

St Michael and All Angels, Houghton - le - Spring

SERVICE DETAILS & WEEKLY NOTICES

14th December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent



Welcome to the church of St Michael & All Angels. Our aim is to be a friendly and inclusive church. We hope you enjoy our worship together.

After the service please join us for refreshments and a chat.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings for 8.30 am & 10.00 am:

First: Isaiah 35. 1 - 10

Second: Romans 1. 1 - 7

Gospel: Matthew 1. 18 - end ; متى 1: 18 - النهاية



Details of the Holy Communion at 10.00 am

Opening Hymn: 'On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry' (46)

Lighting of the Advent Candle Carol:

*'Christmas is coming'
The Church is glad to sing
and let the Advent candles
brightly burn in a ring*

3. The third is for the Baptist,
Who cried, 'Prepare the way.
Be ready for Jesus,
Both this and every day'

Gradual Hymn: 'O Child of promise, come!' (44)

Communion Hymn: 'People, look east to see at last' (47)

Communion Hymn: 'Bread of life, hope of the world' (431, omit v4,5 & 8)

Closing Hymn: 'Hills of the North, rejoice' (39)

Details for Celtic Eucharist at 6.00 pm

First Hymn: 'O Child of promise, come!' (44)

Second Hymn: 'Longing for light, we wait in darkness' (42)

Details of the Thursday Holy Communion at 10.00 am

First Hymn: 'Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding' (38)

Second Hymn: 'Longing for light, we wait in darkness' (42)

Third Hymn: 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending' (41)

 **PRAYER CONCERNS FOR OUR SERVICE AND PERSONAL PRAYER**

In our church diary we pray: In our Advent & Christmas services and events, that many people will visit us and experience something of God's love in our welcome.

For members of our church family unable to join us in church today:

Jean Clifford, Joyce Grey, Maureen Howard, Maureen Hutton, Emma Hyden, Ruby Lambert, Ozzy Masters, Rita Stone.

For those who are ill or in need who have asked for our prayers: (list updated each 3 months)

Paul Armour, Anna Bradley, Betty Brown, Anne Camp, Helen Cheall, Fiona Cooper, Peter Cunningham, Jennifer Dixon, Marjorie Fogg, Ken Henderson, Evelyn Hendry, Maurice Lee, Baby Luca Loscombe, Debbie Miller, Anunda Samoo (Andy), Jean Raine, Kenneth Rose, Aileen Scott, Gina Smith, Hilary Storey, John Wilde.

For the recently departed, including:

Brian Teather, Julie Bilton, Terry Coxan.

Rotas for the coming week

Readers: D Anderson (8.30 am Sunday 21st)
TBC (10.00 am Sun 21st)
No Service in Church (6.00 pm Sun 21st)
J Bond (10.00 am Thurs 25th)

Stewards: J Henderson & S Gamble (10.00 am Sun 21st)
No Service in Church (6.00 pm Sun 21st)
TBC (10.00 am Thurs 25th)

Intercessors: L Farthing (8.30 am Sun 21st)
TBC (10.00 am Sun 21st)

Coffee: J & C Dixon (10.00 am 21st)

Christmas Flowers

Donations to Carole or in collection tin at the back of church, *Thank you!*



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from either:

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: Beth Miller 07968034075

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Ali Young 07532034075

If there is immediate risk or danger, contact the police on 999.



The Church of England's Christmas theme for 2025 revolves round a single word: Joy! Our church will - as always - be seeking to make the most of the opportunity December brings to share The Joy of Christmas with our community.

Christingle

Our popular family service will be held on

Sunday 14th December at 4.00 pm.

Every child makes a Christingle and the proceeds are donated to the Children's Society.

All are welcome to come along.



Celtic Eucharist



A sung service of Holy Communion drawing on liturgy from the Celtic Christian Tradition.

Led by Rev'd Margaret Lee

Sun 14th December at 6.00 pm.



Our next 'All-In' Service

Sun 21st December 10.00 am

***'The Grumpy Owl
& the Joy of Christmas'***



Carols by Candlelight

St Matthew's, Newbottle, Sunday 21st Dec at 6pm

A lovely carol service, perfect for some seasonal singing and peace!




A Blue Christmas?

If we're missing loved ones, sometimes we can feel out of step with all that's going on around us in the lead up to Christmas. It may be at our 'Blue Christmas Tree' (in the Gilpin transept) we can acknowledge our true self before God who comes to us in the Christ-child to share all of our humanity with us.

THIS WEEK AT ST MICHAEL'S

Sunday – Third Sunday of Advent (*Matthew 11. 2 - 11*)

- 8.30 am Holy Communion
- 10.00 am Holy Communion (Church & )
- 4.00 pm Christingle**
- 6.00 pm Celtic Eucharist

Monday 2.30 pm Community Food Store (Kepier)
6.00 pm Vestry hour (call Parish Office for appointment)

Tuesday 3.30 pm Family Fun (Kepier)


Thursday 10.00 am Holy Communion (in Church)
6.00pm Choir Practice (Choir Vestry)

Friday 9.30 am Stay & Play (Kepier Hall)
9.30 am Community Food Store (Kepier Hall)
2.00 pm Cake & Chat (Hub, Newbottle St)

Our 'Drop-in' is open at the Space4 Hub (Newbottle St) 10-1 Mon-Fri

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: SUPPORT CHURCH FUND RAISING!

21st December – Fourth Sunday of Advent (*Matthew 1. 18 - end*)

- 8.30 am Holy Communion
- 10.00 am 'All-In' Service with Holy Communion (Church & )
- 6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight (**St Matthew's, Newbottle**)

22nd Dec 1.30 pm Community Service

24th Dev 3.00 pm Crib Service
7.00 pm Carol Service
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Watch this space for other upcoming events!

Our Rector Rev'd John Barron
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His usual day off is Friday

The Parish office is open
Tuesday & Thursday (9.00 am – 2.00 pm)
Telephone: 0191 5121769
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 Facebook: stmichaelshls
Website: www.stmichaels-hls.org.uk

Support St Michael and All Angels by following this link:
<https://bit.ly/supportStM> or scan the QR code with your phone

