

MIDNIGHT MASS

HYMN 70 It came upon the midnight clear

First Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

The Bible readings in Advent have prepared us to celebrate the coming of the Lord. His people longed for him, and we know the joy of living with him here and now. So, we understand Isaiah's prophecy as greeting the birth of a child whose new kingdom of righteousness will last for ever.

Second Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

The new morning of the world has dawned, says this writer. As we learn how to live in this bright new light, in gratitude for the first coming of Jesus who has made us his own, we await the greater glory when Christ will come again.

HYMN 71 Jesus Christ the Lord is born

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 1-20

Luke, the master story-teller, gives us pictures we shall never forget, of the humble birth at Bethlehem of the Saviour of the world, and the shining glory which brought shepherds to worship the Lamb of God.

HYMN 64 God rest you merry, gentlemen

HYMN 79 O little town of Bethlehem

HYMN 66 Hark! the herald angels sing

CHRISTMAS MORNING



HYMN 78 **O come, all ye faithful**
Omit verses 4 & 5

First Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10

In typical Hebrew style, the prophet sings of a glorious future as if it had already happened. For us, God has indeed visited and redeemed his people, glory to Israel and light for the Gentiles.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

In this anonymous essay, the writer contrasts the partial revelation given in times past with the outpouring of God's word in his glorious Son.

HYMN 65 **Good Christians all, rejoice**

Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-14

In so few but wonderful words, John captures the mystery of God disclosing himself; his divine Word is made flesh. Christ was from the beginning, is now, and all who believe this are children of God.

HYMN 83 **See, amid the winter's snow**

HYMN 68 **In the bleak midwinter**

HYMN 61 **Christians awake! salute the happy morn**
Omit verses 3 & 4

A massive 'thank you' to those who have helped to make St Michael's look so beautiful for Christmas. Generous donations and much time and skill have transformed our lovely church to celebrate the birth of the infant King. Doesn't it look beautiful!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

That we may find a place for Jesus in our hearts
and in our lives

All who are homeless or in distress

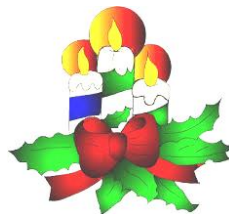
That peace may reign in all the earth

Departed loved ones whose memory we cherish

That we may actively seek - and find - joy in all things.

Worship this week

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| Mon 26 th | St Stephen | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |
| Tues 27 th | St John, Apostle & Evangelist | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |
| Wed 28 th | The Holy Innocents | 10.15 am | Holy Communion |



**PLEASE NOTE THAT NEXT SUNDAY, 1ST JANUARY
THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE SERVICE:
THE PARISH EUCHARIST AT 10.00 AM**

Paul & Jane, Julia & Paul send everyone their love and best wishes for Christmas and thank everyone who has sent cards and words of appreciation at this special time of year. May you all know joy and contentment now and in the days ahead.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL ALNWICK

CHRISTMAS 2016



Thank you for worshipping with us here at St. Michael's as we greet the Holy Child of Bethlehem in the wonderful feast of Christmas. Whether you are a long-term resident, a regular member of the congregation or a visitor 'passing through' Alnwick you are welcome to our celebrations.

Amidst the busy-ness of this day you have chosen to include the Christ in Christmas. In acknowledging the amazing truth that the great God of heaven is come down to earth - and making room for him in your hearts and minds - you can be assured that his love will be with you always.

Whatever your situation, whether you come with rejoicing or with sadness and sorrow in your heart, may the wonder, truth and beauty of Christmas fill you, and all those whom you love, with deep peace and contentment.

Rejoice!