

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL ALNWICK

CHRISTMAS 2018



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!

MIDNIGHT MASS

HYMN 79 O little town of Bethlehem

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 3:4-7

Christ has come to bring a new dawn, says this writer. Now we know we are not saved by our good deeds, but by grace alone. The divine mercy makes us heirs of eternal life.

HYMN 89 While shepherds watch their flocks by night

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 1-7

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 70 It came upon the midnight clear

HYMN 60 Away in a manger

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 79 **O little town of Bethlehem**

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

Wed 26th St Stephen
 10.15 am Holy Communion

Thurs 27th St John, Apostle & Evangelist
 09.30 am Holy Communion

Fri 28th The Holy Innocents
 09.30 am Holy Communion



Paul & Jane, Gerard & Karen send everyone their love and best wishes for Christmas and thank all who have 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.