



## Services this week

### SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER: ADVENT IV

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion - at St Michael's  
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion - at St Michael's  
4.00 p.m. **Christmas Carol Service** - at St Michael's  
*Congregational and choir carols  
with the nine lessons  
read by representatives of local community life*  
6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer - at St Mary's



### MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY

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

### WEDNESDAY

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion - at St Michael's

### THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> and FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

- 4.00 p.m. **Crib Service** – at St Michael's (identical service both days)  
*Ideal for younger children: please come dressed as a character from the story – shepherd, angel, donkey, star...*

### FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS EVE

- 11.30 p.m. **Midnight Mass** – at St Michael's  
*Seasonal wonder and hearty singing*

### SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS DAY

- 9.30 a.m. **Communion and Carols** – at St Michael's  
11.30 a.m. **Communion and Carols** – at St Mary's  
*Festive celebrations for all ages*

### SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER: ST STEPHEN'S DAY

- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion - at St Michael's  
*NB: single parish service today*

### Contacts

Key information is available on [www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk](http://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 Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 9.30am service

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.

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But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.  
Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labour bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.  
He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

**Micah 5: 2-5a**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

**Luke 1:39-45**

## Resources for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 9.30am service

*During communion the choir sings:*

Ave Maria by Jacques Arcadelt c.1507-1568

Ave Maria, gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
Et Benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.  
Sancta Maria ora pro nobis.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with Thee,  
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, pray for us.*



### **Please remember in your prayers**

- those being **baptised**: Frederick Hartridge
- those who are **ill**, including: Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingird Kluckova, Allan Plumptre, Shoba Ponnappa, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Janice Western, Paul Wiggett, Barbara Woodward
- for healing and wholeness: Peter Loyd

# Notices

Kenneth, John, Val, Mark and Georgie would like to thank everyone for their cards and good wishes. **We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.**

Many thanks to all involved in decorating both churches for Christmas - **Kenneth**

Parishioners wishing to share **Christmas cards** with one another through church are encouraged to use/check the communications box at the back of St Michael's Lady Chapel.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Parish Office will be **closed** for Christmas for general and hall booking enquiries for an extended period between **from 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December** until **9.00 a.m. on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

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**

**The Friends of St Michael's Church** have been allocated tickets by the Abbey Theatre to sell and raise funds. The play **One Man, Two Guv'nors** will be performed on the Main Stage at the Abbey Theatre on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022.** For more information about how to order/purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk/friends-of-st-michaels-theatre-night-one-man-two-guvnors-24-feb-2022>

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

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

**Crib Services** (23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>) Kech Hospice Care: Local hospice care for children (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)