

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL, ALNWICK

'ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE'



Sunday, 19th December 2021
FOURTH 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 (BCP)
10.00am Parish Communion
6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service

THIS MORNING'S READINGS:

Micah 5: 2-5a

Like so many of the prophets, Micah embraces both judgement and hope. In his poetic language, a new king will be born in David's birthplace, Bethlehem, and will lead his people in peace.

Luke 1: 39-45

Luke weaves together the wonderful stories of the sons born to Elizabeth and Mary. The mother of Jesus visits the mother of John, and the two are joined in the joy of what God is doing.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Thanks for Mary's part in God's demonstration of love
- All who are working to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus
- Those who travel over the Christmas period: that they may do so safely
- All expectant mothers
- Organisations who help care for the homeless

HYMNS AT 10.00am

41	Lo, he comes with clouds descending
394	Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
34	Earth was waiting, spent and restless
811	Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown

6.00pm CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE

See special order of Service

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday

7.00pm No Bowls Club tonight – next meeting 4th January

Wednesday

10.15am Holy Communion followed by tea/coffee

Thursday

10.00am Christingle making in church – do come and help

Friday

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.30pm Family Carols & Christingle

Saturday

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Communion for Christmas Day

Sunday

ST STEPHEN'S DAY

10.00am Parish Communion - NB One service only today

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING'S READINGS

Acts 7: 51-60 Matthew 10: 17-22

CHRISTINGLE MAKING

Although the news and advice regarding Coronavirus is changing daily we are still hoping, as this Pew Sheet goes to print, that our Christmas Services will take place as planned. So, this coming Thursday at 10.00am there will be a **CHRISTINGLE MAKING SESSION** in church. If you would like to come along and help, please do so.

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 as 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

If you're roasting a turkey this Christmas, try to use the minimum amount of aluminium foil. Aluminium is a rare metal and its extraction and purification uses a lot of energy. In the kitchen generally, aim to use as little as possible. Recycled aluminium foil (which uses 95% less energy in its production) can be bought from 'World of Difference' on Fenkle Street and from www.thebiggreensmile.com

The humble kettle eats up more electricity in our homes per year, than an electric oven, hob or microwave. Over filling our kettles for a quick cuppa (and then often walking away and re-boiling a couple of minutes later) uses enough power annually that equals half the output of one of the world's largest offshore wind farms, off the coast of Kent. Over the Christmas period that useful little friend in the kitchen may be used more than usual. Don't overfill (measuring the water in by the mug?) and try to stick around until it boils and use immediately.

ADVENT AWE

To many of us, reading or hearing the story of Mary is like reading or hearing a story of which we already know the ending.

We know that Joseph is not going to abandon her and that he is not going to throw her to the wolves.

The penalty for a betrothed virgin being with child by a third party was, after all, death.

We know that 'everything is going to be alright.'

Therefore there is not sufficient awe in us at the incredible courage of this young woman, who said what she said:

'May it happen to me as you have said.'



Marianne Katoppo: 'Compassionate and Free'

Vicar: The Rev'd. Canon Paul Scott

Tel: 01665 603078

email: paulscott1957@btinternet.com

Parish Website: 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