

# Welcome to the Parish of Rushall and the Churches of St. Michael the Archangel and Christ the King

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December is the Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Services this week**

Second Sunday of Advent	7 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10.30am	Seeker Service	St. Michael's
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	St. Michael's
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		9.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10am	Drop In	Christ the King
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		10am	Drop In	St. Michael's
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Friday	12 <sup>th</sup>		No services	
Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		12 noon	Drop In Lunch	Christ the King
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Third Sunday of Advent	14 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		4pm	CHRISTINGLE	St. Michael's

## Services online

The Sunday 10.30am service at St. Michael's is streamed live on Facebook for those unable to attend in person.

Morning and Evening Prayer take place on Zoom on various days of the week: please contact us for the link if you wish to join us.

Advent: a time of expectant waiting and watching – but also of preparation. Our Christmas services begin next Sunday (14<sup>th</sup>) with the Christingle service at 4pm.

## Readings for Holy Communion – 7<sup>th</sup> December

### The Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### First Reading

*Isaiah 11.1-10*

- <sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia.**

### **Gospel**                      *Matthew 3.1-12*

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

<sup>2</sup>'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight."

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

### **Prayer of preparation**

As this bread was scattered  
and then gathered and made one,  
so may your Church be gathered into  
your Kingdom.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house;  
she has mixed her wine; she has set  
her table.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first  
coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Readings for Evening Prayer**

### **Psalm 11**

**R: Those who know your name will put their trust in you, O Lord.**

1 In the Lord have I taken refuge; ♦

how then can you say to me,

‘Flee like a bird to the hills,

2 For see how the wicked bend the bow

and fit their arrows to the string, ♦

to shoot from the shadows at the true of heart.

3 When the foundations are destroyed, ♦

what can the righteous do?’

4 The Lord is in his holy temple; ♦

the Lord’s throne is in heaven.

5 His eyes behold, ♦

his eyelids try every mortal being.

6 The Lord tries the righteous as well as the wicked, ♦

but those who delight in violence his soul abhors.

7 Upon the wicked he shall rain coals of fire

and burning sulphur; ♦

scorching wind shall be their portion to drink.

8 For the Lord is righteous;

he loves righteous deeds, ♦

and those who are upright shall behold his face.

## First Reading

*1 Kings 18.17-39*

<sup>17</sup>When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, 'Is it you, you troubler of Israel?' <sup>18</sup>He answered, 'I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. <sup>19</sup>Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.'

<sup>20</sup>So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel.

<sup>21</sup>Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, 'How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' The people did not answer him a word. <sup>22</sup>Then Elijah said to the people, 'I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets number four hundred and fifty.'

<sup>23</sup>Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. <sup>24</sup>Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the LORD; the god who answers by fire is indeed God.' All the people answered, 'Well spoken!' <sup>25</sup>Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, 'Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it.' <sup>26</sup>So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, 'O Baal, answer us!' But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. <sup>27</sup>At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, 'Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.' <sup>28</sup>Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. <sup>29</sup>As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

<sup>30</sup>Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come closer to me'; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down;

<sup>31</sup>Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, 'Israel shall be your name'; <sup>32</sup>with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. <sup>33</sup>Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, 'Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt-offering and on the wood.' <sup>34</sup>Then he said, 'Do it a second time'; and they did it a second time. Again he said, 'Do it a third time'; and they did it a third time, <sup>35</sup>so that the water ran all round the altar, and filled the trench also with water.

<sup>36</sup>At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, 'O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding.'

<sup>37</sup>Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.' <sup>38</sup>Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt-offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. <sup>39</sup>When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, 'The LORD indeed is God; the LORD indeed is God.'

## **Second Reading**      *John 1.19-28*

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup>He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord"',

as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup>John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.



**Christingle service:**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm**

**At St. Michael's**



**Christmas is coming**

**We look forward to welcoming you to  
any of our special services at  
St. Michael's.**

**Christingle Service - Sunday 14th  
December at 4pm**

**Nine Lessons and Carols by  
Candlelight - Sunday 21st December  
at 4pm**

**Midnight Mass - Christmas Eve  
at 11.30pm**



## Coming up soon:

ird Sunday Of Advent	14 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		4pm	Christingle Service	St. Michael's
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		9.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10am	Drop In	Christ the King
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		10am	Drop In	St. Michael's
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup>		No services	
Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Fourth Sunday Of Advent	21 <sup>st</sup>	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		4pm	Carol Service	St. Michael's

## Church Hall Bookings

Please ring Gill on 01922 624583.