

St John's and St Michael's Churches Notices for Sunday 17th December

St Michael's

9.30am HOLY COMMUNION: Good morning and welcome to our service today continuing our theme on Advent and prayer. Matthew leads our service and Jan talks to us about '*Listening to God*' Luke 1:5-25 and Luke 1:57-66.

Sidesperson: Fran **Reading:** Katie F **Prayers:** Service Leader **Coffee:** Janet & helper

6.30pm CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE: We offer you a warm welcome to our candlelit service this evening led by our Vicar Matthew and Curate Vikki. 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 & Cedric

St John's

11am MORNING WORSHIP: Welcome to our service today led by Vikki. Jan continues our series on prayer and preparing for Jesus' arrival. '*Listening to God*' Luke 1:5-25 and Luke 1:57-66.

Sidesperson: Moira & John **Reading:** Julie S **Prayers:** Barbara
SAS: Martie & Sue **Spark:** Andrew & Alasdair
Coffee: Moira & John

Watch on YouTube

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

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

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.

PRAYER CARDS: There are prayer cards on the table in St Michael's for anyone wishing to add a Christmas prayer and hang on the large tree by the outside Nativity scene.

CAROL SINGING AROUND MUXTON on **Wednesday 20th December** meeting at St John's at 6.30pm then returning for mulled wine and mince pies.

St John's **CAROL SERVICE** takes place 11am on **Christmas Eve**.

CRIB SERVICE: A fun short service for families. Get your Christmas off to a cracking start by joining us for carols and a walk-on nativity. Younger children are invited to come dressed as shepherds, angels or kings. 3.30pm on **Christmas Eve** at St John's.

Please join us at our evening service **11pm** on **Christmas Eve** at St Michael's.

CHRISTMAS DAY services St Michael's 9.30am and St John's 11am.

The **COFFEE LOUNGE** is having a break and will **NOT** be open on **Wednesday 27th December**. Look forward to being back on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 when we'll be able to wish you a Happy New Year!

St John's **LUNCHCLUB** meets next in the New Year 12noon on **Friday 6th January** at a cost of £6 for 2 courses plus tea/coffee.

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)

<p>Services and Rotas for Christmas Eve SML - 9.30am Morning Worship and 11pm Holy Communion SJM - 11am Carol Service and 3.30pm Crib Service</p>	
St Michael's	St John's (11am)
Sidesperson: 9.30am Janet and 11pm Cedric & Fran	Sidesperson: Simon & Lesley
Reading: 9.30am David L and 11pm Fran	Reading: Simon T
Prayers: 9.30am Sue L	Communion: Geoff & Jan
Coffee: 9.30am Harry & Katrina	Prayers: Simon & Lesley
	Coffee: Simon & Lesley

Reading 1 - Luke 1:5-25

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshippers were praying outside.

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the

sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous - to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.'

¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, 'How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well on in years.'

¹⁹ The angel said to him, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.'

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²² When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realised he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³ When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵ 'The Lord has done this for me,' she said. 'In these days he has shown his favour and taken away my disgrace among the people.'

Reading 2 - Luke 1:57-66

⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, 'No! He is to be called John.'

⁶¹ They said to her, 'There is no one among your relatives who has that name.'

⁶² Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, 'His name is John.' ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, 'What then is this child going to be?' For the Lord's hand was with him.