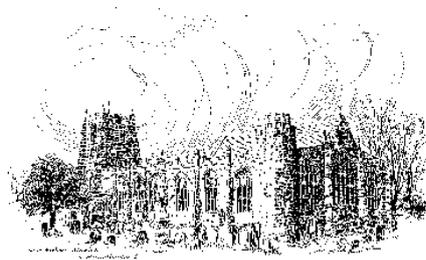


THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL, ALNWICK 'ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE'



**Saturday, 25th & Sunday, 26th December 2021
CHRISTMAS DAY & ST STEPHEN'S DAY**

A warm welcome to our worship today.
May you know the peace, the joy and the hope of Christmas
as we celebrate the birth of the Christ-child

Government regulations have once again made mandatory the wearing of a face covering in church. Pews have again been taped off to create greater space and we would ask, please, that you continue to use the hand sanitizer provided on entering and leaving church.

Please note that our 10.00am service is usually 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.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP & READINGS

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion

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.

Luke 2: 1-20

Luke, the master story-teller, gives us a picture 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.

CHRISTMAS DAY HYMNS

- 78 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant (Omit vv 4 & 5)
60 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
83 See, amid the winter's snow
72 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!



ST STEPHEN'S DAY WORSHIP & READINGS

10.00am Parish Communion (NB Not live-streamed today)

Acts 7: 51-60

Stephen was the first martyr of the Christian era. The Jewish High Priest and the Council could not tolerate his preaching Jesus as the Messiah, and they stoned him to death even while he prayed – like his Master – for them to be forgiven.

Matthew 23: 34-39

Matthew knew only too well, by the time he wrote, that many Christians had followed Stephen in dying for their faith. So these words of Jesus had come true. We are given a glimpse of the divine yearning that everyone should greet the Lord with gladness.

ST STEPHEN'S DAY HYMNS

- 65 Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
90 Who would think that what was needed
71 Jesus Christ the Lord is born all the bells are ringing!
650 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Thanks for Jesus – God's greatest gift to his people
- That people will act responsibly with regard to Coronavirus
- Departed loved ones
- All expectant or new mothers
- Refugees & Asylum Seekers

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

10.15am Holy Communion

Thursday

9.30am No Mini Michaels today – next meeting 6th January

Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am First Sunday Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong (BCP) & Address

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING'S READINGS

Ephesians 1: 3-14 John 1: 10-18

PAUL & JANE wish all the dear folks of St Michael's a very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS** and every blessing in the **NEW YEAR**. Your cards and good wishes were much appreciated – especially at this, our last Christmas in the parish.

At the beginning of our 10.00am service on **CHRISTMAS DAY**, our **NEW CRIB** will be blessed. 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.

Our grateful thanks go to all who helped in any way to help St Michael's look so lovely for our **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS** – particularly those who contributed to the **COST OF FLOWERS** and those who **GAVE OF THEIR TIME** to help with the **FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS**. It is all much appreciated.

What a splendid **CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE** we had last Sunday evening! Our thanks go especially to **ROBERT CHAVNER, PHILIP BOURNE & ALL THE SINGERS** whose careful planning and preparation ensured a really worthy offering of worship. Many thanks, too, to our band of **BELL RINGERS** who **RANG US IN AND OUT** in such a memorable way!

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. **SOCIAL DISTANCING** has been reintroduced in the pews once again and, for the time being, we will not meet to socialise over coffee at the end of our services. We must do all we can to protect the spread of this new strain. Thank you.

The 10.00am Parish Communion on Sunday 9th January will be **PAUL'S FINAL SERVICE AS VICAR** before retirement. It is hoped that there might be an opportunity for a **SHORT SOCIAL GATHERING** at the end of the service – but this will depend on Coronavirus arrangements.

THIS WEEK'S ECO TIP

- Food ! There is so much extra around at Christmas. Sadly, here in the UK, households waste 4.5m tonnes of food each year and worldwide it has been estimated that a volume of water three times that of Lake Geneva is used each year to produce the food that goes to waste. **Every tiny thing we can do will help.** So, three things to keep bearing in mind: 1. Don't over shop or over cook. 2. Keep those little bits of left overs and perhaps have a left-overs meal once a week. (Try having a tapas style meal of several small courses.) 3. Small amounts of left-over vegetable can be popped into soup, even tinned soup or a 'cuppa' soup don't mind having a few extra vitamins added!
- All that extra food creates extra packaging. Both the Coop and Sainsbury's have soft plastic recycling facilities. Waste gets made into pellets which are used in the production of such things as dustpans, buckets and flower pots - hooray!

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