

# 2025 Christmas Services

Sunday, 14 December - **Advent 3**  
**Eucharists at 8.30a.m. and 10a.m.**

Wednesday, 17 December  
**Nine Lessons and Carols – 7p.m.**

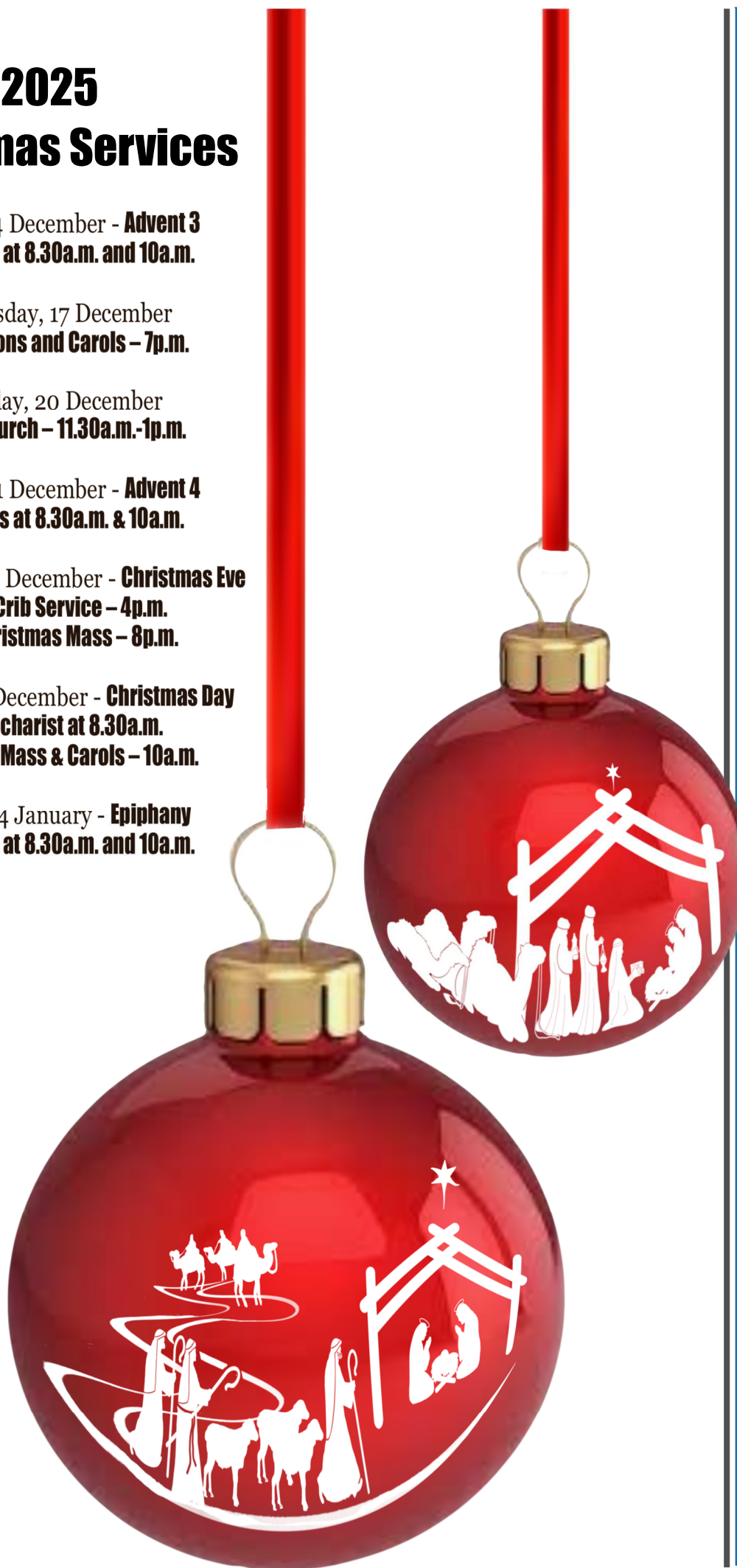
Saturday, 20 December  
**Messy Church – 11.30a.m.-1p.m.**

Sunday, 21 December - **Advent 4**  
**Eucharists at 8.30a.m. & 10a.m.**

Wednesday, 24 December - **Christmas Eve**  
**Family Crib Service – 4p.m.**  
**Sung Christmas Mass – 8p.m.**

