

St. Michael & All Angels – Church of England
1 December 2024 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Said Eucharists – Sunday, 8.30a.m. and Tuesday, 10.30a.m.
 Sung Eucharist (includes incense) – Sunday 10.00a.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.

98 Come, thou long expected Jesus
 Advent Antiphons 1-3 before Gospel, 4 after **Choir only**
 209 Hills of the north, rejoice
 434 Restore, O Lord

Readers

Andy Connor
 Ann Jarvis

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 33.14–16

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

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

Psalms 25.1-9

Response: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated. **Response**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;

for you have I hoped all the day long.

Response

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions,

but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.

Response

Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Response

1 Thessalonians 3.9–13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

Advent Antiphons 1-3 – Choir Only

Luke 21.25–36

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.

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

Advent Antiphons 4 – Choir only

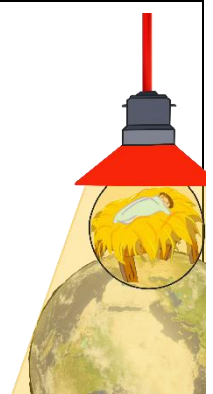
Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael's

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thursday, 19 December	Nine Lessons and Carols – 7p.m.
Saturday, 21 December	Messy Church – 11.30a.m.-1p.m.
Sunday, 22 December	Advent 4 – Eucharists at 8.30a.m. & 10a.m.
Sunday 24 December	Family Crib Service – 4p.m. Sung Christmas Mass – 8p.m.
Monday 25 December	Christmas Day – Said Eucharist at 8.30a.m. Christmas Mass & Carols – 10a.m.
Sunday 5 January	Epiphany – 8.30a.m. & 10a.m.



THE BIG ADVENT PRAYER SWAP – The advent prayer swap is starting on 1 December, if you would like to join in, even after 1 December, please email communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk and your first name will be given to someone else who has requested to be involved, and you will be emailed a name to pray for daily throughout Advent.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT ST. MICHAEL'S - raising funds for Wycombe Homeless Connection. – starting on Saturday, 30 November and running up to the end of Christmas Eve.

This year we have many illuminated Christmas Trees, inside and outside the Church, sponsored and inspiringly decorated by local Community Groups. It's well worth dropping in any day between 10a.m. and 4p.m. to have a look. Free entry, with donations requested for Wycombe Homeless Connection.

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES will be open every Monday-Saturday, from 10a.m.-4p.m. (21 December - 1.30p.m.-4p.m.) and some Sundays from 11.30a.m./12noon-4p.m., until 21 December, in the South Transept. They will not be open on Sunday, 1 December.

AMERSHAM ACTION GROUP CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT ST. MICHAEL'S – Saturday, 30 November – 10a.m.-5p.m. Please come along and support this wonderful community day if you can.

WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB – Friday, 6th December – 2p.m.-4p.m. – A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION Starring Meryl Streep and Garrison Keller. The story of a much loved US radio show, the last ever live recording of one of America's broadcasting institutions. Running Time 1hr. 41mins.

"POP IN AND PAINT" – Friday, 6 December – 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 come along for a chat and watch the proceedings!

CHOIRS COFFEE & CAKE AT ST. MICHAEL'S – Saturday, 7 December – 10a.m.-3p.m.

5 Choirs will each be performing for 45 minutes in the Church. Free entry – just pop in for as long as you wish. This is a family friendly occasion with refreshments available throughout. Donations are requested for Wycombe Homeless Connection. Please be sure to bring friends and neighbours, and circulate the information far and wide!

10a.m. The Heatherton Singers.

11a.m. The Ukeholics

12p.m. AmChor

1p.m. The Knights of Harmony

2p.m. Amersham Community Choir



FAIR TRADE STALL – Sunday, 8 December – After the 10a.m. Eucharist. The stall regularly offers a range of groceries and seasonal items, with other lines on request.

Please come to the stall and support Fair Trade.

CRAFTY CUPPA – Friday, 14 December – 10.30a.m.-12noon. A drop-in session for everyone who wants a cuppa and some company. Please do bring your knitting, crochet and sewing, if you would like to. Some organised talks or crafts will also be available for those who prefer to come empty handed. We look forward to seeing you.

MESSY CHURCH 'CHRISTMAS PARTY' – Saturday, 21 December – 11.30a.m.-1p.m. Join us with your children/grandchildren for a fun session centered around the theme, 'The light of Christ', and based on Luke 11.33. Fun activities will be followed by a story or discussion, and a light lunch. This session is offered for free, but donations to cover costs are gratefully received.

REPAIR CAFÉ – Saturday, 4 January – 10.a.m.-1p.m. Come along to SustainableAmersham.org's pop-up Repair Café. Volunteer repairers will help you fix your stuff for free. No appointment required. Free refreshments.

Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's

LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 3 December– 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 short talk, a bite sized service or a recital.

QUIET GARDEN – ONLINE ADVENT REFLECTIONS – Mondays, 2, 9 & 16 December – 7.30p.m.-8p.m. Three evenings of reflection, silence, music and prayer and poetry during Advent, which will follow Mary, The Kings and Shepherds as they make their own journeys towards Bethlehem. For tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journeys-through-advent-tickets-1058151081369>.