



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, ALNWICK

17TH DECEMBER 2017. THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME!

A very warm welcome to St Michael's – especially if you are with us for the first time. Please do stay behind after the 9.30 and 11.15 services for tea/coffee and a chat. If you receive Communion at your own church, you are invited to do so here or, if you would prefer, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

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.

8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION, BCP

President and Preacher The Rev'd Canon Paul Scott
Reader Mora Rolley

9.30 am PARISH EUCHARIST *Setting: Gregory Murray. A New People's Mass*

President The Rev'd Canon Paul Scott

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Parents with babies and very small children are most welcome to take them to the Children's Corner (at the back of church) at any time. For young people and older children, Junior Church is in the Parish Room.

INTROIT HYMN 45 O come, O come, Emmanuel

1ST READING Isaiah 61:1-4 & 8-11 Reader: Frances Allsop
(Page 702 of the Old Testament in the pew Bible)

All the Advent lessons look towards the coming of the Lord. Here are verses Jesus applied to himself, as the one who brought liberty, justice and gladness to the world

2ND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Reader: Emma Mavin
(Page 202 of the New Testament in the pew Bible)

The Advent season rightly has a sombre tone, reflecting our serious preparation and self-examination. But joy keeps breaking in, and Paul ends this letter in that spirit. Waiting for the Lord is a time of joy, prayer and thankfulness

GRADUAL 815 Thy kingdom come! On bended knee

THE GOSPEL**John 1:6-8 & 19-28***(Page 33 of the New Testament in the pew bible)*

There was a man sent from God. Before Jesus there came John the Baptist, witnessing to the light of the world, pointing beyond himself to the One who stands among us as God incarnate.

SERMON**The Rev'd Canon Alan Craig****PRAYERS****Intercessor Patricia Kind****OFFERTORY HYMN****571 We bring you, Lord, our prayer and praise**

After the Offertory, the service continues with Eucharistic Prayer which starts on page 9 of the Advent booklet

COMMUNION HYMN**451 Just as I am, without one plea****CLOSING HYMN****646 God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year**

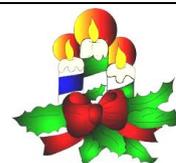
11.15 am	LATE MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
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<p>Sue Allen will lead the service and 2 quiet Meditations, and will also preside at Holy Communion.</p>
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12.30 pm	CHRISTMAS LUNCH in the Parish Hall
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6.00 pm	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
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<p><i>See separate booklet</i></p>



<p>FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That we may testify to the light – which is Christ • Those who find Christmas a difficult time • All who will take part in Carol Services here this week • Those who are working for peace & justice • All expectant mothers

WORSHIP AND EVENTS THIS WEEK		
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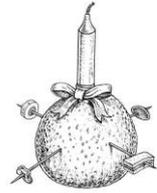
Wed.20th	10.15 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 21st	9.30 am	Mini Michaels in Church
	2.00 pm	St Michael's CE Primary School Carols & Nativity in St Michael's
	3.30 pm	Apple Blossom Nursery Nativity in St Michael's

Friday 22nd

11.00 am

Sociable Christingle Making in church.

Come and be part of a friendly group preparing Christingles, for as long or a short a time as you can manage. You are invited to bring your packed lunch (drinks and hot soup provided). More information from Sue Allen.



Next Sunday

**24th December Christmas Eve
The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8.00 am	Holy Communion	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38	CW 387 CW 390 CW 390
9.30 am	Parish Eucharist		
4.30 pm	Family Carols and Christingle		
11.30 pm	Midnight Mass		

It was good to be able to make public recently the news that St. Michael's is to have a **NEW CURATE** next summer. **Gerard Rundell** is currently completing his studies at Cranmer Hall in Durham and, God willing, will be ordained Deacon at the beginning of July. Gerard (who is 32 and a percussionist by profession) and his wife, Karen, have two children: Theo, who will be two at Christmas, and Phoebe who was born in mid-October. Hailing from London, both Gerard and Karen have fallen in love with the north-east and are very much looking forward to their new life in north Northumberland. Please do keep them in your prayers over the coming months.

Response forms for our **STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL PROJECT** are coming in well. Many thanks to all who have responded so far. Amidst all the busyness of the run up to Christmas, if you have not yet returned your form we would be grateful if you could do so as soon as possible.

As we look forward to Christmas you are asked, please, to consider a **DONATION TOWARDS THE COST OF FLOWERS** so that St. Michael's can look its usual resplendent self for the festival. Your contributions would be gladly received by either Ann Brown or Enid Brown.

You will find the signing-up sheet for the **2018 PARISH HALL DRAW** at the back of church. Do consider this way of supporting our lovely hall which continues to be improved and refurbished. For a £20 stake your name will be entered into a monthly draw with prizes of £20, £10 & £5 each month. Further details are available from Martin Downey.

FUTURE DIARY DATES – MAKE A NOTE OF THEM NOW

Details of Christmas events and worship may be found on the back page of the Gateway, and on our website alnwickanglican.com, but the main ones are also listed below

Mon 25 th		Christmas Day
	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	Parish Christmas Eucharist
Tues 26 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion for the Feast of St Stephen
Wed 27 th	10.15 am	Holy Communion for the Feast of St John
Thurs 28 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion for the Feast of the Holy Innocents
Tues 2 nd Jan	9.30 am	Gateway planning meeting in Parish Room
Thurs 11 th Jan	7.00 pm	Baptism Preparation in church

***Into the darkness of this world, into the shadows of the night
Into this loveless place you came, lightened our burden, eased our pain
And made these hearts your home, into the darkness once again -
O come Lord Jesus come***

***Into the longing of our souls, into these heavy hearts of stone
Shine on us now your piercing light, order our lives and souls aright
By grace and love unknown, until in you our hearts unite -
O come Lord Jesus come***

***O Holy Child, Emmanuel, hope of the ages, God with us,
Visit again this broken place, till all the earth declare Your praise,
and Your great mercies own. Now let Your love be born in us -
O come Lord Jesus come***

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If you are a UK taxpayer, St Michael's can benefit to the tune of 25p for each £1.00 donated by Gift Aid. Please use the brown envelopes which you will find at the end of each pew. Thank you.

Vicar: The Rev'd Canon Paul Scott
Parish website: www.alnwickanglican.com

**For enquiries about The Parish Hall,
please telephone Martin Downey on either 01665 603271 or mobile 07375800702**

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