



26 November, 2023 – Christ the King / The Sunday Next 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.

*Tea and coffee 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. 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.**

432 Rejoice the Lord is King  
108 Deck thyself my soul with gladness  
513 Thou didst leave thy throne  
81a Christ Triumphant ever reigning

**Collect**

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Alternative Collect**

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. **Amen.**

**Ezekiel 34.11–16, 20–24**

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

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

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

**Psalm 95.1-7**      **Response: O come let us worship and bow down and kneel before our Maker.**  
O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving and be glad in him with psalms.

**Response**

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.  
In his hand are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land.

**Response**

Come, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

**Response**

### **Ephesians 1.15–23**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

### **Matthew 25.31–46**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer

them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.' This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Post Communion Prayer

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael's

### THE BIG ADVENT PRAYER SWAP

If you would like to join the *Big Advent Prayer Swap*, please email [communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk) by **28 November at the latest**. 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.

### ADVENT COURSE – Tuesday, 28 November, 5 & 12 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 ask Hazel if this will still be possible, 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.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

**Saturday 16 December**  
Messy Church - 11.30am-1pm  
Nine Lessons & Carols - 5pm

**Sunday 17 December**  
Advent 3  
Eucharists - 8.30am & 10am

**Saturday 23 December**  
Family Crib Service - 4pm

**Sunday 24 December**  
Christmas Eve & Advent 4  
Eucharists - 8.30am & 10am  
Sung Christmas Mass - 8pm

**Monday 25 December**  
Christmas Day  
Said Eucharist - 8.30am  
Christmas Mass & Carols - 10am

St. Michael & All Angels, Amersham HP6 5DR. Tel: 01494 726680



**“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.

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT ST MICHAEL’S - raising funds for Wycombe Homeless Connection. – starting on Saturday 2nd December and running up to the end of Christmas Eve.**

This year we have 28 illuminated Christmas Trees, inside and outside the Church, sponsored and inspiringly decorated local Community Groups. Well worth dropping in any day between 10a.m. and 4p.m. Free entry, with donations requested for **Wycombe Homeless Connection**.

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT ST. MICHAEL’S - Saturday, 2 December – 10a.m.-5p.m.**

**CRAFTY CUPPA – Friday, 8 & 22 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.

**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.

**‘CHOIRS AT ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS’ - Saturday, 9 December - 10.30a.m. to 2.30p.m. - Choirs, Coffee & Cake**

An informal family friendly event with local Choirs, The Heatherton Singers, Amersham Rock Choir, Chilterns Jukebox Singers and The Knights of Harmony, singing in the Church, in separate 45 minute performances, between 10.30a.m. and 2.30p.m. Entry is free, with donations requested for Wycombe Homeless Connection. There will be 28 beautifully decorated Christmas Trees on display and refreshments will be available. Well worth popping in, for as long as you wish, for Choirs, Coffee and Cake.

**LEARN TO JIVE IN JANUARY – Every Saturday throughout January – 7.30pm.**

Jive classes and dancing will be taking place in St. Michael’s church hall every Saturday night throughout January. The classes are free, albeit donations towards St. Michael’s are welcome! You don’t need to know how to dance, and you can drop into any or all the evenings that suit you. Come along with friends and try something new!

**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***

**LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 28 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.** Great Sacred Music.

**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](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk). (search for ‘Come and Sing Amersham Free Church’)