

St Michael & All Angels

Southam, Woolstone, Gotherington & Oxenton

Sunday 30 November 2025: Advent Sunday

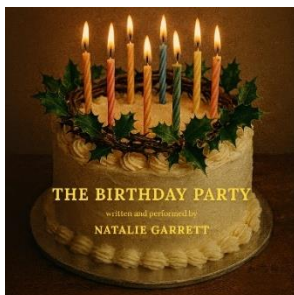
Readings- St Michael's– Southam – The Patriarchs: Genesis 15: 1-6

WGO- The Patriarchs: Genesis 15: 1-16 and Matthew 24 :36-44

10.00am BCP Holy Communion– St John the Baptist, Oxenton

10.30 am: Joint benefice service – St Michael & All Angels, Bishops Cleeve

For the complete list of services see <https://www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/whats-on>



The Birthday Party – St Michael's Church:

7.30pm for an 8pm start

Friday 28 November and Saturday 29 November

A new one-woman show by Natalie Garrett

A story you think you know — told differently.

Meet Mary, and journey through the wonder, laughter, and heartbreak of an ordinary life made extraordinary.

This Christmas, you're invited to The Birthday Party.

The show lasts approximately 40 minutes with refreshments served before and afterwards.

(NB: This event is not intended for children.)

Tickets: £5, including refreshments, to buy tickets

Please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-birthday-party-28th-and-29th-november-tickets-1896526304229?aff=oddttdtcreat> , scan the QR code or call into the Church Office.



Family Crafts for Christmas – St Michael's Church

Friday 5 December 2025: 3.30pm to 5pm

A creative and fun FREE CRAFT event for all the family!!

This event is open to all ages, and refreshments will be available. Bring your family and friends for a fun-filled afternoon of Christmas cheer. We look forward to seeing you there!

Come and join us to make Christmas crafts, everything provided.

Christingle Service – St Michael's Church

Sunday 7 December 2025 at 11.15am

Come and join us to make Christingles and experience the joy and wonder of this well-loved Christmas tradition. Today is Christmas Jumper Day. Supporting the work of the Children's Society.

A Quiet Christmas Service – St Michael's Church

Sunday 7 December 2025: 5.30pm

Not everyone finds the Christmas season joyful. For some, it can also be a difficult time that brings memories of loss, loneliness, or struggle. This gentle service offers a space for stillness and prayer – a time to bring our sorrows and hopes before God, and to find peace in His presence.



Christmas in Cleeve Benefice

Please visit our "Christmas in Cleeve Benefice" page on our website for all the information regarding services and activities over the Christmas period, or visit our website as below:

<https://www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/christmasincleevebenefice>

If you no longer wish to receive Weekly News, please email admin@stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Friday Night Youth Club – next session 5 December

Gotherington Old Chapel 7pm to 8.30pm

Our youth group meets every other Friday during term time and is open to young people in years 7-13. Each session is packed with fun activities, including games, engaging discussions, and plenty of time to hang out over a hot chocolate and snacks. We aim to support and inspire young people, empowering them in their faith and personal life. Autumn Term Dates: **5 December**

Explorers Extra

This Sunday, 30 November- St Michael's Centre

There will be Explorers Extra this Sunday 30 November in St Michael's Centre, please drop off at 11.10am and we will bring the children back over to church before the end of the service.

Sunday Morning Explorers

Exciting News for Sunday Mornings in 2026!

New adventures for our children and young people at St Michael's

From **January 2026**, we're shaking things up (in the best way!) with how we do our **Sunday morning children's work**—and we think you're going to love it!

What's Changing?

If you've been around on the **4th or 5th Sundays**, you'll know that our children and young people have been heading over to **St Michael's Centre** for a special "Altogether" session. We worship, hear God's Story, and then dive deeper—some through **craft**, others through **chat and discussion**. After that, we rejoin the main service for the final part.

Well... we're making this our **new normal** for the **2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays** of each month!

What's New?

We're adding a splash of **holiday club magic** to make these sessions even more fun and welcoming. Whether your child comes every week or just pops in for special events, we want them to feel right at home—and excited to bring their friends along too!

How Will It Work?

- We'll **all start together in church** for the first two songs.
- Then, the children will head over to the Centre with the team.
 - If your child is in **Reception, Year 1 or Year 2**, we'll ask you to walk over with them.
 - If they're in **Year 3 and up**, they can go with the team once they're checked in.
- We'll return just before the end of the service—and if the moment's right, the children and young people might even **share what they've been learning**!

What About Crèche and Youth?

We're working on some exciting updates for our **Crèche** and **Sunday Morning Youth** too—so stay tuned for more info coming soon!

