

# THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL, ALNWICK

## 'ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE'



### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A warm welcome to our worship today.

We hope you will stay for tea/coffee after the 10.00am service – but please try to gather in groups of no more than six.

*For those who are concerned about sitting too close to others, there is greater space in the pews in the south aisle and on the blue chairs in the north aisle. Please continue to use the hand sanitizer provided and wear a face covering. Our 10.00am service is live-streamed. Should you wish not to be on camera please speak to a Churchwarden who will show you to a suitable seat. Thank you.*

#### TODAY'S WORSHIP

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Communion
4.00pm	Carols at Denwick Chapel
6.00pm	Iona Style Evening Prayer & Address

#### THIS MORNING'S READINGS:

**Zephaniah 3: 14-20**

This prophet of the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC is mostly a voice of doom, but this passage ends his work on a note of hope. God will always preserve a remnant of the faithful through the worst times, and come in his own person as king and saviour.

**Luke 3: 7-18**

As we heard last Sunday, Christians understand John the Baptist as the one to whom ancient Scripture had pointed as God's messenger preparing the way for Jesus. John's teaching provoked controversy, but his proclamation of repentance and baptism gained many disciples.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- That we may hear John the Baptist's proclamation of the Good News
- The integrity of those in public office
- The process of appointing a new Bishop of Newcastle
- The revised arrangements for the combatting of Coronavirus
- Those who are learning the art of ringing our new bells

## HYMNS 10.00am

- 38 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding  
42 Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
646 God is working his purpose out, as year succeeds to year

## IONA STYLE EVENING PRAYER & ADDRESS

- 39 Hills of the North, rejoice  
42 Longing for light, we wait in darkness

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Tuesday

7.00pm St Michael's Bowls Club in the Parish Hall

### Wednesday

10.15am Holy Communion followed by tea/coffee

### Thursday

9.30am Mini Michaels in church – last meeting this term

4.00pm Singing Practice in church for Carol Service

### Sunday

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Communion

6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service

## NEXT SUNDAY MORNING'S READINGS

Micah 5: 2-5a Luke 1: 39-45

## LOOKING AHEAD

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT ST MICHAEL'S** has been planned as follows:

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service

Christmas Eve 4.30pm Family Carols & Christingle

Christmas Day 8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Communion

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Parish Communion (**NB** No 8.30am or 6.00pm)

It will be lovely to hold a **CAROL SERVICE AT DENWICK CHAPEL** this afternoon. During the period of the pandemic the Chapel has been provided with **NEW HEATING** (which is very effective) as well as being **REDECORATED** and receiving the gift of a **NEW ORGAN**. Do think about coming along to join in this special celebration.

Our grateful thanks go once again to **NORTUMBERLAND ESTATES** for the provision of a lovely **CHRISTMAS TREE** – and to the volunteers who erected it in church and gave it its lovely Advent theme.

As we look forward to our **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS, DONATIONS TOWARDS THE COST OF FLOWERS** to decorate the church would be gratefully received. Please hand your offerings to Pat Taylor or Lynne Moir. Thank you.

As the country is urged to take extra precautions to contain the **OMICRON VERSION OF CORONAVIRUS** it is important, once again, to urge people in church to observe the **USE OF HAND SANITIZER AND THE WEARING OF MASKS** wherever possible. We must do all we can to protect the spread of this new strain. Thank you.

We look forward eagerly to using our **NEW CHRISTMAS CRIB** for the first time this year as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Readers of our parish magazine 'Gateway' have been able to hear something of the story of its construction and the repair of our lovely crib figures. Based on a traditional Northumbrian barn, do look out for one or two other special 'local' features' which will give it a unique flavour as well provide a really worthy aspect of our celebrations. We are so grateful to George Ives who has used his great skill and spent countless hours in its planning and execution.

### **THIS WEEK'S ECO TIP**

Did you know that we in the UK use an estimated 2,270 miles of Christmas wrapping paper, much of which cannot be recycled as it contains plastic in the form of glitter or laminates.

Look out for recycled wrapping paper without any plastic content. Tissue paper is an alternative and a good choice as it is made from recycled materials which are sourced sustainably **and** is 100% recyclable!

Sellotape is made from plastic therefore not recyclable. Ribbon, string (both of which can be reused) or a small dab of Prit stick are good alternatives. Another idea is to use masking tape which can then be brightened up with crayons or felt tips.

## **ADVENT EXPECTATION**

*Loving God,*

*You have told us to look forward to a time  
when your kingdom will come and your will be done –  
a time when there will be an end to sin and evil, suffering and sorrow;  
when all your people will live together in peace and harmony;  
when Christ will come again in glory.*

***Come to us now, we pray.***

*Loving God,*

*forgive us that so often we have lost our sense of expectation,  
content simply to get by, settling for the way things are,  
failing to believe you can change our lives or transform the world.*

***Come to us now, we pray.***

*Forgive us that we have been too full of our own expectations,  
believing we know all there is to know,  
pushing you into little boxes we have made for you,  
presuming your thoughts and your ways are the same as ours.*

***Come to us now, we pray.***

*Forgive us that our expectations have been small and limited,  
tied down by our own limited vision,  
restricted to our narrow horizons,  
shaped by looking at life from an immediate  
rather than an eternal perspective*

***Come to us now, we pray.***

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

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 envelopes available at the back of church. Thank you.

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

