

St Michael and All Angels with St Mark Preston,
1st Sunday of Christmas, 28th December 2025,
Holy Innocents
Holy Communion 10.00am



Heavenly Father,
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,
though they had done no wrong:
by the suffering of your Son
and by the innocence of our lives
frustrate all evil designs
and establish your reign of justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Welcome to St Michael's Church

Large print newsletters and service leaflets are available, please ask the sides-people if there is anything you need or let them know if you require a gluten free wafer. Everyone is warmly invited to stay for refreshments after the service.

You are invited to stand for the hymns and some other parts of the service if you are able, but if standing is difficult or uncomfortable for you, just remain seated, no one will mind.

Mission Prayer

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship
and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment
to you, and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns:

Opening: 58 A great and mighty
Gradual: 801 The son of God
Offertory: 83 See amid
Communion: 448
Final: 72 Joy to the world

First reading: *Jeremiah 31.15-17*

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 2.13-18*

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

Post Communion Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your humility you have stooped to share our human life
with the most defenceless of your children:
may we who have received these gifts of your passion
rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents
to the purity of your sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross;
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Thankyou: To Judi and team for the wonderful decorations in church over Christmas. The church has looked amazing!

Important: Next Sunday 4th January we will be attending Ashton Methodist Covenant Service at 10.30am. There will be no service here at 10.00am.

Normal Services:

Weekday Communion: Thursday at 10.30am

BCP Communion: Sunday 4th January at 8.30am

Holy Communion: Sunday 11th January at 10.00am

Junior Church: Next meeting Sunday 18th January at 10.00am

All Angels: Sunday 1st February at 10.00am

Regular Events:

Bible Study: the next meeting will be on Friday 2nd January at 7.00pm. All are welcome.

Coffee Morning: the next coffee morning will be on Saturday 3rd January at 10.00am – 12.00pm

Cupboard Love: the next session of Cupboard love will be on Saturday 10th January 9.30am - 10.30am

Farmers' Market: The next market will be on Saturday 17th January 9.00am to 12.30pm

Supporting St Michael's:

If you would like to make a donation today but have no cash, you might like to use the contactless payment device at the back of church. Many people prefer to give monthly by direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme. Please ask for details.

Please do stay after today's service for a drink and a chat.

Facebook: search St Michael and All Angels with St Mark's Preston.

Instagram: search St_michaels_church_preston

Website: www.stmichaelswithstmarkpreston.co.uk

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