



## St Michael's Church, Alnwick

Vicar: The Rev'd Paul Scott

Curate: The Rev'd Julia Myles

Parish website: [www.alnwickanglican.com](http://www.alnwickanglican.com)

### 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014 The Second Sunday of Advent

*A very warm welcome to St Michael's. If you are a visitor, and receive Communion at your own church, you are invited to do so here.*

*Large print books and a loop system are available*

*This leaflet gives details of readings, services and other events in the near future – please take it home with you to read and then use as a reference for the coming days.*

#### TODAY'S READINGS

##### 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

Isaiah 40: 1-11

*(Page 677 of the New Testament in the Pew Bible)*

Be ready, says the prophet, for God is coming soon to Israel, and the people must prepare to return from exile. Today's Gospel quotes these words, which become for Christians a prophecy of John the Baptist, proclaiming Jesus and preparing the way for his coming.

##### 2<sup>ND</sup> READING

2 Peter 3: 8–15a (at 8 am only)

*(Page 235 of the New Testament in the Pew Bible)*

Like the Jews during their exile, the early Christians wondered why the Lord did not deliver them from suffering. But God's time is not like our time, and we are to be calm in our preparations for the coming 'Day of the Lord', so that we may be at peace.

##### THE GOSPEL

Mark 1: 1-8

*(Page 33 of the New Testament in the Pew Bible)*

Mark's Gospel begins with the mission of John the Baptist, preaching and baptising for repentance. As prophets had foretold, he is the sign of the coming of the one who is greater than he.

#### 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION

President & Preacher: The Rev'd Julia Myles

Reader: Win Nicol

#### 9.30 am FIRST SUNDAY EUCHARIST

*(with children and young people in church)*

President & Preacher: The Rev'd Julia Myles

Reader: Merryn Hughes

Prayers: The Rev'd Canon Sue Allen

*Please note: All prayers and hymns for this service are printed in the special green Second Sunday of Advent booklet.*

10.45 am Sunday Schools together in the Parish Hall:

*Christmas Crafts and fun*

## **6.00 pm SUNG EVENSONG** *(According to the Book of Common Prayer 1662)*

Readings:	1 Kings 22:1-28	<i>(p. 339 of the Old Testament in the pew bible)</i>
	Romans 15: 4-13	<i>(p. 159 of the New Testament in the pew bible)</i>
Reader:	Vivienne Graves	
Office:	The Rev'd Colin Perkins	
Preacher:	The Rev'd Colin Perkins	
Hymns	29	The Lord will come and not be slow
	Psalm	40, vv 12-21 <i>(Page 396 of the small prayer book)</i>
	26	O come, O come, Emmanuel
	30	Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes
	8	Hail, gladdening Light

### **FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...**

That we may do all we can to 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.

All Ebola victims – and those working to save them

The work of the Mothers' Union

Our Spitak project – and all the changes taking place

Alan, our Organist & the Choir

*Morning Prayer is usually said in church at 8.30 am and Evening Prayer at 5.00 pm  
Monday to Friday except for Wednesday morning.*

*You will be most welcome to join us for these times of prayer and bible reading.*

*Please note that the Vicar's day off is Friday and the Curate's is Monday*

*They would be pleased to be spared all but the most urgent matters on these days.*

## **WORSHIP AND EVENTS THIS WEEK**

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00 am	Funeral of Joyce Athey	
	12 noon	Christians Together in Alnwick: Lunch at St James' URC	
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6.30 pm	Hospice Care – Light up a Life at Castleside House, Narrowgate	
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.15 am</b>	<b>Mother's Union Advent Eucharist</b>	<i>see next page</i>
	12 noon	Soup & cake lunch in the Parish Hall	
	7.00 pm	Bailiffgate Singers rehearsal in church	
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am	Mini Michaels in church	
	7.00 pm	Baptism Preparation meeting in church	
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Standing Committee at the Vicarage	
	2.00 pm	Wedding of Nigel Preston & Christine Martin	
Sat 13 Dec	10.00 am	Church Big Clean	<i>See page 4</i>
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	12.15 pm	Christmas Sunday Lunch in the Parish Hall	

