

St John's and St Michael's Churches Notices for 1st Sunday of Advent

St Michael's

9.30am HOLY COMMUNION: Good morning and welcome to our service this morning as we begin our new series on prayer and preparing for Jesus' arrival. *Malachi 3:1-12 and Luke 3:1-18.*

Sidesperson: John & Diane **Reading:** Katie **Prayers:** Service
Leader **Coffee:** Philippa & Dee

6.30pm EVENING PRAYER (BCP): A warm welcome to our evening service today led by Matthew. **Sidesperson:** Jean

St John's

11am MORNING WORSHIP: Welcome to our service this crisp Sunday morning led by Jan and Matthew. We begin our new series on prayer and preparing for Jesus' arrival. *Malachi 3:1-12 and Luke 3:1-18.*

Sidesperson: Mary &
Geoff **Reading:** Judith **Prayers:** Jan **SAS:** Katharine &
Matthew **Spark:** Andrew & Kerry **Coffee:** Joanne & Di

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

ST JOHN'S - PRAYERS: Please join us Sundays at St John's for a time of prayer at 10.15am. We will use this time to focus our prayers and seek God's will and vision in a specific area where we are trying to discern the way forward. Please do join us as we look to fulfil our vision of an unashamedly praying Church.

ST JOHN'S MISSING ITEMS: We seem to have misplaced a cake slice after the Afternoon Tea run by Julie S...we have also gained a couple too. Could we ask you to check at home to see that you have the correct one and also to see if yours is missing..Can we also ask you to check your homes/garages to see if you may have one of our Gopak tables (the half size one) we used to have 2 but only appear to have had 1 for some time now. Thank you for looking.

ST MICHAEL'S - PRAYER MINISTRY is available at St Michael's after the service on Sundays.

SHOEBOX BOX APPEAL 2023: During national collection week in November we collected86 boxes, 8 bags of 'fillers' and £48.04 in cash donations. Thank you all so very much for your support. PS There is still time to pack a shoebox online to share God's love with a child in need...go to their website today <https://shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

CHARITY CHRISTMAS FILM EVENING takes place at the Orbit Cinema, Wellington. The film this year will be 'Jack Frost' and takes place on **Tuesday 5th December**. Tickets available from Jenny Harrower 07581 875288.

LUNCHCLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH will take place on **Friday 8th December** 12 noon at St John's... the cost is £10 each.

Join **THE GALLERY SINGERS** on **Friday 8 December** 7pm at Christ Church, Wellington. Performing Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten with Alice Kirwan on the harp. A festive evening with additional Christmas music from the likes of Will Todd, James MacMillan and Bob Chilcott and the opportunity for

the audience to join in some carols. Tickets are £12 (Under 16s £6) 07968 906446, [facebook.com/thegallerysingers](https://www.facebook.com/thegallerysingers) or on the door. Or speak to Gill Roberts.

You are invited to a **CAP Money Management Open Day** on **Friday 8th December** 11.30am-2.30pm at Creative Training Spaces, between Gratitude Café & Bookends in Wellington. Top tips on Budgeting, money saving and more.

In the season of Advent, St John's Community Choir are delighted to bring you Graham Kendrick's '**RUMOURS OF ANGELS**' at St John's on **Saturday 9th December** 2.30pm & 7.30pm...get your free ticket (s) now (afternoon tickets going fast). **2.30pm IS NOW FULL.....** We are also asking for donations of festive cakes/biscuits to be served during the performance. If you are able to help please drop off to the church office. Thank you

Join the Telford Concert Band and Darby Singers **Saturday 9th December** 7pm for a **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** at Dawley Christian Centre. Tickets £6 (inc refreshments). All profits shared between CAP and Dawley Food Bank

St John's PCC on Monday agreed to stop the monthly **Good Morning Sunday** as it was felt that, although it was a good occasion, it was not achieving what it set out to achieve. We give thanks that many people found the sessions helpful, particularly before the lockdowns and social distancing rules between 2020 and 2021 meant that sharing breakfast together was not possible. The PCC have agreed that a monthly Sunday breakfast meeting should continue, but the focus would now be on gathering for prayer for the life of the church. We are inviting the whole congregation to join us next **Sunday (10th)** at 9am for a buffet breakfast and 9.30am for prayer in advance of the morning service that day.

CHRISTINGLE: Get your Christmas off to a cracking start with a traditional Christingle on **Sunday 10th December @ 3.30pm**. A fun service for families.

Our 'pop up' event **WOW** (Women on Wednesdays) will next take place on **Wed 13 Dec @ 7pm**...if you need a break, fancy a chat and a night out then do join us at The Whitehouse hotel in Muxton.

CAROLS & CANDLES: Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without our well-established favourite service of Carols and Candles. Enjoy mulled wine, mince pies, carols and step back 2000 years and meet the author of Christmas. Please invite your family, friends and neighbours to join with us on **Friday 15th December** at 8pm. Any donations of mince pies would be gratefully received.

Christmas Day Lunch Sunday 25th December 1.30pm: Come and enjoy Christmas Dinner in the company of St John's Church Family on Christmas Day. The food is free but space limited and, so we know how many to cater for, you'll need to book by **Friday 15th December** by contacting the Church Office and giving your name and contact phone number or email.

MORE CHRISTMAS EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY....

17th December - Candlelit Carol Service at St Michael's 6.30pm

20th December - Carol singing around Muxton...6.30pm

24th December - Crib Service at St John's 3.30pm

24th December - Christmas Eve Holy Communion...11pm at St Michael's

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9-3pm, Tuesday 9-12noon and Friday 9-3pm 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)

Services and Rotas for Sunday 10th December	
SML - 9.30am Morning Worship and 3.30pm Christingle SJM - 9am Breakfast and Prayer and 11am Holy Communion	
St Michael's	St John's
Sidesperson: Harry & Katrina	Sidesperson: Simon & Lesley
Reading: Volunteer	Reading: Chris K
Prayers: Janet and Colette	Communion: Gill & Jo
Coffee: Dave & June	Prayers: Service Leader
	Coffee: Simon & Lesley
	SAS: Sue & Martie
	No Spark (2nd Sunday)

Malachi 3:1-12

3 "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. ⁵ "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty.

⁶ "I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty.

"But you ask, 'How are we to return?' ⁸ "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' ⁹ "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. ¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

Luke 3:1-18

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar - when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracōnitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene - ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

'A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶ And all people will see God's salvation."

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.' ¹⁰ 'What should we do then?' the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.'

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptised. 'Teacher,' they asked, 'what should we do?'

¹³ 'Don't collect any more than you are required to,' he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, 'And what should we do?'

He replied, 'Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely - be content with your pay.'

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, 'I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.' ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.