe she bore,
the Prince of glory is his name.
*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord appear to men,
just at poor as was the stable then,
the prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies,
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise,
to see the saviour of the world.
O now carry me to Bethlehem ...

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
bring God's glory to the heart of man,
sing that Bethl'em's little baby can,
be salvation to the soul.
O now carry me to Bethlehem ...

Mine are riches from Your poverty
From Your innocence eternity
Mine forgiveness by Your death for me
Child of sorrow for my joy
O now carry me to Bethlehem ...

Confession

Lord Jesus, forgive us for turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives:
Save us and help us

Lord Jesus, forgive us behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you:
Save us and help us

Lord Jesus, forgive us for failing you by what we do,
and think and say:
Save us and help us

Lord Jesus, forgive us for letting ourselves be drawn
away from you by the temptations around us:
Save us and help us

May almighty God, who loved the world so much
he gave us his only Son to die for us,
bring us his pardon and peace.
Amen

Video: The Christmas Poem

The Baptism of Kieran Nathaniel Hall

Faith is the gift of God to his people.
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those
whom he is calling.
People of God, will you welcome these children
and uphold them in their new life in Christ?
With the help of God, we will.

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of
the world. Blessed are those who are called to his
supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The people receive Communion

Prayer after Communion

All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

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 adore Him...

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God
In the highest
O come let us adore Him...

The Blessing

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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.

It is always right to give you thanks, God our Creator,
loving and faithful, holy and strong. You made us and
the whole universe, and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Saviour,
Mary's child. He suffered on the cross; he died to save
us from our sins; he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high. And so we join
the angels to celebrate and say:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal
with his friends. He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked
you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood, the new promise of God's unending
love. Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died.

All: Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ is risen.

All: Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ will come again.

All: Jesus Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember
his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that
we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body
and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth, and share the good
news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory. For
honour and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus
your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and
ever.

The minister says to the parents and godparents
Parents and godparents, the Church receives these
children with joy. Today we are trusting God for their
growth in faith.

Will you pray for them, draw them by your example
into the community of faith and walk with them in
the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism these children begin their journey in faith.
You speak for them today.

Will you care for them, and help them to take their
place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

The minister addresses the parents and godparents
You have brought Kieran to baptism knowing that
Jesus died and rose again for him and trusting in
God's great promises.

As he grows up, Kieran will need our help and en-
couragement so that he may learn to know Christ as
friend and saviour and follow him as Lord.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his
marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin
and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?
I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?
I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God
and neighbour?
I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?
I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth
and the life?
I come to Christ.

The Prayer over the Water

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to
sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

We thank you especially for the water of baptism
as a sign that:

we are buried with Christ in his death

we share in his resurrection

we look forward to rebirth by the Holy Spirit.

Set apart this water, that in due time Kieran may be
cleansed from all sin and born again into the fullness
of eternal life. Renewed in your image, may he walk
by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen
life of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Profession of Faith

The minister addresses the congregation

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The Baptism and signing with the Cross

The minister pours water on Kieran saying:

Kieran, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his
cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ
crucified.

**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the
world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to
the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of dark-
ness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you
in the light and obedience of Christ

Amen.

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: Kieran, by
one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

Carol Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love you Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask you to stay
Close by me for ever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Bible reading: Matthew 1:18-25 Frances Hall

Sermon Miriam Fife

Carol The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
And they said that His name was Jesus
*He come from the glory
He come from the glorious kingdom
He come from the glory
He come from the glorious kingdom
Oh yes believer oh yes believer
He come from the glory
He come from the glorious kingdom*

The angels sang when the baby was born
The angels sang when the baby was born
The angels sang when the baby was born
And proclaimed Him the Saviour Jesus
He come from the glory...

The wise men saw where the baby was born
The wise men saw where the baby was born
The wise men saw where the baby was born
And they saw that His name was Jesus
He come from the glory...

Prayers Brenda Webb

Song In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