



**St. Michael & All Angels – Church of England**  
**25 February, 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Lent.**

**Said Eucharists – Sunday, 8.30a.m., and Tuesday, 10.30a.m.**  
**Sung Eucharist – Sunday, 10a.m.**  
**Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel – Tuesday, 9.00a.m.**

*The 10a.m. service will be streamed live, and then be available on St. Michael's YouTube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams>*

**Hymns for 10a.m.**

46a At the name of Jesus - omit verses 4,5,6

Lent prose vv2-3 before the Gospel, 4-5 after the Gospel. **Response in notices.**

565 Ye servants of God

478 The God of Abram praise

**Collect**

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Alternative Collect**

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16**

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.'

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

For the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 22. 23-end**

**Response: My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?**

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; O seed of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.

For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor; neither has he hidden his face from them; but when they cried to him he heard them.

**Response**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live for ever.

## Response

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.  
For the kingdom is the Lord's and he rules over the nations.

## Response

How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,  
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?  
He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him;  
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.  
They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn,  
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

## Response

### **Romans 4.13-25**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

For the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual - Lent Prose response (ALL):**

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against Thee.**

### **Mark 8.31-38**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can

they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Gradual - Lent Prose response (ALL):**

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against Thee.**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael's***

**LENT COURSE – DATE CHANGE: WEEKLY FROM TUESDAY, 5 MARCH to TUESDAY, 19 MARCH – ZOOM – 7.30p.m.**

The group will follow the text in *Transfiguration* by Rob Marshall. **If you have not already registered your interest in joining the Lent course and would like to do so, please see Hazel as soon as possible**, so she can order you a book. The cost of each book will be in the region of £12.99; there is no other cost for the course.

**LENT APPEAL 2024** – The beneficiary for the St. Michael and All Angels Church Lent Appeal will once again be the "Friends of St. Anne's Hospital, Liuli" in Tanzania, a charity we have supported for over 10 years, which brings much needed medical services to a remote part of Africa. Envelopes for cash and cheques with gift aid forms are attached or available in the Narthex. Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of St. Anne's Hospital". Alternatively, donations can be made through the Church's card reader or made directly through the charity's website: "<https://friends-of-st-annes.com/>" If you donate this way, please use the option "Leave a message" as follows "From a member of the congregation of St. Michael's church, Amersham".

**LEARN TO JIVE – Every Saturday – from 7.30p.m. – In the Church on 24 February, with guest teacher Seamus Waldron.**

The classes are free, albeit donations towards St. Michael's are welcome! You don't need to know how to dance or even turn up every week, just drop in any week and have fun!

**"POP IN AND PAINT" – Friday, 1 March – 10.30a.m.-12.30p.m.**

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed – only enthusiasm and interest. All materials supplied, but you are welcome to bring your own paints. If you prefer just to come along for a chat and to watch the proceedings, that's fine too!

**WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB – Friday, 1 March – 2p.m.-4p.m. – Wheeler Room – LIVING**

London 1953. Mr Williams, played by Bill Nighy, a veteran civil servant, receives a shattering health diagnosis; he then realises he's not living his life to the full. Running Time 1hr. 40mins.

**REPAIR CAFÉ – Saturday, 2 March – 10.a.m.-1p.m.**

Come along to SustainableAmersham.org's pop-up Repair Café, where volunteer repairers will help you fix your stuff for free. No appointment required. Free refreshments are available.

**CRAFTY CUPPA – Friday, 8 March and 22 March – 10.30a.m.-12noon.**

A drop-in session for everyone who wants a cuppa and some company. If you engage in a craft, such as knitting or embroidery, bring it with you and enjoy some company while you work. All welcome.

**MESSY CHURCH – Saturday, 16 March – 11.30a.m.-1p.m.**

The third Saturday each month. This is a fun, informal activity for all the family, combining creative activities and biblical teaching, followed by lunch. All welcome. No need to book. Just turn up.

### ***Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's***

**LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 27 February – 12noon-2p.m.** - Tea, coffee and soup are available. The church is open for quiet reflection, and from 1.10p.m.-1.30p.m. a Bite Sized Service. Great Sacred Music.

#### **AMCHOR – Afternoon Concert – Sunday, 25 February – 3.30p.m. – Choral Classics**

**Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham HP6 5AJ**

An uplifting programme of classical choral anthems, performed by Amersham and Chesham Bois Choral Society, conducted by Nick Austin. Tickets, £10 adults, children under 16 free, are on sale at the door (cash or card, exact money for cash payments, please). Followed by tea, coffee and cake, for which donations are welcomed. For further information contact [publicity@amchor.com](mailto:publicity@amchor.com) or go to [www.amchor.com](http://www.amchor.com). Doors open 3.15p.m.

#### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – Amersham Free Church – Friday, 1 March – 10.30a.m.**

Please join in the World Day of Prayer Service at AFC. This year the material has been prepared by the Christian ladies of Palestine.

#### **WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION are SEEKING VOLUNTEERS for the BIG SLEEPOUT 2024 – SATURDAY, 2 MARCH.**

If you're interested in helping out or joining in and you'd like to find out a bit more, please visit the Wycombe Homeless Connection website: <https://wyhoc.org.uk/bigsleepout2024>