



St. Michael & All Angels – Church of England
15 December, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Said Eucharists – Sunday, 8.30a.m. and Tuesday, 10.30a.m.
 Sung Eucharist – Sunday 10.00a.m.

Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel – Tuesday, 9.00a.m.

The 10.00a.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.

- 401 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
- Advent Prose (In notices)
- 470 The advent of our King
- 193 Hail to the Lord's anointed

Collect

Alternative Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Amen.

Zephaniah 3.14-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

Psalms 146.4-end

Response: I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God; who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;

Response

Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong and bread to those who hunger.

The Lord looses those that are bound; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

Response

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous;

the Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow;

but the way of the wicked he turns upside down. The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Response

Philippians 4.4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Advent Prose – Response: Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

Response

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away: thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Response

Luke 3.7-18

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Advent Prose – Response: Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Response

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **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. (with incense)
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. (with incense)



MINCE PIE SUNDAY – after the 10a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, 22 December Traditionally, the Sunday before Christmas is Mince Pie Sunday at St Michael's. Accordingly, in addition to tea and coffee being served after the 10a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, 22 December, there will also be mince pies and drinks. Please do stay after the service.

INVITATION FROM THE REVD. CANON DAVE BULL, BISHOP DESIGNATE OF BUCKINGHAM – “Over the next three months, I will be praying on Zoom on Monday evenings at 5.30pm/ for 20 minutes, starting on 2 December. Will you join me? Feel free to come along just to listen. You are welcome to join in silently – there will be no pressure to pray out loud. If you are usually doing something else at that time – walking the dog, doing the washing up or travelling home from work – you are welcome to join in, just as you are (with camera on or off!).” Please use the following zoom link to access the session or ask the office to send you a copy of the original email, so you can just click the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89461917418?pwd=5ebxBUsEXv5by0HQ8OZzaj6HDFABs.1&utm_source=Diocese+of+Oxford+Mailing+Lists&utm_campaign=3acd1b869f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_06_07_04_41_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5e6b832234-3acd1b869f-339849597#success

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. Please drop in 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.

CRAFTY CUPPA– Friday, 13 December and 10 January – 10.30a.m.-12noon. The special Christmas session on Friday, 13 December, will include mince pies etc. Crafty Cuppa is 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. We welcome some residents from Rayners Care Home, Hyde Heath.

MESSY CHURCH ‘CHRISTMAS PARTY’ – Saturday, 21 December – 11.30a.m.-1p.m. Join us with your children/grandchildren for a fun session centred 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.

WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB – Friday, 3 January – 2p.m.-4p.m. – THE SMALLEST SHOW ON EARTH

Starring Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna. Overjoyed to learn that they have inherited a cinema, Matt and Jean Spenser (Travers & McKenna) are subsequently shattered to find it's less of a grand picture house and more of a fleapit. Running Time: 1hr. 17mins.

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.

“POP IN AND PAINT” – Friday, 10 January – 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!

FAIR TRADE STALL – Sunday, 12 January – 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.

Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's

QUIET GARDEN – ONLINE ADVENT REFLECTIONS – Mondays, 2, 9 & 16 December – 7.30p.m.-8p.m. Three evenings of reflection, silence, music, 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>.

LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 17 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 Bite Sized Carol Service.

AMCHOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Saturday, 21 December – 4.30.p.m. – Amersham Free Church. The concert will be followed by tea and cakes. Tickets are available on the door: £10, free for under 16's.