**Next Sunday: 14th December 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8.00 am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 61, 1-4 & 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28	(CW 384) (CW 386) (CW 386)
9.30 am	Parish Eucharist		
11.15 am	Late Morning Worship		
4.00 pm	Carols at Denwick		
6.00 pm	Sung Evensong, BCP 1662	Malachi 3:1-4 & ch.4;	Philippians 4:4-7

You will see that **ADVENT THOUGHTS (2)** is available today! Please take one home with you as a 'signpost' for your Advent thoughts and meditations. If you didn't pick up the first in this series, there are still a few left at the back of church.

**IT'S GOING TO BE TWINS ! HOORAY!**

Last week our attempt to twin as many of our church loos as possible, in one fell swoop, began in earnest. The chamber pot will stay at your disposal throughout Advent. We have got off to an encouraging start, so please keep up the good work to help us meet (or even exceed) our target!

Thanks to those who have already distributed **CHRISTIANS TOGETHER CHRISTMAS CARDS**; there are still a number of 'street' bundles left in church. Before you leave today, please have a look and take some to deliver a card to each house in the named street – so that everyone in town knows when and where Christmas worship will be.

In church today are some **CARDBOARD CANDLES** in which you might like you save your loose change over Christmas. All proceeds are for the **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**. We would ask you, please, to return your candle at the First Sunday Eucharist in February when we will be celebrating Candlemas.

The ladies of **St Michael's Mother's Union** invite you all - women and men -and in particular all the women's groups in our town and churches to their annual **Advent Eucharist**. As we meet to reflect on the past year and look towards the year ahead, join us to give thanks, to pray for our world and to share a cuppa and Mince Pie !

**This Wednesday at 10.15 a.m. Speaker** -The Rev'd Julia Myles.

Bring a photo, an item or a description of something you are thankful for this year.

**CAROL SINGING AT ALNWICK INFIRMARY.** Every year on Christmas Eve a small group of singers and members of the League of Friends spend around 30 minutes singing carols to patients who are unable to be at home for Christmas. If anybody would like to join in please contact Debbie Howey Tel 602264 for more details.



Susan Trafford is making **CHRISTMAS CAKES** again this year. Prices are: 6" - £6; 7" - £8.75; 8" - £11.50, half of which goes to church funds. To order, please telephone her on 606180. Please note also that cakes can be made all year round – just ask!

Our Flower Arrangers would much appreciate cash donations for St Michael's **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**. Please give your donation to Ann Brown, Enid Brown or Pat Taylor. In addition, offers of greenery from your garden (especially holly) will be much appreciated.

Please note that our **CRAFT TABLE** is now permanently located just inside (and to the right of) the main church door as you enter. This is currently in the hands of Susan Trafford – please contact her if you have any queries.

At this busy pre-Christmas time everybody is galvanised into activity...in spite of all that you have to do, is there any chance that you might still have an hour or so to spare and a clean pinny; Why? **This Saturday** (13<sup>th</sup>) from 10 am until noon there is to be a **BIG CLEAN MORNING** to get our beautiful old church looking her best for the Christmas celebrations. Please try to give some time and come along to help; cleaning materials and hot drinks will be provided (you never know there may even be some toothsome seasonal snacks as well!)



In preparation for our **CHRISTINGLE** on Christmas Eve, there will be a session in the Parish Hall from 10.00am – 12.00 noon on Tuesday 23rd December. Do come along to help prepare the oranges and get all things ready. There will also be **CHRISTMAS CRAFTS** for children so that we can all join in the fun! You may like to bring along the odd mince pie or slab of shortbread. Tea/coffee/juice will be provided.



### **FUTURE DIARY DATES – MAKE A NOTE OF THEM NOW**

**N.B. Details of Worship at Christmas are on page 24 of Gateway, and on the Notice Board**

18 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am	Mini Michaels Christmas Party in Parish Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 am	Children's Crafts & Christingle-making in Parish Hall
28 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Christmas Afternoon Tea in Parish Hall

The Parish of St Michael & St Paul is a Registered Charity, No. 1131297