



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

Gathered Round – Sunday 10.00a.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 Traidcraft stall will be in the North Transept after the 10am service.

Hymns for 10a.m.

40 As we are gathered

528 Wait for the Lord

198 Hark the glad sound, the Saviour comes

489 The Lord will come and not be slow

Collect

Alternative Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

Baruch 5

A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.' Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him. For the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: Benedictus (Luke 1.68–79)

Response: Blessèd be the Lord, who sets his people free.

Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant, David.

Response

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us. He promised to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant. **Response**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight, all the days of our life. **Response**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation, by the forgiveness of all their sins. **Response**

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **Response**

Response

Luke 3.1-6

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our 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.
Sunday 24 December	Family Crib Service – 4p.m. Sung Christmas Mass – 8p.m. (with incense)
Monday 25 December	Christmas Day – Said Eucharist at 8.30a.m. Christmas Mass & Carols – 10a.m.
Sunday 5 January	Epiphany – 8.30a.m. & 10a.m. (with incense)



THE BIG ADVENT PRAYER SWAP – The advent prayer swap started on 1 December. You are still welcome to join in, , please email communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk and your first name will be given to someone else who has requested to be involved, and you will be emailed a name to pray for daily throughout Advent.

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-

EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_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. It's well worth dropping in any day between 10a.m. and 4p.m. to have a look. Free entry, with donations requested for Wycombe Homeless Connection.

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES will be open every Monday-Saturday, from 10a.m.-4p.m. (21 December - 1.30p.m.-4p.m.) and some Sundays from 11.30a.m./12noon-4p.m., until 21 December, in the South Transept.



WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB – Friday, 6th December – 2p.m.-4p.m. – A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION Starring Meryl Streep and Garrison Keller. The story of a much loved US radio show, the last ever live recording of one of America's broadcasting institutions. Running Time 1hr. 41mins.

"POP IN AND PAINT" – Friday, 6 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 come along for a chat and watch the proceedings!



CHOIRS COFFEE & CAKE AT ST. MICHAEL'S – Saturday, 7 December – 10a.m.-3p.m.

5 Choirs will each be performing for 45 minutes in the Church. Free entry – just pop in for as long as you wish. This is a family friendly occasion with refreshments available throughout. Donations are requested for Wycombe Homeless Connection. Please be sure to bring friends and neighbours, and circulate the information far and wide!

10a.m. The Heatherton Singers.

11a.m. The Ukeholics

12p.m. AmChor

1p.m. The Knights of Harmony

2p.m. Amersham Community Choir

FAIR TRADE STALL – Sunday, 8 December – 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.

CRAFTY CUPPA – Friday, 13 December and 10 January – 10.30a.m.-12noon. The special Christmas session tomorrow, Friday, 13 December, will include mince pies etc. 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 centered around the theme, 'The light of Christ', and based on Luke 11.33. Fun activities 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.

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.

Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's

LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 10 December – 12noon-2p.m. - Tea, coffee and soup are available. The church is open for quiet reflection, and from 1.10p.m-1.30p.m. the Chiltern Singers in recital.

QUIET GARDEN – ONLINE ADVENT REFLECTIONS – Mondays, 2, 9 & 16 December – 7.30p.m.-8p.m. Three evenings of reflection, silence, music, prayer and poetry during Advent, which will follow Mary, The Kings and Shepherds as they make their own journeys towards Bethlehem. For tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journeys-through-advent-tickets-1058151081369>.