



19 November, 2023 – The Second Sunday before Advent
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 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.

174 God of grace and God of glory
Gloria - Sung
See Notices - Spirit of God, unseen as the wind
56 Be thou my vision
103a Crown him with many crowns
475 v.5 So be it, Lord

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Alternative Collect

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Zephaniah 1. 7.12-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

Psalms 90 1-8

Response: May the favour of the Lord, our God, be upon us.

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were formed,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Response.

You turn us back to dust and say: 'Turn back, O children of earth.'

For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, which passes like a watch in the night.

Response.

You sweep them away like a dream; they fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

Response.

For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.

You have set our misdeeds before you and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Response

1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11

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

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Matthew 25.14–30

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

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things;

enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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

Gradual - Spirit of God, unseen as the wind:

Refrain Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour’s love.

1. You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God’s voice is heard.

Refrain

2. Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.

Refrain

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Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael’s

CRAFTY CUPPA – Friday, 24 November and 8 December – 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.

ADVENT COURSE – Tuesday, 28 November, 5 December and 13 December – 7p.m.-8p.m. – On Zoom

The Advent course, led by our LLM, Katherine, will be based on *Stick with Love*, by Arun Arora, and will focus on stories told by Jesus and men and women, whose lives reflect the love of God. It explores relationships with people from around the world, who are part of the family of the Church and difficulties encountered in relationships. Arun Arora is Bishop of Kirkstall in the Diocese of Leeds. If you would like to join the course **please let Hazel know by 20 November**, so that you can be added to the zoom call, and collect a book from the Church Office. A donation to cover the cost of the books is appreciated. Courses run at St. Michael’s offer a great way to connect with the other members of the congregation, while at the same time opening up theological pathways you may not have explored before.

“POP IN AND PAINT” – Friday, 1 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 to come along for a chat and to watch the proceedings, that’s fine too!

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

FISHERMAN’S FRIENDS (1) – A true story about a group of Cornish Fishermen from Port Isaac, famed for singing sea shanties, who were signed by Universal Records. Stars Daniel May. Running Time 1hr. 52mins.

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

On the third Saturday of each month 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.

REPAIR CAFÉ – Saturday, 6 January – 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, but you may need to wait to see a repairer. Free refreshments are available.

THE BIG ADVENT PRAYER SWAP

If you would like to join the *Big Advent Prayer Swap*, please email communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk. Just before Advent your first name will be given to someone else who has requested to be involved, and you will be given a name to pray for daily throughout Advent.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT ST. MICHAELS - Saturday, 2 December

If you are able to offer any help meeting and greeting and collecting donations for Wycombe Homeless Connection at the Festival's Angels Tree in the Narthex, between 2p.m. and 4.30p.m., please contact kiki@akipl.com

'CHOIRS AT ST. MICHAEL'S - Saturday, 9 December

Supporting the Christmas Tree Festival and raising funds for Wycombe Homeless, whilst listening to some great singing. If you are able to offer any help in the Church between 12.15p.m. and 2.30p.m., helping refreshments, please contact kiki@akipl.com

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

Cards for Good Causes are set up in the South Transept. Please come along and support this charity by buying your Christmas cards and other bits and pieces for Christmas from them.

Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's

LUNCHEBREAK – Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 21 November – 12noon-2p.m.

Tea, coffee and soup are available throughout. The church is open for quiet reflection, and from 1.10p.m.-1.30p.m. a recital by Dr. Challoner's Grammar School.

COME AND SING – Amersham Free Church – Saturday, 25 November – 10.30a.m.,

An informal choral workshop **followed by a performance, from 3.45p.m.-4.15p.m., and refreshments.** Ticket price for singers, £10, or £12 on the day. Under 18s Free. Tickets available from www.eventbrite.co.uk. (search for 'Come and Sing Amersham Free Church')