

St John's and St Michael's Churches - Notices for Sunday 19th December

St Michael's

9.30am HOLY COMMUNION: Good morning and welcome to our service today led Matthew who talks to us about 'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light' Isaiah 9:1-7.

6.30pm CAROL SERVICE (OUTSIDE): It is with great pleasure that we welcome you all to our annual carol service taking place this year outside led by our Vicar Matthew and Curate Vikki. Mulled wine will be served after the service to warm us up.

St John's

11am CAROL SERVICE: A very warm welcome to you all, especially during this unsettling time, whether it is in church or if you are watching from the comfort of your home. Today our service will be led by John and Matthew.

St Michael's Christmas Eve/Day - please could you let Fran know if you are coming to one of our Christmas services.

Please note: Face masks are NOW required by law within our churches. We will still continue to monitor the CO₂ levels at St John's and any extra ventilation will be carried out if necessary by the steward on duty. Thank you for continuing to support us in making our churches a safe place to be.

Below are the links to our website and to our YouTube channel live streaming our services at St John's at 11am (previous recordings will also be available to watch at your leisure).

<http://www.stjohnsmuxton.org.uk/home>

or <http://www.stmichaelslilleshall.org.uk/home/>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB6N81vubkdzSYD7rCPFw5Q>

CAP Donations - IMPORTANT REMINDER- we have changed our bank account and so all regular donors need to change over the details of their donations to our new account asap please. You should have already received either an email or letter from Rita Church about this. You will also need to fill in a new gift aid form. The forms are available in the entrance hall.

CRIB/CHRISTINGLE: Our annual combined Christingle and Crib Service takes place outside St John's on **Christmas Eve @ 4pm** (See poster below).

SoulSpeak is a new and original way of exploring our own and others' values, beliefs and life choices. If the long winter nights are stretching out before you, how about coming along to St John's Church (Saltwells Drive) on **January 27** at 8pm to consider topics such as '**What does the future hold ?, Where have I come from and why am I here ? or What makes for a good life and Where does faith fit in with these things?**' For more information contact admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk or telephone 01952 670033

REGULAR GROUPS/MEETINGS/RESOURCES/INFORMATION

TINY TOTS: A Toddler group for parents/carers of under 5's taking place on Tuesday mornings from 10am during term time.

Calling all walkers! We meet on a **Wednesday 10am** at St John's for a gentle, local walk of around an hour. All are welcome. Please contact Jo Lefroy for any further information on 01952 604281.

FROGS: We would like to invite our young people to attend FROGS. This is a youth group which is held weekly at St Swithun's church in Cheswardine. We have been working closely with FROGS for many years as we have attended Quinta together. Colin Barnett, a member of St Michael's, is currently a leader there. They meet **every Tuesday from 7-9pm**, for secondary school pupils and sixth formers. Please see Kathy Tagg or Matthew for information.

WORSHIP LUNCH & MUSIC takes place on the **first Thursday** of each month except August. (Weekly during Lent) 12noon at St Michael's.

POP IN FOR COFFEE held at St Michael's on the **2nd Thursday** of the month 10-12noon.

FORGET ME NOT FILMS: Takes place usually on the **3rd Thursday** of the month. The film will start at 10 am - please arrive any time from 9.45 am. If you have any questions, or to let us know you are coming, please contact Jo Lefroy on 01952 604281 or via the church office.

JOIN US 4 A CUPPA! A monthly coffee morning held at St John's on a Friday between 11am - 1pm. Litter pickers are also invited to meet just before, litter pick the local area then return for a well earned cuppa! (21st January).

sub:Zero/sub:Extra our Youth Café currently held monthly on a Friday from 4pm (sub:Zero) and 6pm (sub:Extra).

EARLY MORNING PRAYERS: Are you an early bird? A group of us pray for the work of the church at 7.30am every Thursday morning. Join us for half an hour or part of the time on Zoom. Contact Matthew for the link.

Please join us for **Bible Reading/Discussion/Prayer** via **Zoom**, weekdays at 9am. The best way to access these is through the "Daily Prayer" app, available from The Church of England but if you want to follow from your Bible this is ok. Please contact Matthew who will give you the details to login.

TELFORD STREET PASTOR After 10 years of making a difference on the streets of Telford they are relaunching and urge you to consider....*Is God calling you to serve as a Street Pastor or Prayer Pastor?* If you would like to find out a little bit more about what is involved please either have a chat to Simon Trotman or Gill Steinert or see the poster at the end of these notices with further details.

PRAYER CHAINS: If you have any prayer requests please either text (preferable) Lisa 07739 522280 or Email: west.familywest@btinternet.com or St Michael's prayer chain coordinator Chris R 07834162343 or 01952 604330 or Email: scip@blueyonder.co.uk

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/stjohnsmuxton - please like our page and share our news stories with your friends.

1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9-3pm, Tuesday 9-12noon and Friday 9-4pm 01952 670033

Email: admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk or admin@stmichaelslilleshall.org.uk

Website: www.stjohnsmuxton.org.uk or www.stmichaelslilleshall.org.uk

Matthew's Email: matthew.lefroy@tiscali.co.uk (Usual day off Friday)

Vikki's Email: revdayvik@gmail.com (Normal day off Friday)

St Michael's - Isaiah 9:1-7

9 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan -

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

St John's (7 readings)

First Reading (Genesis 1:1-13)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning - the first day.

⁶ And God said, 'Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.' ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault 'sky'. And there was evening, and there was morning - the second day.

⁹ And God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.' And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground 'land', and the gathered waters he called 'seas'. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning - the third day.

Second Reading (Genesis 3:1-8)

3 Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?''

² The woman said to the snake, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."''

⁴ 'You will not certainly die,' the snake said to the woman. ⁵ 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Third Reading (Isaiah 9:1-7)

9 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan -

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He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever.

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Fourth Reading (Luke 2:1-7)

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.



⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Fifth Reading (Luke 2: 8-20)

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Sixth Reading (John 1:1-14)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Seventh Reading (John 8:12-18)

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

¹³ The Pharisees challenged him, 'Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.'

¹⁴ Jesus answered, 'Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. ¹⁶ But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. ¹⁷ In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. ¹⁸ I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.'



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