



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

Sunday, 26th December:

St Stephen's Day

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)
*Please note: there will be a single parish service
today (no 8am or 6pm)*



Morning Prayer via Zoom will resume on 3rd January 2022
Holy Communion on Wednesday will resume on 5th January 2022

Sunday, 2nd January 2022:

Second Sunday of Christmas

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

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

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.

Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, 'Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has also forsaken you.' But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the Lord. King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. As he was dying, he said, 'May the Lord see and avenge!'

At the end of the year the army of Aram came up against Joash. They came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the officials of the people from among them, and sent all the booty they took to the king of Damascus. Although the army of Aram had come with few men, the Lord delivered into their hand a very great army, because they had abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors. Thus they executed judgement on Joash.

II Chronicles 24: 20-24

Stephen said 'You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.'

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Acts 7: 51-60

Resources for today's 9.30am service

Jesus said 'Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved'.

Matthew 10: 17-22

Please remember in your prayers

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

Notices

St Michael's will be open for visitors and pilgrims daily in the week after Christmas but unfortunately, St Mary's is temporarily closed to weekday visitors, (but still open for regular services - Sunday 6pm) pending a repair on the door hinge. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. A virtual tour of St Mary's is available on Google Street View.

Thank you to everyone who supported the FEED foodbank over the Christmas period. **At the moment, they are particularly short of laundry detergents and fabric softeners as well as toilet rolls** so if you can help, please put your donation into the box in church. In addition, they would appreciate donations of other staples such as coffee, long-life milk, tinned meat/pies, tinned fruit etc. but NO pasta, please.

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office is **closed** for general and hall booking enquiries until **9.00 a.m.** on **Monday, 10th January 2022.**

Notices

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.

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 24th 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>

The repairs by **Affinity Water** on the water main will shift from Redbourn Road to Batchwood Drive in early 2022. Please allow extra time when travelling to and from St Michael's church if coming from this direction. Details of the two phases of work are on affinitywater.co.uk/alerts/mains-renewal