



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

Please take this sheet home with you for future reference.
31 December, 2017 **1st Sunday of Christmas**

8.00am. - Said Eucharist.

10.00am. – Sung Eucharist.

If you are here for the first time, you are most welcome. There are 'Welcome' leaflets in the entrance of the church giving more information about services and regular weekday activities. You can follow the service in the booklet given to you as you came in. This week's readings are printed out below. After the 10.00am. service, we invite you to stay for tea, coffee or juice, served in the area to the left of the altar. This is an opportunity to meet some of the congregation and clergy.

Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Alternative Collect

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

Psalms 148 .

8.00am. only

Response: Praise the Lord from the heavens, and praise him in the heights.

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

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

Response.

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

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

Response

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

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

Response

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps:

Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;

Response

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing.

Response

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord. **Response**

For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven.

He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

Response

Galatians 4.4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Luke 2.15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Services this week

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

TUESDAY-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 10.30am. SAID EUCHARIST

NEXT SUNDAY – EPIPHANY

8.00am. SAID EUCHARIST. 10.00am. SUNG EUCHARIST with incense

Readings for next Sunday—Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.10-15; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael's

WHEELER COFFEE –St Michael's – Tuesday, 02 January - 10.00am. – midday

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

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.

INVITATION FROM LUCY AND DAN RAY – Sunday, 07 January – after the 10.00am. service

Lucy (née Fisher) and Dan invite all friends from St. Michael's to join them for a celebratory drink after the service, in thanks for all the good wishes and support given to them for their wedding.

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.

NOT-ONE-FOR-LUNCH - Lady Chapel –Monday, 15 January - 12.45pm. for 1.00pm.

For those who live alone and eat alone, run by the Pastoral Care Team - an opportunity to meet old and new friends in a very informal atmosphere. If you would like to come, but have difficulty with transport, please call Alison Woodnutt on 721420.

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.

QUIET MORNING – St. Michael's - Wheeler Room – Thursday, 25 January – 10.00am. – 12.15pm.

A time of reflection and silence, a space to relax gently with God. Any queries to Joy Tobler. Tel. 818172.

"POP IN AND PAINT" - St Michael's – Friday, 26 January– 10.30am. – 12.15pm.

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed - only enthusiasm and interest. All materials supplied, but you are welcome to bring your own paints. If you prefer just to come along for a chat and to watch the proceedings, that's fine too! Further information from Judy Redpath on 725271.

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.

Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's

LUNCH BREAK - Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 02 January - Midday to 2pm.

Lunch Café with coffee, speciality teas and snack lunches, daily newspapers. The church is open for quiet reflection and offers a varied programme of music, worship, meditation and speakers between 1.10pm. and 1.30pm. We are open for anyone who wants a bit of an oasis during the week at lunch time every Tuesday.

This week: Bite size service: Revd. Ian Green

SAMARAS AID APPEAL COLLECTION - St Andrew's Church, Chorleywood – Sunday, 21 January – Wednesday, 24 January:

The charity provides medical and humanitarian aid for displaced people and refugees in Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon & the Middle East. Donations are requested: clean clothing in VERY GOOD condition (or new) for men, women, boys, girls, babies; bedding, blankets, duvets, (clean, no stains); zimmer frames, wheel chairs, crutches; nappies, sanitary towels etc; baby boxes, dignity bags, smiley bags for children. For details of these packs ring Judith Palfreman on 763352, or visit the web site samarasaidappeal.org.uk