We can't wait to step into this new season with you and your families. It's going to be full of joy, creativity, and growing together in faith. Let's walk this path together—and don't forget to bring your glitter-loving, question-asking, story-loving little ones along for the journey! With love, **The Children & Families Team at St Michael's**

WHAT'S ON?

The Vine – Tuesday 2 December 2025 – change of venue this week.

The Methodist Church, Bishops Cleeve – 10.30am-11.15am

Please note that The Vine are meeting at The Methodist Church this coming Tuesday due to Experience Christmas taking place in St Michael's Church.

A Celebration of Christmas – St Michael's Church (Gotherington Singers)

Saturday 6 December – 2pm

Gotherington Singers invite you to A Celebration of Christmas with special guest, Duncan Ivory. Tickets £8 (includes refreshments). To buy tickets contact Sally Newbury 01242 317276 or sall.newbury@gmail.com, or pay on the door.

Christmas Concert – St Michael’s Church (Gloucestershire Symphonic Wind Orchestra)

Saturday 6 December – 7.30pm

Come and join us for concert featuring the Gloucestershire Symphonic Wind Orchestra.

Tickets are £10 (under 16s are free) and are available in advance online via www.ticketsource.co.uk/gswow or in person on the door (cash or card payment).

A Christmas Celebration – Cleeve Chorale – St Michael’s Church

Saturday 13 December 2025 – 7.30pm

Come and join us for A Christmas Celebration at St Michael’s Church with Children from Woodmancote School – carols for all.

Tickets - £15 which includes mulled wine and mince pies. Accompanied under 17’s free

Tickets available from George Lewis Footwear, Woodmancote Newsagents, on the door or by scanning the QR code



Office Coffee Morning – Wednesday 17 December 2025

Church Office - 10am to 11.30am

We are holding a Coffee Morning in the Church Office to raise money for the Chaplaincy Champions – come and join us for chat, tea/coffee and festive refreshments.

Connect Chatter – every Friday

Community Hall 1 (next to Bishops Cleeve Library)

Every Friday 11am to 2pm – free entry – no sign up needed.

For anyone feeling lonely, bereaved (including pet loss), overwhelmed as a carer.

Please contact John Barton: 07500 003680 or for more information

Women’s Breakfast – Save the date

Saturday 17 January 2026 at St Michael’s Church

Please put this date in your diary, more information to follow after Christmas.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Can you help?

If you can spare an hour a week to do a Churchwatch duty, we shall be very glad to hear from you.

If you can spare an hour a month to do some light dusting in St Michael's, in a team, do get in touch.

If you think you could be a Sunday steward once a month and you are prepared to train for this, let us know.

RSVP for more details to ann.jessop@btopenworld.com or 07974037668 Thank you.

Help needed for coffee groups

Do you attend the 11.15 am service?

Would you be able to arrive at 10.50 am on week 1 (one person needed) week 2 (one person needed) or week 3 (two people needed) to help serve drinks and then clear up after the church service.

If so, please contact Fee Hall on feehall@ymail.com

NOTICES

Gift Day – Thank you!

A big thank you to those who have so generously responded to this year’s Gift Day. At the moment with Gift Aid you have donated the amazing total of £45,000. This includes over £5,000 specifically for the Chaplaincy. I know that there have been difficulties accessing the Parish Giving Scheme but this now appears to be getting easier. It is still not too late to donate to Gift Day. Thankyou

Lucy Barbour – November 2025

Lucy will be on a third year curate placement for the whole of November, so you won’t see her around as much. Please pray for her during this time.

She will be at Coopers Edge Community Church which will be useful learning to give feedback to our ministry in Bishops Cleeve (and wider deanery with regard to Church on new housing estates).

If you want to find out a bit more about them, their website is Coopers Edge Community Church

Christmas Cards for sale

Our own Terry Richer won the photo competition run by the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, with his stunning photo of St Michael's. This photo has been printed as Christmas cards which we are pleased to sell on to you for £2.50 per pack of 5, all profits to St Michael's.

Available for sale in the church and church office. Pay by cash or card..

Cakes for Cakes and Carols – 21 December

Calling all bakers – can you help by providing cake for our Cakes and Carols service next month. If so, please contact Fee Hall on feehall@ymail.com.

Prayer at St Michael's

We love to pray. We need to pray.

We have a few ways to get involved in the week to week prayer life of our church some of which are listed on the image at the bottom of this sheet. Please do considering signing up to emails or attending online or in person meetings. Email: smprayerchain@outlook.com

Alpha Course – sign up for a January course

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome – those of no faith, some faith or different faith. It's not about 'church' or rituals ... it's about discovery ... and relationship

We will be starting a new course in January: To book a place and indicate your preferences please [click here](#) or contact the Church Office.

Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve Anna Chaplaincy for Older People

It's that time of year again – CaBiC's Christmas craft project for the residents of our local care homes in Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve.

We do hope that you might be willing (and able) to continue to support this by knitting some Christmas stars this year. [Please click here for the pattern](#) or you can pick up a paper copy from the back of the church. Please ensure all your stars are at the back of Church, or in the Church Office by **MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 2025**.

Watch Sermons on YouTube

Watch our Sunday sermons on our YouTube channel. Please do have a look and feel free to share with others.

If you Subscribe to the website (which is free) you will receive a notification when a new video is uploaded.

Visit the channel here: <https://youtu.be/RjbH3bo5jb8>

OUR MISSION PARTNERS - NEWS

Mission Partners

At St Michael's, we have three Mission Partners with which we have strong ties. Our three Mission Partners are: **North Cotswold Foodbank**, **Grassroots Rwanda** and **Mission Macedonia**.

For more information about these, and how you can help, please go to our website:

<https://www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/world-mission>

Trip to Rwanda

One of our mission partners, GrassRoots Rwanda is arranging a trip to Rwanda for around 9 days in the first two weeks of February.

Would you like to come?? The trip will cost no more than £1,000 to include flights, transport, accommodation and food. While you are there, we will be the guests of the Bishop of the Anglian Diocese of Shyogwe. We will see the work of the Diocese and how GrassRoots comes alongside and helps and encourages.

If you are interested, see Pete Muir or call for a chat on 07780 998928. I will be planning to buy the flight tickets in mid-December. **Pete**



UPCOMING TRAINING COURSE FROM THE DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER

For the latest training courses on offer from the Diocese of Gloucester [Please Click Here for Information.](#)

ECO-CHURCH - NOVEMBER

Terracycling

Terra cycling boxes are available in the office and in church every week. See the lists attached for acceptable items. Please contact Ro by email at ro.hunt60@gmail.com to arrange collection.

Our Energy Saving Tip This Month

Donate Unwanted Items

It's that time of year when we can all find items to donate to charity. Toys, books, bric-a-brac, jewellery and gift sets that will be appreciated by others and in turn reduce waste.

NOTICES FROM BISHOP'S CLEEVE METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas on the Green

Saturday 29 November 1.30pm to 6pm

Come and visit our Christmas Exhibition – also available: cakes, stalls, artwork, crafts and IT advice

What's Special About Christmas – Bishops Cleeve Methodist Church

An exhibition at the Methodist Church to explore what makes Christmas so special for each one of us. This will include exhibits from all age groups.

Opening times

Saturday 29 November : 1.30pm - 6pm

Monday 1 December: 2pm - 5pm

Tuesday 2 December: 2pm - 5pm

Friday 5 December: 2pm – 5pm

To find out **What's On** at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church, please follow the link: https://www.methodist-bishopscleeve.co.uk/page_2275125.html

Sunday: Worship at 10.30am followed by refreshments.

Monday: Meeting for Prayer at 12.45 pm.
Meet Up Monday 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm.

Wednesday: Communion Service with other churches at 9.00 am.
Fellowship Group with a speaker at 2.00 pm on alternate Wednesdays.

Thursday: Film Club at 2.00 pm on the first Thursday of each month.
Prayer and Bible Study at 2pm and 7.45 pm on alternate Thursdays.

Saturday: Coffee mornings 10am - 12 noon as announced.

Keep up to date with church news, diary dates and more on our website.

www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk

Service times: stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/worship-services

Safeguarding: stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/safeguarding

Church Office: stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/contact

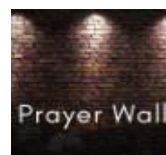
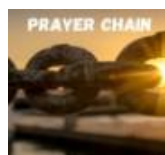
Donate: [Bishop's Cleeve - Parish Giving Scheme](#)

[Southam - Parish Giving Scheme](#)

[WGO - Parish Giving Scheme Or ring 03330021260](#)

Watch Sermons: youtube.com/@StMichaelsBishopsCleeve

Different
ways to pray
at St
Michael's



Church Office Telephone Number and Opening Times

07354 874617 Kate for all enquiries including weddings. Monday to Friday

07871 602525 Tracy for enquiries relating to funerals, baptisms and DBS. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Church Office Opening Times: Monday – Thursday 10am – 2pm

Friday: Kate sometimes works from home, please ring to check before coming to the office

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