Thursday 25 December - **Christmas Day**  
**Said Eucharist at 8.30a.m.**  
**Christmas Mass & Carols – 10a.m.**

Sunday, 4 January - **Epiphany**  
**Eucharists at 8.30a.m. and 10a.m.**



ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS – Parish Church of Amersham on the Hill

# NEWSLETTER

DEC '25/JAN '26

## Who's Who at St. Michael & All Angels

70 Sycamore Road  
Amersham HP6 5DR



Church Office: 01494 726680

[Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

[www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

(10 am—1 pm Monday—Wednesday & Friday)

## Ministry Team

Vicar

**The Revd. Debbie Oades**

[revdebbieoades@gmail.com](mailto:revdebbieoades@gmail.com)



Associate Priest

**Fr. Peter Binns**

[peter.binns166@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.binns166@btinternet.com)



## Church Administrator

**Rachel Wilcox**

[office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)



## Safeguarding Officer

[safeguarding@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

## Churchwardens

**Roger Leslie**

[rogerleslie25@gmail.com](mailto:rogerleslie25@gmail.com)



**Claire O'Beirne**

[obeirne@gmail.com](mailto:obeirne@gmail.com)



## Communications Officer

**Rebecca Olsen**

[communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)



We've got online carol-singers again!

## St. Michael's Vision Statement

*As a Christian community, we seek to engage with the world around us and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.*

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Vicar, PCC or the official policy of St. Michael's Church.

The Newsletter is published monthly

(with the exception of January and August).

Please email material for inclusion in the next issue to [communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk), for the attention of Rebecca.

## In this issue...

	Page
Who's Who at St. Michael's	2
2026—A big year for St Michael's	3
Holy Innocents	3
Choirs, Carols & Cake	4
A huge thank you	5
Poppies in Pictures	6
Bollywood comes to the Hall	6
Diary	7
Kids Page	8

# 2026

## A big year for St. Michael's!

The St. Michael's church building was consecrated in 1966, so next year will be our Diamond Jubilee. And in true St. Michael's fashion, we intend to celebrate this with heart and soul! But we aren't just planning a party: there will be events all through the year.

The first event will be the COTHA service on Sunday 18 January. This falls—very appropriately—at the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and we will be joining to worship at Amersham Free Church. As part of that service, the COTHA Covenant will be renewed, reflecting the close cooperation which exists between our two worshipping communities and acknowledging the fact that St. John's Methodist Church, formerly part of the Covenant, is no longer in Amersham. Our churchwardens and the elders of Amersham Free Church have worked long and hard to revise the document, and we will welcome Revd. Lisa Kenny, Baptist Regional Minister, Revd. Deiniol Heywood, acting Archdeacon of Buckingham, and Revd. George Watt, Moderator of the United Reform Church's Thames North Synod who, along with the clergy, will sign the Covenant.

This will be a very fitting start to our Jubilee Year and we hope as many as possible will be there to celebrate this partnership between our two churches.

### ***And what about the rest of the year?***

Watch this space! There will be special events happening all through the year, so do keep an eye out for announcements.



# Holy Innocents

**By Jo Harrington**

Turkey, tired tinsel, wrapping paper in every overflowing bin.....

The days after Christmas can seem an anticlimax. Yet, on December 28th, on a Sunday this year, the Church hits us hard with Matthew's birth narrative about King Herod's massacre of the Holy Innocents.

As the Coventry Carol sings:

Lully, lullay.....

Herod the King, in his raging,

Charged he hath this day

His men of might, in his own sight,

All young children to slay.

Matthew brings us from a cosy Christmas to the cruel, vindictive revenge response of an autocrat who felt threatened by the reported birth of another King. Control had slipped through his hands with the departure away from him, of the Magi (possibly journeying back to the modern area of Iran) by "a different way".

What might be our response be to this?

Whether we treasure this as "history", in our modern understanding of that term, or as an occasion to reflect on the Incarnation, Matthew has much to offer us.

To his Jewish readers familiar with biblical tradition Matthew says that this little Child is another Moses, destined to lead his people away from an oppressive, occupying force into an eventual political freedom.

To those seeking these days to place the Divine birth into a modern time frame, it perhaps shows, to be sure no threatening little boys escaped, that as much as two years had elapsed between the Birth and Herod's revenge.

Matthew's readers knew from the Book of Exodus that the child Moses and his parents had fled from Egyptian persecution into the desert.

Likewise, Jesus, the ultimate Law Giver, was destined to hide down in Egypt until the danger had passed.

