

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL, ALNWICK

'ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE'



Sunday, 24th December 2023

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS EVE

A warm welcome to our worship today.

We hope you will stay for tea/coffee after the 10.00am service.

TODAY'S WORSHIP

8.30am	Holy Communion <i>President : Reverend Mitch</i> <i>Preacher : Annette Playle</i>
10.00am	Parish Communion <i>President : Reverend Mitch</i> <i>Preacher : Annette Playle</i>
4.00pm	Crib Service and Christingle <i>Reverend Mitch</i>
11.30pm	Midnight Mass <i>President & Preacher : Reverend Mitch</i>

Gluten Free : If you would prefer to receive a gluten free wafer at communion, please advise one of the stewards on duty before the start of the service.

READINGS	2 Samuel 7 : 1 – 11; 16
10.00am	Romans 16 : 25 - 27
	Luke 1 : 26 – 38

READINGS	Isaiah 9 : 2 – 7
11.30pm	Titus 2 : 11 – 14
	Luke 2 : 1 - 14

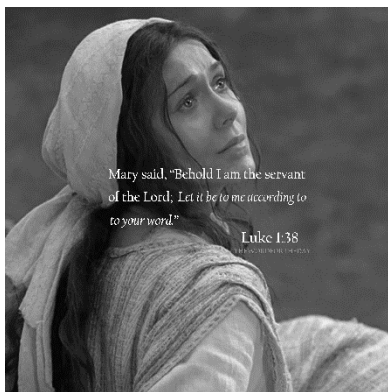
HYMNS 10.00am

- 68 In the bleak midwinter
26 Verse 4
42 Longing for light we wait in darkness
318 Ye who own the faith of Jesus *omit * verses*
394 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

HYMNS 11.30pm

- 79 O little town of Bethlehem
70 It came upon the midnight clear
26 Verse 5
84 Silent night! Holy night!
78 O come all ye faithful *omit * verses*

For your prayers, this week ...



Loving God, through all ages You have desired to be in close relationship with us, draw us into closeness with You today. In the busyness of the world let us remember that Yours has always been a story of connection, that You burst into our world with the Incarnation, and Your son still bursts into our lives every day.

Help us as your people to recognise Your interventions and welcome Your interruptions in our lives today and always. Amen

... pray for peace. In those parts of the world torn apart by war and injustice, let us pray for peace in the hearts of those who have it in their power to bring change and reconciliation; praying for justice, recognising that, as a baby could become a King, all things are possible through You. **Eternal God, in Your changing world, hear our prayer.**

... pray for God's fragile and beautiful earth, that amidst the consumerism of this time we will grow in love and care for her, and be a people willing to make sacrifices to care for creation. **Eternal God, in Your changing world, hear our prayer.**

... pray for families; families struggling with rising living costs and the extra pressures that this season brings. We remember the elderly and those

vulnerable to cold and illness; may we be a community which nurtures and supports the vulnerable.

Eternal God, in Your changing world, hear our prayer.

... pray for **God's Church**, that we will always rejoice in Your stories, and find new ways of telling them and sharing them with a world so greatly in need of Your message.

Eternal God, in Your changing world, hear our prayer.

Creator God, during this Advent season we have heard again stories of faithfulness throughout the ages, and Your desire to enter personally into the details of our lives.

As we journey on, let us be confident of Your presence with us and commit to trusting You ever more deeply, today, this Christmas, over the coming year and always. Amen

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

President & Preacher : Reverend Mitch

10.00am Family Communion

Friday, 29th

11.00am Funeral of Janet Thompson

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, 31st THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

8.30am Holy Communion

President : The Reverend Robert Chavner TSSF

Preacher : The Reverend Canon Dr Philip Bourne

10.00am Parish Communion

President : The Reverend Robert Chavner TSSF

Preacher : The Reverend Canon Dr Philip Bourne

Please note - there is no evening service on 31st December

Tuesday, 2nd January

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

Wednesday, 3rd

10.15am Holy Communion *Reverend Mitch*

Thursday, 4th

8.30am Morning Prayer

11.00am Funeral of Kevin Dodd

Saturday, 6th

10.00am Sidesperson Session in church

New Year's Eve Zoom Cuppa 3.30pm Sunday, 31st December.

Everyone is welcome. As well as the usual catch-up you're invited to contribute something - a hymn, poem, reading, prayer or object - that says something about what New Year means for you.

For joining details please email Sue Allen at pineapple.sue@gmail.com.

Parking for Midnight Mass

If you are coming to Midnight Mass and will be driving to church, please avoid parking outside the church building. We do not want an accident with people leaving the church in the dark and cars manoeuvring and driving down the path. Thank you.

Lunchtime Organ Recital – Sunday, 7th January 2024

Why not begin 2024 with a recital of beautiful organ music played by our very own Linden Innes-Hopkins? Linden will be playing a varied repertoire of music and will be putting our temporary Allen Electronic Organ through its paces on Sunday, 7th January starting at midday. The recital will last for 45 minutes, allowing time for coffee and a chat after the 10.00am service, and you will still be home in time for a slightly later than usual lunch! Entry is free but a retiring collection will be taken towards the cost of repairs for the church organ.

You can now make one-off donations towards the work of St Michael's Church online by scanning the QR code. Alternatively, you are welcome to use the card reader at the back of the church (all major cards accepted). If you would prefer to make a regular donation in support of the life and ministry of the church, please sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme by visiting :

www.parishgiving.org.uk and use the Parish Code 250625172.

Thank you for your generous support.



The Reverend Christian Mitchell

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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