



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

*Please take this sheet home with you for future reference.*

**25 February, 2018**  
**8.00am. - Said Eucharist**

**2nd. Sunday of Lent**  
**10.00am. Said Eucharist**

We invite you to stay for tea, coffee or juice, served in the area to the left of the altar after the 10.00am. service.

*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) Lent Prose v.2**

#### **Collect**

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### **Alternative Collect**

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **Genesis 17.1–7, 15–16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.' God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

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

#### **Psalm 22 . vv.22-end**

#### **Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

I will tell of your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation will I praise you.

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; O seed of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.

**Response**

For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor; neither has he hidden his face from them; but when they cried to him he heard them.

**Response**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live for ever.

**Response**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's and he rules over the nations.

**Response**

How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,  
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?

He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him;  
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.

They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn, declaring that he, the Lord,  
has done it.

**Response**

### **Romans 4.13–25**

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

### **Mark 8.31–38**

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

### **Peace**

Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?

The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

**Music during Communion**     *Before the Throne of God* (This piece is scheduled to be a congregational hymn later in Lent. The choir are introducing it today, to familiarise the congregation with the music)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Services this week***

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

**MONDAY-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 8.00am. SAID EUCHARIST**

**10.00am. SAID EUCHARIST**

**Readings for next Sunday: Exodus 20.1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22**

### ***Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael's***

**CROSSBEAMS**, Joy Tobler's latest poetry collection, with illustrations by Ron Haddock, is available after the services in February. Its focus is the Cross, and it could therefore be used as a devotional aid in Lent. (Cost £6.00)

**LENT APPEAL - ST. ANNE'S HOSPITAL, LIULI – Sale of Cards–Today after 8.00am. and 10.00am. services**

Keith and Hazel Adamson will be offering notelets for sale on behalf of the charity. These are publishers' remainders at knock-down prices. The pictures are prints from original watercolours painted by a member of the Guild of Waterways artists, a long-standing friend of the Adamsons.

**WHEELER COFFEE –St Michael's – Tuesday, 27 February - 10.00am. – midday**

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

**WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB- Wheeler Room- Friday, 02 March – 2.00pm. – 4.00pm.**

**Mrs Caldicott's Cabbage War** – starring Pauline Collins, John Alderton and Peter Capaldi. On the death of her husband, Mrs. Caldicott's life changes when her son and daughter-in-law place her in "The Twilight Years" rest home. Upset with the care in the home, she leads a revolt. A great comedy. Running time – 106 mins.

**TUESDAY CLUB AGM – Lady Chapel – Tuesday, 06 March – 11.30am.**

The formal business will start after the conclusion of the Eucharist, followed by lunch Ramon's for those who would like to come.

**HEALING AND WHOLENESS - Lady Chapel – Wednesday, 07 March - 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.

**TRAIDCRAFT STALL –Sunday, 11 March– after the 10.00am. service**

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

**MESSY CHURCH–St Michael's - Saturday, 17 March - 11.30am. – 1.00pm.**

Family Fun Saturday! Crafts. Song and Dance. Lunch for everyone. You choose what you want to do. No need to book in advance. Just come along. No charge.

**NOT-ONE-FOR-LUNCH - Lady Chapel –Monday, 19 March - 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.

**"POP IN AND PAINT" - St Michael's – Friday, 23 March– 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.

### **DEANERY CONFIRMATION SERVICE – Sunday, 15 July**

St. Michael's will be running classes to prepare candidates for confirmation prior to this service. Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact Rev. Debbie.

### **COTHA WEEK OF ACCOMPANIED PRAYER – 13-19 May : ARE YOU WILLING TO BE A HOST?**

You may have read about the Week of Accompanied Prayer in the Newsletter. A number of hosts are needed to offer overnight accommodation for six nights from Sunday, May 13 to the morning of Saturday, May 19, for the Companions or Prayer Guides, who will be guiding the participants through the week. Hosts are asked to provide breakfast for their guest, but not lunch or evening meal (other than a meal on the Sunday evening). If you can help with this, please will you let Roland Gillott know - [roland.gillott@btinternet.com](mailto:roland.gillott@btinternet.com) or tel 722674.

### **PRAYER CHAIN AND PRAYER WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS**

A number of people pray at home for St. Michael's and for specific needs or thanksgivings that people may have. If you would like to be part of this network or have a prayer request, please contact Joy Tobler on 818172. If anyone would like prayer with laying on of hands, either for themselves or for someone else, this ministry is available after church services. Please ask a member of the healing team, whose names are on the 'Healing Board', or any of the clergy.

## ***Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's***

### **CHURCH OF ENGLAND LENT COURSE – LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**

*Let your light shine* is a Lent journey through the Gospel of John, offering a short daily reading, a pause for reflection and prayer and a challenge to act. Material for use by individuals is available in various formats – as a printed booklet; in the form of a daily e-mail/text message or via an app. For further information see <https://www.churchofengland.org/lent>

### **LUNCH BREAK - Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 27 February - 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: 'Cruising the Med' with Michael Richards**

### **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – Friday, 02 March- St. John's Methodist Church – 11.00am.**

Everyone is welcome at this service (not just women!) This year's service has been put together by women in Suriname. The speaker will be Heather Wright from St. John's. The service will be followed by coffee and cakes.

### **COTHA OPEN MEETING – The Owen Room, Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 06 March – 3.00pm. – 4.30pm.**

This is to discuss the ongoing work amongst the churches of St. Michael's , St. John's and Amersham Free Church. Tea will be served from 3.00pm. The meeting starts at 3.30pm.

### **'CALLED TO BE CHRIST- LIKE' - Buckingham Area Day Conference with the Bishop of Oxford - Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, Oxford Road, Aylesbury HP21 8PE - Saturday 24th. March – 10.00am. - 4.30pm.**

We have been encouraged by Revd. Gill Lovell, the person who has spoken to us about our Mission Action Plan, to attend this conference. The day is FREE but booking is essential, either through Eventbrite at '[bucksareaconference.eventbrite.co.uk](https://bucksareaconference.eventbrite.co.uk)' or by email to '[bucksareaconference@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:bucksareaconference@oxford.anglican.org)'. Bishop Steven, the Bishop of Oxford, will be there, together with Bishop Alan, our area bishop. We are called to be contemplative, compassionate, courageous people, and churches of the Beatitudes. There will be an opportunity at the conference to learn more about that. Tea and coffee will be provided throughout the day, but please bring a packed lunch. Our intention is to share transport, so please book individually, and then advise Roland Gillott (Tel: 722674 e-mail:[roland.gillott@btinternet.com](mailto:roland.gillott@btinternet.com)) or the Church Office, so that we can arrange shared transport. Any questions to Roland.