

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL, ALNWICK

‘ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE’



Sunday, 31st December 2023

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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

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 today

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.
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READINGS

Isaiah 61 : 10 – 62 : 3

10.00am

Galatians 4 : 4 - 7

Luke 2 : 15 – 21

HYMNS 10.00am

72 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

58 A great and mighty wonder

68 In the bleak mid-winter

59 Angels from the realms of glory

Short Prayers to start the New Year...

Thanksgiving Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we want to express our deepest gratitude for the blessings of the past year. Thank you for your faithfulness, your love, and your constant presence in our lives. We acknowledge your sovereignty over the days gone by and the days yet to come.

Guidance Prayer: Lord, as we enter into the unknown of the coming year, we ask for your guidance and wisdom. Illuminate our path with your light so that we may walk in your ways and make choices that align with your will. Help us to seek first your kingdom and trust that all other things will be added unto us.

Renewal Prayer: Gracious God, we come before you seeking renewal in the new year. Renew our minds, our hearts, and our spirits. May we be transformed by the power of your Holy Spirit, leaving behind the old and embracing the new that you have in store for us.

Strength Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we face the challenges of the coming year, grant us strength and courage. Help us to rely on your mighty power and to find our refuge in you. May we be steadfast in our faith, knowing that you are our rock and our fortress.

Prayer for Others: Lord, as we embark on this new year, we lift up to you our loved ones, our communities, and the world. May your peace reign in our hearts and in the hearts of all people. Bring healing where there is brokenness and reconciliation where there is division.

As the clock strikes midnight and we welcome the year 2024, may our hearts be filled with hope and our spirits with optimism; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, 7th EPIPHANY

8.30am Holy Communion
President : Reverend Mitch
Preacher : John Cooke

10.00am Parish Communion
President : Reverend Mitch
Preacher : John Cooke

12.00 noon Lunchtime Organ Recital (see over)

5.00pm Deanery Evensong at Holy Trinity Church, Embleton

Tuesday, 9th

8.30am Morning Prayer

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

Wednesday, 10th

10.15am Holy Communion *The Reverend Canon Sue Allen*

Thursday, 11th

8.30am Morning Prayer

9.30am Mini Michaels

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

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.

London Theatre Tickets

Can anyone use 2 mid-Stalls tickets for the London theatre production of *'The Book of Mormon'* at the Prince of Wales Theatre on Tuesday, 30th January at 7.30pm? If you're interested, please contact the Reverend Philip Bourne on 07415 673231.

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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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