

Welcome to St. Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill.

Please take this sheet home with you for future reference.

24 December, 2017

Advent 4



8.00am. - Said Eucharist.

10.00am. – Sung Eucharist.

You can follow the service in the booklet given to you as you came in. This week's readings are printed out below. Please use the time before the service to be quiet and to prepare for worship.

Introit (sung by the choir)

Wait for the Lord.

Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Alternative Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

2 Samuel 7.1–11, 16

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Magnificat.

Response: The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed;

Response

the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.

Response

He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

Response

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,
The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Response: The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

Romans 16.25–27

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages, but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Luke 1.26–38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Peace

Come now, O prince of peace, make us one body, come O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Music during Communion *Gabriel's Message*

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Services this week

THE LADY CHAPEL is available for prayer and meditation from 9.30am. Monday-Saturday.

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY 9.00am. MORNING PRAYER from 'Celebrating Common Prayer' - Lady Chapel –

A gentle 20 minute service of prayer, psalms and readings. All welcome at any time. There is a simplified service booklet available in the Lady Chapel, which can be used by anyone, should no priest be present.

TUESDAY There is no Tuesday Eucharist this week

NEXT SUNDAY – 8.00am. SAID EUCHARIST. 10.00am. SUNG EUCHARIST

Readings for next Sunday–Isaiah 61.10-62.3: Psalm 148; Luke 2 15-21

Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael's

CHANGE TO SHARON'S LICENSING IN BEACONSFIELD

Unfortunately, Bishop Alan is unable now to licence Sharon Roberts at St. Thomas's church on the evening of 3rd January, so has kindly agreed that this can take place at his house that afternoon. The proposed service that evening therefore will not now happen.

WHEELER COFFEE –St Michael's – Tuesday, 19 December - 10.00am. – midday

Hot drinks and/or squash with biscuits, with an opportunity for a chat.

CHURCH OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Office will close at 1.00pm. on Friday, 22 December, re-opening at 9.30am. on Tuesday 02 January. E-mails will be checked after the bank holidays, but monitoring of the phone will be intermittent.

HEALING AND WHOLENESS - Lady Chapel – Wednesday, 03 January - 3.00pm. 3.30pm. & 4.15pm.

Sessions last 30 minutes. Please arrive before the start of your preferred time. Appointments are not necessary. If you would like to come but need transport, please call Joy Johns on 729061.

TUESDAY CLUB LUNCH – Ramon's – Tuesday, 09 January 12noon for 12.30pm.

The annual lunch will take place at Ramon's, next to St Michael's. All are welcome. Further details from David Beattie Tel:725333 or Peter Binns Tel:01296 330836.

WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB- Wheeler Room- Friday, 12 January - 2.00pm. – 4.00pm.

The Hundred Year Old Man who Climbed out of the Window and Disappeared – A Swedish film in English, about a man who decides to climb out of the window at his nursing home. He embarks on a hilarious and entirely unexpected journey.
Running time – 110 mins.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL –Sunday, 14 January– after the 10.00am. service

Orders for items should be given to Sue Eames, or left in the Office to ensure availability on the stall.

MESSY CHURCH–St Michael's - Saturday, 20 January - 11.30am. – 1.00pm.

Family Fun Saturday! Crafts. Song and Dance. Lunch for everyone. You choose what you want to do. This month's theme is *The Widow's Offering*. No need to book in advance. Just come along. No charge.

HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER REQUIRED

The Buildings Committee is looking for a volunteer to oversee Health and Safety in the church and hall to ensure compliance with current requirements. This is an administrative role, rather than hands on. The time commitment is likely to be a minimum of two to three hours per week, possibly longer initially while the person concerned gets a grasp of the role. It would suit someone with office based skills and a liking for paperwork. Computer skills would be an asset. Previous experience with Health & Safety would be a benefit but not essential.

SHROVE TUESDAY SOCIAL – Pizza Express, Sycamore Road – Tuesday, 13 February

This is an opportunity to bring together the various strands of St. Michael's family who worship at different times, and so may not know each other. The start of Lent may seem a long way off, but we need to get some idea of numbers so that we can book tables. Exact time to be confirmed, but it will probably be early evening. If you are interested, please add your name(s) to the form on the letters table. Doing so is not a binding commitment.

DEANERY PILGRIMAGE TO OBERGAMMERGAU - June 2020

Amersham Deanery is organising a 7 night pilgrimage to Bavaria that will be centred around the Passion Play, but will also include other sites of both Christian importance and general interest. Further information can be found on the leaflets on the letters table, or at

<http://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk/oberammergau.html> Anyone interested is asked to let the Church Office know before the end of January so numbers can be passed on to the Deanery Lay Chair.