



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

**28 December 2025 – The Holy Innocents**

***Said Eucharist – Sunday, 8.30a.m., 10a.m. and Tuesday, 10.30a.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.**

182 Good Christians all rejoice  
51 Away in a manger  
542 What child is this  
526 Unto us a boy is born

### **Readers**

Ann Beattie

### **Collect**

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all, evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; 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.**

### **Jeremiah 31.15–17**

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

Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country.

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

### **Psalms 124**

**Response: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

If the Lord himself had not been on our side, now may Israel say;

If the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us;

Then would they have swallowed us alive when their anger burned against us;

**Response**

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over our soul;  
over our soul would have swept the raging waters.

But blessed be the Lord who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

**Response**

Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken and we are delivered.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who has made heaven and earth.

**Response**

### **Matthew 2.13–18**

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

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

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

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, in your humility you have stooped to share our human life with the most defenceless of your children: may we who have received these gifts of your passion rejoice in celebrating the witness of the holy innocents to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; for you are live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## ***Activities and Events at St. Michael & All Angels, Amersham on the Hill***

***Please note that from 27 December 2025 – 3 January 2026 the church office will be closed. During this time the church will only be open for services, on Sunday, 28 December at 8.30a.m. and 10a.m., on Tuesday, 30 December at 10.30a.m. On 2 December the church will also be open while the Christmas trees are cleared away, and on 3 December for the Repair Cafe.***

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – CLEARING AWAY – Friday, 2 January - 10.30a.m. to 12.30p.m., approx.** After a really successful Festival we need to clear it away and then look forward to 11 months hence! Offers of help when the Groups come in to collect their decorations would be much appreciated. Please email [kiki@akipl.com](mailto:kiki@akipl.com)

**REPAIR CAFÉ – Saturday, 3 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.

**A CRAFTY CUPPA – 9 & 23 January – 10.30a.m.-12noon.** A Crafty Cuppa is a drop-in session for everyone who wants a cuppa and some company. 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.

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP FOR AMERSHAM – Thursday, 8 January & 5 February – 10a.m.-12 noon.** – Wheeler Room, St. Michael's. Are you or a loved one facing a cancer diagnosis? Are you finding cancer treatment tough? Is your treatment over, but you still feel anxious? You are not alone. Please drop in for coffee and a chat.

**WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB – Friday, 9 January – 2p.m.-4p.m – in The Wheeler Room – MR BURTON** Starring Harry Lawtey and Toby Jones. In the Welsh town of Port Talbot in 1942, Richard Jenkins lives as a wayward school boy. Until his teacher Philip Burton spots his natural talent for drama. Running Time 2hrs.

**FAIRTRADE STALL – Sunday, 11 January.** The stall will be in the North Transept, after the 10a.m. service.

**MESSY CHURCH – Saturday, 17 January – 11.30a.m.-1p.m.** Join us with your children/grandchildren for fun activities, followed by an interactive session with Revd. Debbie, and a light lunch. The session is free. Donations are welcome.

## ***Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's***

**LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church – There will be no Lunch Break session on 23 or 30 December.**

**LUNCH FORUM – Friday, 16 January – 12.15p.m. – Amersham Free Church.** Come along for the chance to hear Mark Lawson, who has travelled throughout the world tasting, buying and blending tea. Mark, from local company Two Spoons Tea Ltd, will relate 'The Story of Tea from Bush to Cup'. This lively and informative talk will include a tasting and plenty of opportunity to quench our thirst for tea knowledge! As usual we will sit down to eat our own packed lunches at 12.15p.m.-12.30p.m. with the talk starting at 1.00p.m. Tea/coffee/water provided. Suggested donation £3-£5 to cover the cost of speakers. It would be wonderful to have members from St. Michael's come and join us.