



NO SERVICE AT 8am

10am Parish Communion, in Church

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the WCC after the 10am service.

Collect for The Second Sunday of Advent

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.

A canticle for today, *Benedictus*

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

An anthem for today *Come thou redeemer of the earth (Arranged Paul J Burrell)*

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin-birth: let every age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of all. Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit, thou art still the Word of God in flesh arrayed, the Saviour, now to us displayed. From God the Father he proceeds, to God the Father back he speeds, runs out his course to death and hell, returns on God's high throne to dwell. O equal to the Father, thou! Gird on thy fleshly mantle now; the weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate.

A Gospel reading for today, Luke 3. 1-6

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."

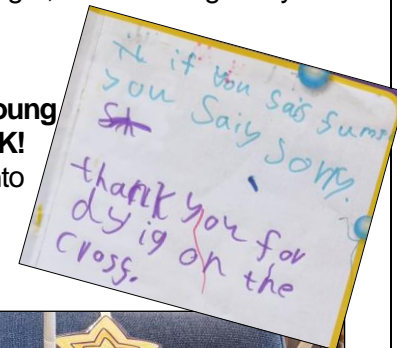
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Come and share our short session for children and young people during our Sunday 10am service EVERY WEEK!

We invite children of all ages, with their adults, to come into the Lady Chapel during part of the service, and share in A Godly Play (a short visual storytelling of scriptures, with wondering questions, stories, crafts, puzzles, and even some acting for those that want ... for all ages to share together; then various age related activities). **We continue our series in Advent: God is Love.** We take time to pause and ponder that God loves us so much that he became a human being. This week the theme is *Look for the Star* as celebrate that Jesus came for **everyone** (*Isaiah 60. 1-3; Matthew 2. 1-12*).

Our [Children & Young People](#) website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.

Our young person's choir - If your child is 7 or over and interested in joining, please contact Nathan Collins (stmichaelsbso@gmail.com) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people and welcome the support of those who would like to help contribute to these.



Last week we learned more about how God became a person, like us. (*Luke 2. 1-20; Micah 5. 2-5*). We wondered at the story of the shepherds with our precious Nativity Set and puppet theatre before journeying to Bethlehem with our sheep. Then we asked how we could praise God.



The church is open each day, from early morning to mid afternoon.

An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 11th December, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Thursdays from 12:30-2/2:30pm – Held weekly in the Windhill Churches Centre, Tiny Tots is for parents/carers and babies/preschoolers in term time; and older children/siblings are very welcome during inset days and school holidays. We start with playtime and tea/coffee, then songs, stories, activities and a prayer. There's easy buggy access and baby change facilities, and you're welcome to bring a packed lunch if you like. It's also ok to be late, we understand! We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Forthcoming Funeral – The Thanksgiving Service for Margaret Blascos is this **Thursday 12th December at 3pm.**

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 14th December, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am on **Sunday 15th December**, then 5th and 19th January and 2nd and 16th February.

Churches Together will be singing carols in Jackson Square on Saturday 21st December from 11am-12noon following a rehearsal and prayer in St Michaels from 10am. We will be collecting for the Night Shelter. If you can hold a tune, or could hand out information about what Christmas is truly about and what churches are doing, please join us to make this a powerful witness in our town. Email Nathan for more information at churchestogethercarols@gmail.com

2025 starts at St Michael's with some worship – There will be Holy Communion at **10am on Wednesday 1st January 2025.**

Advent and Christmas Services at St Michael's – [All details are on our website](#) and on flyers in the Publicity Area but note our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm on Sunday 22nd December, Holy Communion at 8am, Crib Service at 3:30pm and Midnight Service at 11pm (with Choir Carols from 10:30pm) on Christmas Eve. We'll celebrate Parish Communion at 10am on Christmas Day. **We would welcome volunteers to read at Nine Lessons and Carols, speak to Derwyn if interested.**

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC from 10am to 12noon – All welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft. We next meet, after a Christmas break, **Monday 6th January.**

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting Tuesday 7th January in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm – Join tea and talk and a regular 10/15 minute presentation on wide ranging interests. Robert Oliver will be our speaker next month, on a subject of his choice.

Details of all services and events are available on the [Calendar](#) page on our website.

Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 30th January – Places are limited popular days of reflection and contemplation in June's home, do contact the Office for more information.

St Albans Cursillo is part of a movement within the Anglican church which helps to strengthen our faith and witness, as many St Michael's members have found. Please see the blue leaflets in the Publicity Area for more information. We are holding our **next weekend away at Pleshey from 21st to 23rd March 2025** and if you are interested, please contact John Emmett (johnemmett2017@gmail.com).

Mary's Meals Foreign Currency Collection – There will be a collection box in church during services for all your foreign currency, no matter how old, obscure or its value. There are also individual envelopes available for you to take home and fill, if you prefer.

Postage stamps for charity – Remember to save your used stamps this Christmas and put them in the bucket in the Publicity Area to go to charity. Please ensure that the stamps have a one inch paper envelope border, otherwise they cannot be used!

Company at Christmas Urgent !! We are still short of drivers to collect and return guests for Company at Christmas. The communal Christmas party is at the Methodist Church Oasis Lounge on Christmas Day, and/or help needed to deliver hot meals to those who are unable to leave their homes. It will consume maybe one hour of your time and our guests would otherwise spend Christmas Day alone. All drivers will need to have a DBS, which can be arranged for them if they don't currently have one or if it has expired. If you can help us this year, please contact Steve Dale (07769 908777) or email: companyatchristmas@gmail.com Many thanks for your help. **ALSO, do sign up to help in other ways if you can! Details in the Publicity Area and our [website](#).**

Giant Christmas Card – Once again the Giant Card will give everyone the chance to send Christmas Greetings to their St Michael's friends, and instead of incurring postal charges making a donation to The Children's Society. The card will be displayed in the Publicity Area on Sundays and Wednesdays. Many thanks for your support.

Food Bank Plea – Increased costs of living continue to hit foodbanks hard. Do consider whether you can donate: details on our [website](#) and church noticeboard. You might also wish to consider a 'reverse Advent Calendar' – donating every day in Advent.

PRAYER, COUNSEL AND SUPPORT

If parishioners would value the prayers, counsel and support of the church, in time of need for themselves or others on their hearts, please do reach out to the ministry team. Do speak to us in person at church services and events, or use the contact details below. Thank you.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar)	899261	Churchwardens: Claire Conquest	07944 431873
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)	652173	Gill Johnson	07912 432221
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)	07539 058946	Deputy Churchwardens: T Pigram, P Rixson	
Rob Klincke (Reader Emeritus)	833523	Parish Office	01279 654416
Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com		Email: church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk	
Charity Registration No. 1130646		Website: www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk	



Scan code for website

