



**St. Michael & All Angels – Church of England**

Sunday, 22 December 2024 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Said Eucharist – Sunday, 8.30a.m. and Sung Eucharist, 10a.m.

*Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served after the 10.00a.m. service.  
Please stay for a chat with other members of the congregation if you can.*

*The 10.00a.m. and 8pm services will be streamed live, and then be available on  
St. Michael's YouTube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams>*

**Hymns for 10a.m.**

358 O come, O come, Emmanuel  
Advent Antiphons 5-7 before gospel, 8 after (Choir)  
295 Let all mortal flesh  
307 Lo, he comes with clouds descending  
227 v5 Together met, together bound

**Readers**

Jenny Baker & Ann Beattie

**Collect**

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Alternative Collect**

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Micah 5.2-5a**

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

The LORD says to his people: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

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

**Canticle: Magnificat**

**Response: The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed;

*Response*

the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.

*Response*

He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit, casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

*Response*

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy.

The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Hebrews 10.5-10**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book, it is written of me).' When Christ said, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

### **Advent Antiphons V.5-7 (Choir Only)**

O Dayspring, brightness of Light everlasting, and Sun of righteousness: Come, and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.

O King of the nations, and their Desire; the Cornerstone, who makest both one: Come, and save mankind, whom thou formedst of clay.

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations, and their Salvation: Come and save us, O Lord, our God.

### **Luke 1.39-45**

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

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

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

### **Advent Antiphons V.8 (Choir Only)**

O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be? For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me? The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sung Christmas Mass – Tuesday, 24 December – 8p.m.

Streamed live on St. Michael's YouTube Channel,  
<https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams>



**Carols for 8p.m.**

199 Hark the Herald  
444 Silent Night  
248 In the bleak midwinter  
75 Child in the manger

**Readers**

Claire Sinclair  
and Rachel Wilcox

**Collect**

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Isaiah 52.7-10**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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

**Psalm 98**

**Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.**

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory.

**Response**

The Lord has made known his salvation; his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Response**

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music.

Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody.

**Response**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it.

**Response**

Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

**Response**

**Hebrews 1.1-4**

*A reading from the first letter to the Hebrews.*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

### **John 1.1-14**

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**



Wednesday, 25 December, 2024 – Christmas Day

Said Eucharist – 8.30a.m.  
Christmas Mass & Carols – 10.00a.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>

**Carols for 10a.m.**

- 84 Christians, awake
- 51 Away in a manger
- 552 When our God came to earth
- 357 O come, all ye faithful up to v5

**Readers**

Rebecca/Roland

**Collect**

**Alternative Collect**

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. <b>Amen.</b>	Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. <b>Amen.</b>
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**Isaiah 9.2-7**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

**Luke 2.8-20**

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**Post Communion Prayer**

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the 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.
Tuesday, 24 December	Family Crib Service – 4p.m. Sung Christmas Mass – 8p.m. (with incense)
Wednesday, 25 December	Christmas Day – Said Eucharist at 8.30a.m. Christmas Mass & Carols – 10a.m.
Sunday, 29 December	Eucharists at 8.30a.m. & 10a.m.
Sunday, 5 January	Epiphany – 8.30a.m. & 10a.m. (with incense)



**Please note that the church will be closed from 26 December and will reopen on 2 January. During this time phones will be monitored but responses may take longer than usual.**

**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-](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89461917418?pwd=5ebxBUseXv5by0HQ8OZzaj6HDFABs.1&utm_source=Diocese+of+Oxford+Mailing+Lists&utm_campaign=3acd1b869f-)

[EMAIL\\_CAMPAGN\\_2018\\_06\\_07\\_04\\_41\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5e6b832234-3acd1b869f-339849597#success](mailto:EMAIL_CAMPAGN_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.



**A CRAFTY CUPPA– 10 January – 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 ‘CHRISTMAS PARTY’ – Saturday, 21 December – 11.30a.m.-1p.m.** Join us with your children/grandchildren for a fun session centred around the theme, God with us and based on Luke 1-2. Fun activities, from envelope cribs to manger munchies 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. Or, if you prefer, just come along for a chat and watch the proceedings!

**FAIR TRADE STALL – Sunday, 9 February – 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***

**LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church – There will be no Lunchbreak on 24 or 31 December**

**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.