



THE CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW
COLDRIDGE

December 2024 - Events and Services at St. Matthew's Coldridge

Sunday 1st - Evensong, 5pm

Led by Revd. Peter Rapsey, according to the Book of Common Prayer. The service includes carols and popular Advent readings.

Monday 2nd - Church Café, 2.30pm

Sunday 8th - Morning Prayer, 10.30am

This service will be led by a member of the Coldridge congregation.

Sunday 15th - Holy Communion 10.30am

Led by Revd. Peter Rapsey.

Sunday 22nd - Family Carols & Nativity, 5pm

This joyful family gathering includes Coldridge children acting out parts of the nativity scene, and carols and musical accompaniment from the "Sunshine Singers".

Tuesday 24th - Candlelit Midnight Mass, 9.30pm.

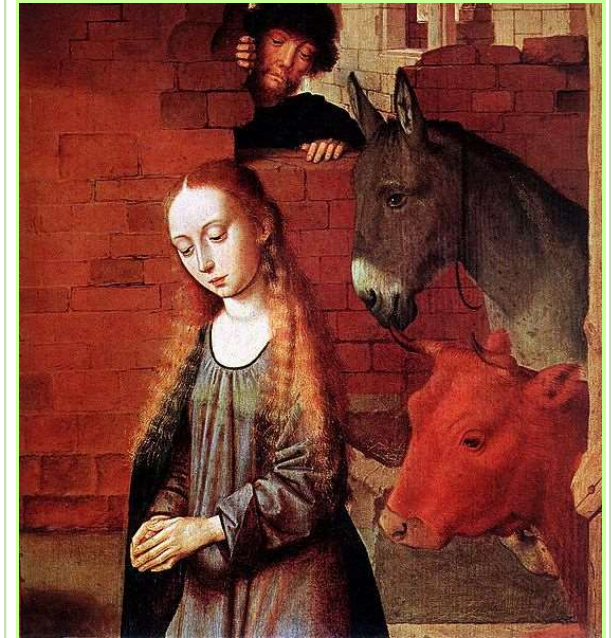
This service of Holy Communion will be led by Revd. Peter Rapsey and will be candlelit.

This year, we welcome children to add life and colour to our nativity celebrations. Since the medieval period, the liturgy of Christmastide has been leavened by theatrical enactments of Christ's birth. On Christmas Eve in 1223, in the Italian town of Greccio, Saint Francis of Assisi was reputed to have performed Midnight Mass in front of a life-sized nativity or crib scene, complete with live animals.



*Institution of the Crib at Greccio, by Giotto di Bondone
(1266–1337)*

In the following centuries, as the mystery play tradition developed, nativity scenes became more dramaturgical and crowds would gather to watch them performed on decorated wagons in town and village squares. The 12th to 19th pageants of the York Mystery Cycle are concerned with the nativity, and the most famous single nativity play is The Second Shepherds' Play from the Wakefield Mystery Cycle.



Detail from The Nativity by Gerard David (1450-1523)

"Rise, herdsmen, rise, for Christ is born!" - The Second Shepherd's Play, Scene 6.