Even today, the Christian Coptic church in Cairo venerates the site there where they believe the Holy Family sheltered while Herod still lived (Not the place here to embark on the fact that Herod died in the year we today call 4 BC!)

Less controversial is the tragic fact that Massacres of Innocents continue today.

Frequently in war zones, families trudge from one unsafe place to another, children, animals, hunger and possessions with them. Often they don't know how long their refugee status will last. Only that there are powers beyond their control. That they might never get "home", till their land, feel settled, instill their language and values into the children, never believe anyone cares.

And how much does this world still need to turn in trust to the Prince of Peace? How are we called upon, as individuals and nations, to ensure that Herod does not have the last word?

What do WE say to Herod?

The 8.30am and 10am services on 28 December 2025 will remember the Holy Innocents.



## At St. Michael's

## Saturday 6 December

# Free entry

### 10.30—Heatherton Singers

### 11.15—Amersham A Cappella

## 12.00—Ukaholics Singalong

## 12.45—Knights of Harmony

## Raising funds for

# Wycombe Homeless Connection

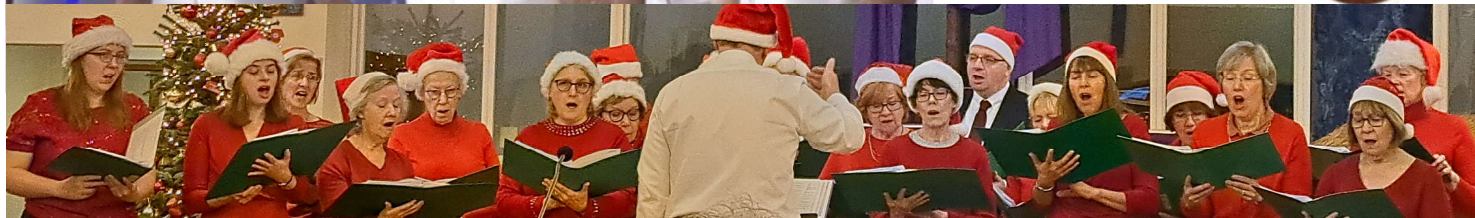
Last year Choirs, Coffee & Cake was a huge success, despite the downpours and chill in the air. Of course, coming out to listen to Choirs in the warmth of the church is a step up from seeking a place to sleep overnight any night of the year, let alone when the weather is so ferocious.

This year, we are so lucky to have some of the top barber shop groups singing at Choirs, Coffee & Cake.

Please come along to what promises to be a highlight of 2025, and support the important work that the Wycombe Homeless Connection do throughout the year.

***Could you help?***

We'd hugely appreciate a few home made cakes - please email [kiki@akipl.com](mailto:kiki@akipl.com) if you could help. Cakes would need to be delivered to the Office on Friday 5 December, between 10am and midday, or to the kitchen by about 10am or so, on the day—or could be collected.



# WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION



# **A huge thanks to all those who have decorated a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival in 2025!**

## **Amersham Action Group**

**Amersham Bowls Club** — Contact Alan Jarvis on 01494 726078 for information..

**Amersham Cancer Support Group** — Contact: Dinah Reed—[dinahreed13@gmail.com](mailto:dinahreed13@gmail.com)

**Amersham & District Residents Association** — Open for membership to all who live in Amersham-on-the-Hill, Old Amersham, Amersham Common, Chesham Bois and Weedon Hill. <https://www.amershamresidents.org.uk/>

**Amersham Folk Dance Club** — We meet at the Barn Hall, part of Amersham Community Centre, on Tuesday evenings. Just come along at 8pm and see what we do. Further information on 07799 017730.

## **Amersham Free Church — A Community for the Community**

**Amersham Methodist Church** — Contact: Revd. James Petterson—01494 431819—[james.patterson@methodist.org.uk](mailto:james.patterson@methodist.org.uk)— High Street, Amersham HP7 ODY.

