



Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 22nd December 10am Parish Communion
6pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve 3:30pm Crib Service
11pm Midnight Mass,
with Carols by the Choir from 10:30pm

Christmas Day 10am Parish Communion for Christmas

Sunday 29th December 10am Parish Communion
for The First Sunday of Christmas

A Collect for Christmas

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

An anthem for Christmas

Infant holy, infant lowly, (Traditional Polish Carol, arranged by David Willcocks)

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all; Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story - tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you; Christ the babe was born for you!

A psalm for today, Psalm 148. 1-6

Refrain: O praise the name of the Lord.

1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.

2 Praise him, all you his angels;
praise him, all his host.

3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you stars of light.

All: O praise the name of the Lord.

4 Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

6 He made them fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

All: O praise the name of the Lord.



Advent 4, Christmas Day & 29th December, First Sunday of Christmas



Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Luke 1. 39-45

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.'

Gospel for Christmas Day, John 1. 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Children's Activities in the Lady Chapel at Christmas – From Christmas Eve to 3rd January we'll be having our very own Nativity 'festival' with lots of different Nativity Scenes ... from the one we made in Godly Play last year, to our knitted Nativity, to some belonging to our church team. There will also be a prayer space and lots of fun puzzle activity sheets.



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 (stmichaelsbdsom@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.

**BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE CLERGY AND
CONGREGATION OF ST MICHAEL'S**



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

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

Come and see the Christmas Crib • Enjoy the fresh floral displays

Write a prayer and hang it on the Christmas Tree

Children's activities (Lady Chapel)

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 28th December, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

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

Tiny Tots, Thursdays from 12:30-2/2:30pm, NEXT ON 2nd JANUARY – Held weekly in the Windhill Churches Centre, Tiny Tots is for parents/carers and babies/preschoolers in term time; **and older children are very welcome during these 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 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am on 5th and 19th January, then 2nd and 16th February.

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.



Piano Recital, Sunday 26th January at 3pm – Neil Crossland is a distinguished British pianist, composer and recording artist. The recital will include music by Vivaldi, Beethoven, and by Neil himself. Find out more, with programme notes, [on our website here](#). Free admission, retiring collection, tea and homemade cakes afterwards.

Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 30th January – Places are limited at these 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 Retreat House from 21st to 23rd March 2025** and if you are interested, please contact John Emmett (johnemmett2017@gmail.com).

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.

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!

Congregation Giant Christmas Card – Do take time to look at all the greetings in the card shared amongst our congregation this Christmas. It is not too late to add your good wishes and either put your donation to The Children's Society in the box, or if you are able to Gift-Aid, use one of the envelopes provided. Thank you for all your support for this charity's important work during 2023. The card is on display in the Publicity Area.

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.

The Charities Support Group is looking for new members – We'd like to find a Deputy Treasurer and Minutes taker but anyone who is interested in charities and the role of our church in supporting them is welcome. Involvement in the Holly Fair is part of the role, as well as four evening meetings a year when we discuss the distribution of the money to charities. Our first meeting of 2025 is 16th January. Please see Val Ashwood, Martyn Greenwood, Gary Jones, Angela Weeks or another group member if you are interested.

DIGITAL GIVING TO ST MICHAEL'S – CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND.

We know that fewer people carry cash, and whilst our donations in the collection plates and offertory box are much smaller, the costs of running our parish remain. Please consider using our **Card-Giving facility (contactless or with PIN)** to support St Michael's. **To give by phone**, text STMIC (then a number from 2 to 20, e.g. STMIC7 or STMIC15) to 70085. The most efficient way to give is by **Standing Order** direct from your bank account: please see the Giving Season envelopes from our most recent Stewardship renewal, in the Welcome Area. Thank you for considering your giving to St Michael's at this season.

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	
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