



St Michael with St Mary



Services this week

Sunday, 5th December

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion (St Mary's)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

9am Morning Prayer (by Zoom - code via kennethpadley@gmail.com)

Wednesday

- 9.00 a.m. School Service (St Michael's)
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)

Sunday, 12th December

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
9.30 a.m. All-Age Communion and Children's Nativity Play
(St Michael's)
6.00 p.m. Christmas Carol Service (St Mary's)
The traditional nine lessons with popular carols for all to sing.

Contacts

Key information is available on www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk or via the Parish Office:
01727 835037 (9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

Resources for today's 9.30am service

Children's groups are running in the school. The children's corner in the North Aisle contains themed-worksheets, books and toys. Parents please remain responsible for your children in this space. If your child needs time-out or privacy (e.g. nappy change) the Tower Room is available and has sound relay of the service.

Toilets are available in the Parish Centre at the east end of the churchyard.

Please stay for refreshments after the service in the Parish Centre.

Between the first and second readings the choir sings The Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel : for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us : in the house of his servant David;
As he spoke by the mouth of his holy Prophets : which have been since the world began;

That we should be saved from our enemies : and from the hands of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers : and to remember his holy Covenant;

To perform the oath which he swore to our forefather Abraham : that he would give us;

That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies : might serve him without fear;

In holiness and righteousness before him : all the days of our life.

And thou, Child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest :

for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people : for the remission of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God :

whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death :

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1: 3-11

Resources for today's 9.30am service

'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." '

Luke 3: 1-6

During communion the choir sings:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings: That publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Isaiah 52 v7

Music: John Stainer

Please remember in your prayers

- those who are **ill**, including: Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Allan Plumpton, Shoba Ponnappa, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Janice Western, Paul Wiggett, Barbara Woodward
- for healing and wholeness: Peter Loyd
- those who mourn the death of Reginald (Bill) Shakespeare

Notices

Tuesday, 7th December: 9.30-10.30am in the Parish Centre. Kenneth and John Bannister will be meeting with a small team to explore the relaunch of Tuesday morning Parent & Toddler group. Please come along and join in if you can.

Thursday, 9th December: 8.00 until 9.00 p.m. TOWARDS THE LIGHT: An Evening Advent Service of Light, Silence, Music and Words. An oasis of quiet prayerful reflection during the busyness of the season.

Update: This year, after expenses, the magnificent sum of **£1155.37** was raised at the bonfire party. Many thanks to everyone on M&C and all of the helpers on the day who made this a memorable event.

Notices

FEED foodbank are keen to encourage specific donations of Christmas goodies such as non-alcoholic mince pies, Christmas puddings, Christmas cakes, chocolate logs etc. as well as other staples such as coffee, long-life milk, tinned meat/pies but NO pasta, please. This year they would also appreciate donations of **NEW** children's toys, books and games for children aged 3 years and under and for teenagers aged 12-16 years. **At the moment**, the foodbank is particularly short of laundry and cleaning products and toiletries, so if you can provide any of these, it would be greatly appreciated.

Chris Allen

18th December from 10.00 a.m. - Decorating St Michael's for Christmas. We would be very grateful for help in decorating the church in preparation for Christmas. If you have any evergreen foliage, especially with berries on it and can spare some time to help, please bring it along with you. **ALSO**, if you could stay to help with church cleaning afterwards, **Jane** and her team would be very grateful.

Do check out the homepage of the parish website for recent posts, including:

- Kenneth's sermon on **Advent Hope** (and the plague in Unna)
- The powerpoint from the **Introduction to St Luke** evening
- The **Time and Talents survey** – please complete **by 13th December**

Christmas Retiring Collections at St Michael's Church will support:

Carol Service Children of Peace: Conflict resolution among children and young people in Israel and the Palestinian territories
(19th December) (Registered Charity Number 1112301)

Crib Services Keech Hospice Care: Local hospice care for children
(23rd and 24th) (Registered Charity Number 1035089)

Midnight /Christmas Day (Split 50/50)

Living Room and Centre 33: Addiction Support and Homelessness Support (respectively) in St Albans
(Registered Charity Numbers :1080634 and 1146438 respectively)

The Mission and Community Committee write:

After the success of last year, we're restarting our **Christmas Pop-Up Shop**. After the success of last year, we're restarting our pop-up shop in St Michael's church. Please leave donations to be sold in the boxes at the back of Church. They can be anything you think someone might like to buy to treat themselves during the festive period or to gift to a loved one (no alcohol please).

St Michael's School Winter Fayre: Unfortunately this event has had to be moved online this year so we are unable to have a stall, and in the meantime, we would like to thank everyone who had volunteered to help on the day. However, we will still be considering how we can engage with parents and families.