The children from **Amersham Museum Art Club — Amersham Museum**

## **1st Amersham on the Hill Rainbows**

**Amersham Trefoil Guild** — Join us for fun, laughter and friendship. Contact: Fiona on 10494 721927 or Marcella on 01494 763592 or [amershamtrefoilguild@gmail.com](mailto:amershamtrefoilguild@gmail.com)

**Amersham West Brownies** — We are in need of adult volunteers in Girlguiding Amersham West. If you can help please contact: [www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved) If you would like to add your daughter to the Brownie waiting list please go to : [www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter)

Guides and Leaders of **Amersham West Guides** — Wish you a Merry Christmas! We have 9 units, from Rainbows to Rangers, with 200 girls supported by about 20 Adult Leaders and about 20 teenagers acting as Young Leaders or Guide Helpers. We urgently need more volunteers, especially for our Guides Units, (aged 10-14) who meet on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday evenings. Could you join us? No need for experience of Guiding, just a passion for working with young people. You can take on as much or as little as you like—ideally once a week, or every other week. Email: [girlguidingamershamteam@gmail.com](mailto:girlguidingamershamteam@gmail.com)

## **Chiltern Chamber of Commerce**

**Chiltern Child Contact Centre** — Providing a safe neutral space where children can meet the parent who no longer lives at home with them. Contact: [info@chilternchildcontactcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@chilternchildcontactcentre.org.uk) or 07527 109363

**The Griffin Club** — founded in 1791—The Griffin Club is a charity established by local businessmen to help those in need within our community. Members enjoy a monthly dinner meeting with a guest speaker and annual subscriptions fund our charity giving. Please join us! Contact out Chairman, Steve Moon, on 01494 721519.

## **Heatherton — 1912**

**The Jupiter Singers** — <http://www.thejupitersingers.com/>

**Little Learners** — [little.learners.amersham@gmail.com](mailto:little.learners.amersham@gmail.com)

**Milan Cubs Pack** — 2nd Amersham-on-the-Hill Scout Group.

## **Pop in and Paint — St Michael's**

**Praying for Peace (supported by a member of the St Michael's community)**

**Rotary in Amersham** — [www.amershamrotary.org](http://www.amershamrotary.org)

**St Michael's Choir** — Join us to sing! Contact: Rachel on [office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

## **St Michael's Welcomers Team**

## **Street Kids Direct & Radio Christmas**

**Sustainable Amersham** — Acting together for a better tomorrow—[www.sustainableamersham.org](http://www.sustainableamersham.org)

**U3a Chiltern** — Happy Christmas from All our Members! - Our 1500 offer each other a choice of interest groups for fun & stimulation in the Amersham area. From Ancient Cultures, Drama, Dancing, Language, Music and Socials, to Technology, Walking Wine tasting and Yoga. [www.chiltern-u3a.org.uk](http://www.chiltern-u3a.org.uk)—[www.facebook.com/groups/cu3apub](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cu3apub)

## **Woodside School — A community rooted in learning**

## **Wycombe Homeless Connection**

**We are grateful to all of these groups for sponsoring trees in aid of Wycombe Homeless Connection. You can help by adding a bauble to the Angel Tree or by making a donation—thank you!**



Scan to donate





# Remembrance Poppies at St. Michael's

Photos by Chris Leslie



**A huge thankyou to all who made poppies!**

## Bollywood comes to St. Michael's Church Hall



After the success of Bollywood dance at the recent St. Michael's Celebration Day in September, Irshad has started a Bollywood Dance class in St. Michael's Church Hall on Sunday evenings. It's a great form of exercise and all are welcome to attend. If you are interested, why not pop along one Sunday at 8.15pm-9.15pm for 50 minutes of non-stop movement! For more details contact Irshad directly on +44 7477 047148.

## Eucharists:

**Sundays** 8.30am and 10am

(Gathered Round on the second Sunday of each month is especially designed for families)

**Tuesdays** 10.30am

## Morning Prayer:

**Tuesdays** 9am in the Lady Chapel.

## Special Services:

Please see the cover page for Christmas services.

**18 January at 10.30am:** COTHA Joint Service at Amersham Free Church with the signing of the new COTHA Covenant.

**Messy Church: 20 December and 17 January**

**St. Michael's** is usually open to ALL for private prayer from 10am—4pm— Mon— Fri, but will be closed from 26 December— 5 January.

<https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams>, will access live-streamed services.

## WORSHIP

### WARDENS

7 Dec — Alan Bacon  
14 Dec — Claire O'Beirne  
17 Dec — Roland Gillott  
21 Dec — Andy Connor  
24 Dec — Roger Leslie  
25 Dec — Roland Gillott  
28 Dec — Alan Bacon  
4 Jan — Claire O'Beirne  
11 Jan — Roger Leslie  
18 Jan — Roland Gillott  
25 Jan — Andy Connor

Please see:

[stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

for more details

## ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP— 4 December — 10am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room**

Tea, Coffee and Support

**POP IN & PAINT— 5 December and 9 January —10.30am-12.15pm, St. Michael's, Main Church**

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed. Materials provided.

**WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB—5 December (starting 1.30—note time!) and 9 January —2pm-4pm, St. Michael's, Wheeler Room**

**5 December: ELVIS** Starring Austin Butler and Tom Hanks. This epic drama explores the life and music of Elvis Presley. Running Time 2hrs 30mins. **9 January: 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

**A CRAFTY CUPPA—12 December and 9 & 23 January— 10.30am-12 noon—St. Michael's, Wheeler Room**

A drop-in session for everyone who wants a cuppa and some company. Feel free to bring a craft with you.

**LUNCHEBREAK – Amersham Free Church Every Tuesday – 12noon-2pm**

Tea, coffee and soup available 1.10pm-1.30pm Music, a talk, or a short service.

**FRIDAY LUNCH FORUM – Friday, 19 December and 16 January – from 12.15p.m. – Amersham Free Church.**

Bring a packed lunch. Talk starts at 1p.m. Tea/coffee/water provided.

Suggested donation £3-£5 to cover the cost of speakers.

**Mondays** **Mature Movers** 1.45pm-2.45pm

**Stay Steady, Stay Strong** 3pm-4pm (Tel: 07951 294178)

**Amersham Dance Studio** Children from 3+. 4pm-10pm  
(email: [emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk](mailto:emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk))

**Tuesdays** **Tuffney Performing Arts Academy** 5pm-6pm

(Email: [office@tuffney.com](mailto:office@tuffney.com))

**Yoga with Shiv** 5pm—7pm (Glover Rm) (Science based approach, open to all. Tel: 07815132157)

**Amersham A Capella** 7pm-11pm (<https://www.amershamacappella.com/>)

**Wednesdays** **Karate Club** 6.30pm-8pm (Tel: 07951 024 397)

**Badminton Club** 8.15pm-10.15 pm (Tel: 01923 264791)

**Thursdays** **Badminton** 1.30pm-3.30pm

**Amersham Dance Studio** Children from 3+. 4pm-7pm

**Fridays** **Stay Steady, Stay Strong** 1.30pm-3.45pm (Tel: 07951 294178)

Please see [stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://stmichaelsamersham.org.uk) if you would like to book the hall.

For information about **Little Learners Nursery** please see <https://littlelearnersamersham.co.uk>.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE HALL

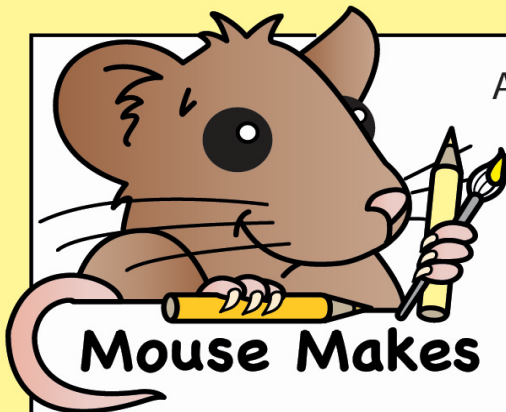
**Saturday, 20 December, Messy Church** will be on in St. Michael's from 11.30am to 1pm. Fun Christmas activities followed by a short interactive session about the story behind the activities, and lunch, which is provided for all. No need to book, just turn up. All welcome. This activity is free but donations are welcome to cover costs. **1st 2026 session, 17 January**



**Weddings,  
Baptisms and  
Deaths:  
RIP Nicol Harper  
Freda Wrigley**

DIARY DEC '25 & JAN '26





## Mouse Makes

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus,  
God's Son and our Saviour  
coming into the world as a baby,  
and we look forward to the time  
when Jesus will come again,  
not as a baby but as the  
King of kings and Lord of lords!

**read**

John 14:3

A baby needs clothes  
to keep warm like  
a snuggly sleep suit  
or a vest and nappy.

*What were you dressed in?*

Jesus was wrapped in  
.....

**read** Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere  
to be born like at home  
or in a hospital.

*Where were you born?*

Jesus was born  
in a stable in  
.....

**read** Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs  
somewhere  
to sleep like  
a crib or a cot.  
*What did you  
sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a  
.....

**read** Luke 2:7

A baby needs  
a name.

*What name were  
you called?*

Jesus was given  
a special name  
that had a  
special meaning.

**read**

Matthew 1:21-23

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ★ NOLLAIG CHRÏDHEIL ★ NOLLAG SHONA

JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN