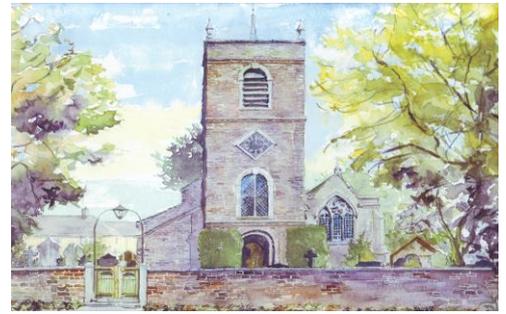


St. Peter's, Swettenham

MORNING PRAYER FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



A very warm welcome to the community here at St. Peter's where worship has been offered on this site since Saxon times. The present Church building has its origins in the late 13th Century and has been the place of worship for the village of Swettenham since then.

WELCOME & GREETING

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Christ has brought us out of darkness;

To live in his marvellous light.

CAROL

We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

As we kneel now with the shepherds before the newborn Christ child,
We open our hearts in penitence and faith.

**Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness
To stand in your presence as your children.**

The virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our disobedience to your will.

Your Son our saviour was born in poverty in a manger.

Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.

Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.

Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned against you and our neighbour

Forgive us and heal us Lord we pray. Amen

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Glory to Christ Son of Mary;

Born a child,

you are one with us.

Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, Son of David;

Born to rule,

You reign in our hearts.

Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, son of Man;

Born to save,

You are the light of the world.

Glory to God in the highest.

The night has passed and the day lies open before us:

let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,

So may the light of your presence, O God,

Set our hearts on fire with love for you;

Now and forever. **Amen**

CAROL

OLD TESTAMENT READING

CAROL

NEW TESTAMENT READING

The people who walked in darkness

Have seen a great light.

For unto us a child is born

To us a Son is given.

His name will be called

Wonderful counsellor, mighty God,

The everlasting Father,

The Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest

And peace to his people on earth.

CAROL

ADDRESS

CAROL

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

CAROL

INTERCESSIONS

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ; grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please join in saying the Lord's Prayer....

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.

CAROL (during which a collection will be taken)

The Lord bless us and watch over us,
the Lord make His face to shine upon us
And be gracious unto us
The Lord look kindly on us and give us peace
Now and forever more. **Amen**

Let us bless the lord

Thanks be to God.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ Amen.



Please return service sheet to the back of the church, thank you