



St. Michael & All Angels, Amersham – Church of England

2 February, 2025 – Candlemas

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

Sung Eucharist – Sunday, 4p.m.

(Please note there is no Eucharist at 10a.m. on Sunday this week)

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

The 4p.m. service will be streamed live, and then be available on St. Michael's YouTube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams>

Hymns for 4p.m.

Longing for light CG21
 428 Purify my heart
 527 Virgin born, we bow before thee
 118 Faithful vigil ended

Readers

Jenny Thompson and
 Liz Grammenos

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Alternative Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God. **Amen.**

Malachi 3.1-5

A reading from the book of Malachi.

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

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

Psalm 24.7-10

Response: Lift up your heads, O you gates, and let the King of Glory in.

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
 and the King of glory shall come in.

Response

'Who is the King of glory?'

'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

Response

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
 and the King of glory shall come in.

Response

'Who is this King of glory?'

'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

Response

Hebrews 2.14-end

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

Luke 2.21-40

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael's

******2025 ELECTORAL ROLL REVIEW******

The big 6 yearly review of the Roll is happening! Everyone currently on the Roll must reapply in order to be included! Emails with links to the new form will be sent out to everyone on the current Roll and forms will be sent to those not on e-mail and available to those who would prefer to apply offline.

NOT ON THE ROLL BUT WOULD LIKE TO ENROL? Please speak to myself or Rachel via the Church Office (email: office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk or Tel: [01494 726680](tel:01494726680)) with your contact details and we will get a form to you.

Chris Leslie
Electoral Roll Officer

LENT COURSE – Wednesday, 12, 19 & 26 March – 7P.M. – On Zoom

This year Lent will run from Ash Wednesday on March 5th. to Good Friday on April 18th. We are proposing to study another book by Paula Gooder, *Women of Holy Week*. As with the book, which we studied in Advent, there are nine stories in a similar format. Everyone enjoyed the Advent course, which produced some good discussion, so it seems appropriate to look at Paula Gooder's other book.

The price of the book is in the region of £10.

If you would like to join the course on Zoom, or simply study the book privately, please contact Rachel in the church office, so that we can make up a list and order the right number of books.

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 5.30p.m./ 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=5ebxBUeEXv5by0HQ8OZzaej6HDFABs.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](mailto:EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_06_07_04_41_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5e6b832234-3acd1b869f-339849597#success)

JIVE TIME Modern Jive Lessons, Dancing and Social – Sunday, 2 February – 2p.m.-5p.m. In the Church Hall or the North Transept. Free Entry, but donations towards St. Michael's Welcome. Classes start at 2.30p.m. and 3.30p.m.

“POP IN AND PAINT” – Friday, 7 February & 7 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 come along for a chat and watch the proceedings!

WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB– Friday, 7 February – 2p.m.-4p.m – THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY

This is the story of an unremarkable man, who sets off on a remarkable journey to visit his old friend Queenie, who is dying. Running Time 1hr. 43mins.

FAIR TRADE STALL – Sunday, 9 February – after the 10a.m. Gathered Round Service. 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.

A CRAFTY CUPPA – 14 & 28 February – 10.30a.m.-12noon. A 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.

MESSY CHURCH – Saturday, 15 February – 11.30a.m.-1p.m. Join us with your children/grandchildren for fun activities followed by a story or discussion, and a light lunch. The session is free. Donations are welcome.

REPAIR CAFÉ – Saturday, 1 March – 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 – Tuesdays – 12noon-2p.m. - Tea, coffee and soup are available. The church is open for quiet reflection, and from 1.10p.m.-1.30p.m. Challoner's in recital on 4 February; A Bite Sized Service on 11 February; Community Connex Musicals on 18 February, and Great Sacred Music on 25 February.