



Welcome to St. Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill.

23 December, 2018

Advent 4

Please take this sheet home with you for future reference.

You can follow the service in the booklet given to you as you came in. This week's readings are printed out below. Please use the time before the service to be quiet and to prepare for worship. We invite you to stay for tea, coffee or juice, served in the area to the left of the altar after the 10.00am. service.

8.00am.: Said Eucharist

10.00am.: Sung Eucharist

Introit (sung by the choir) *Advent Responsory*

Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Micah 5.2–5a

The Lord says to his people: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Magnificat

Response: The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed; **Response**

the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation. **Response**

He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit, casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly. **Response**

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy.

The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever. **Response**

Hebrews 10.5–10

When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book, it is written of me).' When Christ said, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Luke 1.39–45

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Peace

Love comes down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;
Love is born at Christmas, star & angels give the sign.

Music during Communion (sung by the choir)

Britten: *There is no rose*

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Services this week

THE CHURCH AND LADY CHAPEL are usually available for prayer and meditation from 10.00am.

MONDAY and TUESDAY 9.00am. MORNING PRAYER from 'Celebrating Common Prayer' - Lady Chapel

A gentle 20 minute service of prayer, psalms and readings. All welcome. There is a simplified service booklet available in the Lady Chapel, which can be used by anyone, should no priest be present.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MICHAEL'S

CRIB SERVICE - Christmas Eve – 4.00pm.

All-age worship around the crib with carols and readings.

MIDNIGHT MASS - Christmas Eve - 11.15pm.

Holy Communion, Carols, Candles and Incense.

CHRISTMAS DAY - Said Holy Communion - 8.00am. Christmas Communion with Carols - 10.00am.

NEXT SUNDAY 8.00am. SAID EUCHARIST
10.00am. SUNG EUCHARIST

Readings for next Sunday: 1 Samuel 2.18-20,26; Psalm 148.7-end; Luke 2.41-end

Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael's

COTHA CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – St. Michael's – until Sunday, 06 January, while the church is open
Christmas Trees decorated by community groups are on display in the church with visitors encouraged to make donations to this year's charities - Workaid, Street Kids Direct and Amersham Youth Activities / Chiltern Youth Projects. There is also be an opportunity to add your own decoration to 'The Angel Tree'.

HEALING AND WHOLENESS - Lady Chapel – Wednesday, 09 January - 3.00pm. 3.30pm. & 4.15pm.

Sessions last 30 minutes. Please arrive before the start of your preferred time. Appointments are not necessary. If you would like to come but need transport, please call Joy Johns on 729061.

WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB- Wheeler Room- Friday, 04 January- 2.00pm. – 4.00pm.

Woman in Gold: A true story of an elderly Jewish woman, who is on a quest to retrieve family possessions stolen during WWII, starring Helen Mirren. Running time – 105 mins. All welcome. Refreshments served after the showing.

TUESDAY CLUB OUTING – Saturday, 05 January – 7.00pm. – 9.00pm.

The Tuesday Club is going to see the André Rieu New Year concert, relayed from Sydney, Australia, at the Elgiva, Chesham. Not to be missed! Tickets cost £16, and we will be arranging lifts. Further details from David Beattie (725333) or Peter Binns (01296 330836).

UPDATE FROM TRAIDCRAFT

Following earlier announcements, Traidcraft can now confirm that they will continue trading but with a reduced product range. They will reduce the craft items they stock because of the losses being made in that area. This is sad news for the producers, as Traidcraft has had a relationship with many of them for several decades, but Traidcraft are working with them to find other buyers in the fair trade world.

Here at St. Michael's we shall continue to have our monthly sales, albeit with a reduced stock comprising mostly groceries. The next stall will be on Sunday, 13 January, after the 10.00am. service. Special orders should be given to Sue Eames, or left in the Office.

NOT-ONE-FOR-LUNCH - Lady Chapel –Monday, 14 January - 12.45pm. for 1.00pm.

A sandwich lunch for those who live alone and eat alone, and an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones in a very informal atmosphere.

MESSY CHURCH–St. Michael's - Saturday, 19 January - 11.30am. – 1.00pm.

Family Fun Saturday! Crafts. Song and Dance. Lunch for everyone. You choose what you want to do. No need to book in advance. Just come along. No charge.

PRAYER CHAIN AND PRAYER WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

A number of people pray at home for St. Michael's and for specific needs or thanksgivings that people may have. If you would like to be part of this network or have a prayer request, please contact Joy Tobler on 818172. If anyone would like prayer with laying on of hands, either for themselves or for someone else, this ministry is available after church services. Please ask a member of the healing team, whose names are on the 'Healing Board', or the clergy.

OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSING

The Church Office will be closed from Monday, 24 December to Tuesday, 01 January inclusive, re-opening on Wednesday. 02 January.

Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's

LUNCH BREAK - Amersham Free Church –

No meeting on Christmas Day