



St Mary Redcliffe

Carol Service

*with the Bristol Easton Band and
Songsters of the Salvation Army*

**Tuesday 16 December 2025
7.30pm**



Spread the gift of joy this Christmas !

*To reduce our use of paper we are printing fewer
copies of this order of service. If someone near
you doesn't have an order of service, scan this QR
code to download it and pass this one to them!*

Welcome to St Mary Redcliffe

We are delighted to welcome you to this historic church for our Carol Service with the Bristol Easton Band and Songsters of the Salvation Army.

The collection at tonight's service is for the
Bristol Easton Corps of the Salvation Army.



There are contactless donation points at the doors, and to avoid a queue we can
[give online here](#)
this QR code before you leave your seat.

You may like to use this time before the service to make your donation.

St Mary Redcliffe Church

SMR is a building of great beauty and a community of great hope that is singing the song of faith and justice.

SMR is a thriving, inclusive Christian community; a church that makes a difference in the parish and beyond; and a recognised, welcoming heritage destination.

SMR is old and young, rich and poor; Bristol-born and migrants to the city; Redcliffe through-and-through and newcomers to the church; diverse in ethnic background & cultural identity and in relationships & family circumstances; with varying levels of physical & mental health & ability and understanding of gender & expression of sexual identity.

SMR is everyone who gathers here to ponder, to listen, to sing, to talk, to get out of the rain, to wonder on the mystery of the Christian story – especially at Christmas !

www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk

Readers This Evening

We are delighted to welcome the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Councillor Henry Michallat, and the Acting Bishop of Bristol and Bishop of Swindon, the Right Reverend Neil Warwick, this evening. The Lord Mayor will give the first reading, and the Bishop will give the Address and Blessing. Other readings are read by representatives of some of the charities or organisations with whom we have worked recently.

The Hub

Redcliffe Hub is SMR's Community Outreach project working to make a difference in the local parish. We run a community building on Redcliff Hill offering daily drop-ins, groups and community meals. We support over 250 local children through our youth group, additional tuition, sports and a range of activities. Our work instils belief in people living in the parish that they have the power to create the community that they want to live in.

www.facebook.com/redcliffehub/?locale=en_GB

Latino Street Bites @ The Undercroft

Latino Street Bites was founded in 2018 by Michelle Araya, bringing food inspired by her Chilean roots to the local area. Since then, Michelle has produced Chilean-inspired empanadas for local shops, while producing an array of Chilean dishes for private events and food markets around Bristol. SMR is delighted that she brought Latino Street Bites to the Undercroft in September, and that the café is now open again for our visitors and those who live or work locally.

[Michelle can be found on Instagram and Facebook.](#)

The Bristol Easton Corps of The Salvation Army

Bristol Easton Corps of The Salvation Army is inspired by God's love to offer compassion and practical help to others. Volunteers from the church help run winter night shelters, host an addiction recovery programme, and welcome older people every week to our lunch club. This Christmas we will distribute toys to more than 2,000 children who may otherwise go without a gift, and food parcels to families struggling financially.

bit.ly/EastonSA

Christmas at St Mary Redcliffe 2025

Monday 22 December

1.00pm **Carols at Lunchtime**

Carols for all to sing, with poems and readings.

Sunday 21 December

5.30pm **Blue Christmas**

This is a service for those who find Christmas difficult. Whether remembering a loved one who has died or finding things tough for any reason; Blue Christmas offers a thoughtful and peaceful space. With gentle music and readings, we hope this service provides space for those who need it.

Christmas Eve

4.00pm **Crib Service**

Family favourite all-age service with popular carols and a nativity tableau. Children are invited to come dressed in costume.

11.30pm **Midnight Eucharist**

A traditional late-night Christmas service.

Christmas Day

10.30am **Christmas Day Family Eucharist**

Family-friendly all-age festival service of Holy Communion. If you open any presents before, bring them along!

Order of Service

Welcome and Bidding Prayer

Rev Simon Goodman
St Mary Redcliffe

Please stand

Congregational Carol

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby,
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood,
day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;

Where like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

Please sit

First Reading

Isaiah 9.2, 6, 7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour

Read by

The Lord Mayor of Bristol,
Councillor Henry Michallat

Please stand

Congregational Carol

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright;
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds first saw the sight:
Glory stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiance beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Please sit

Second Reading

Luke 2.1-16

The Birth of Jesus

Read by

Alan Phillips, The Hub

Bristol Easton Songsters of The Salvation Army

How far is it to Bethlehem?

Frances Chesterton/Traditional, arr. Leonard Ballantine

Please stand

Congregational Carol

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Please sit

Third Reading

Matthew 2.1-12

The Visit of the Magi

Read by

Michelle Araya, Latino Street Bites

The Choir of St Mary Redcliffe Church

Mirabile dictu

Carol Anne Duffy/Sasha Johnson Manning

Fourth Reading:

John 1.1-14

The Great Mystery of the Incarnation

Read by

Lucy Tegg, BBC Radio Bristol and
Corps Press Representative,
Bristol Easton Corps of The Salvation Army

Please stand

Congregational Carol

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The Angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not", said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind".

"To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line

A saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign".

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid".

Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of Angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:
"All glory be to God on High,
and to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease".

Please sit

Address

Rt Revd Neil Warwick
Acting Bishop of Bristol and Bishop of Swindon

Bristol Easton Band of The Salvation Army

There is room
Timothy Matthews, arr. Simon Morton

Please sit or kneel

Prayers

ending with

**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.**

Please stand

Congregational 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 the Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emanuel.
*Hark! the herald Angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings:
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald Angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Please remain standing

Blessing

Bishop Neil

Congregational 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 ...



Merry Christmas from everyone at
St Mary Redcliffe Church