



St. Michael & All Angels – Church of England
5 January, 2025 – Epiphany

Said Eucharist – Sunday, 8.30a.m. and Tuesday, 10.30a.m.
Sung Eucharist (with incense) – Sunday, 10a.m.

Morning Prayer on Tuesday at 9a.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.

71 Brightest and best (Epiphany)
537 We three kings (Kings of Orient) (solo verses in procession)
394 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
41 As with gladness men of old

Readers:

Ann Beattie
Barbara Gibson

Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the people of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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.**

Alternative Collect

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 60.1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

Psalm 72.10-15

Response: May all nations be blest in him.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.
All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall do him service.

Response

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, the needy and those who have no helper.
He shall have pity on the weak and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

Response

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba;
may prayer be made for him continually and may they bless him all the day long.

Response

Ephesians 3.1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

Matthew 2.1-12

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael's

If you know someone who has been baptised during the last few years, please do invite them and their families to the Gathered Round service on Sunday, 12 January. To celebrate The Baptism of Christ the service will include a special section to also celebrate those who have been baptised recently.

COTHA United Communion Service at Amersham Free Church will now be on Sunday, 19 January 2025 at 10:30a.m.

THANK YOU FROM HAZEL – to everyone for your very generous gifts to mark my retirement and all the kind words in the card. I was truly touched. It was good to see so many people coming together at the gathering on my last day as Church Administrator. As has already been said several times, I am not going anywhere yet and am intending to continue with my other roles within St. Michael's, so will see you all soon.

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=5ebxBUeEXv5by0HQ8OZzajej6HDFABs.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

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. If you prefer, just come along for a chat and watch the proceedings!

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. We welcome some residents from Rayners Care Home, Hyde Heath.

MESSY CHURCH – Saturday, 18 January – 11.30a.m.-1p.m. Join us with your children/grandchildren for fun activities followed by a story or discussion, and a light lunch. This session is offered for free, but donations to cover costs are gratefully received.

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 – Tuesday, 7 January– 12noon-2p.m. - Tea, coffee and soup are available. The church is open for quiet reflection, and from 1.10p.m-1.30p.m. a bite sized service.