

St John's and St Michael's Churches Notices for Sunday 18th December

St Michael's

9.30am HOLY COMMUNION: Welcome to our service today led by Matthew. David L finishes our mini series during Advent looking at the hope we have in Jesus. *Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:20-23.*

Sidesperson: Harry & Katrina **Reading:** Cedric **Prayers:** Chris R **Coffee:** Dave & Sue

6.30pm CAROL SERVICE: We offer you a warm welcome to our candlelit service this evening led by our Vicar Matthew. We join together to celebrate the gift of Jesus, we hear from the bible and sing carols followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

Sidesperson: Fran & Janet

St John's

11am CAROL SERVICE: A warm welcome to our annual carol service today led by Jon. Jan concludes our mini series 'Advent prophesies of hope'. *Isaiah 7:10-16. Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:8-21 and Matthew 2:1-12.*

Sidesperson: Alasdair **Prayers:** Yvonne **Coffee:** Yvonne & Ann

Do you want to receive these notices by email? and other useful information ? then please email Lesley and let her know...just a small form to fill in to give us permission. stjohnsandstmichaels@gmail.com.

WOW - next meet up ... with it being a busy time and lots of events and activities, WOW won't be meeting in December and will resume in the new year. It is more of a 'pop-up' event rather than being monthly on the same Wed each month so keep your eyes out for information about the next date.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are on sale at the back of Church at St Michael's .

CAROL SINGING AROUND MUXTON on **Tuesday (20th)** 6.15pm at The Whitehouse hotel in Muxton and then 7.30pm at St John's followed by mulled wine. The more the merrier.

Could you help to put together Christingles for our Christmas Eve service this year? If so, please come along to St John's **Thursday 22 December** at 10am.

CRIB/CHRISTINGLE: Our annual combined Christingle and Crib Service takes place at St John's on **Christmas Eve** @ 3.30pm.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice!

<p>Services and Rotas for Sunday 24th & 25th December</p> <p>SML - Christmas Eve 11pm Midnight Communion and Christmas Day 9.30am All Age Holy Communion</p> <p>SJM - Christmas Eve 3.30pm Crib/Christingle and Christmas Day 11am All Age Holy Communion</p>	
St Michael's	St John's
Sidesperson: <i>Christmas Eve</i> 11pm Fran & Sue R and <i>Christmas Day 9.30am</i> Geoff	Sidesperson: Volunteer please
Reading: <i>Christmas Day</i> Jo	Reading: <i>Christmas Day</i> - Lisa
Prayers: Service Leaders	Communion: Volunteers please
Coffee: N/A	Prayers: Service Leaders
	Coffee: No coffee

Please note: The 11am service at St John's is livestreamed so you may appear on YouTube especially if passing camera.

YouTube

Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB6N81vubkdzSYD7rCPFw5Q>
<http://www.stjohnsmuxton.org.uk/home> or
<http://www.stmichaelslilleshall.org.uk/home/>

St Michael's - First reading - Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.'

¹² But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.'

¹³ Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.'

St Michael's - Second Reading - Matthew 1:20-23

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what

is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').

St John's - First reading - Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.'

¹² But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.'

¹³ Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Second Reading - Luke 1:26-38 - Mary receives news from the angel Gabriel

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.'

³⁴ 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

³⁵ The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.'

³⁸ 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

Third Reading - Matthew 1:18-25 - The birth of Jesus

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Fourth Reading - Luke 2:8-21 - The shepherds are told of the birth of Jesus

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.

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Fifth Reading - Matthew 2:1-12 - The visit of the Magi

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.