

# St Michael All Angels

Southam, Woolstone, Gotherington & Oxenton

## Sunday 21 December 2025: Advent 4

Readings- St Michael's– Southam – Mary Luke 1: 26-45

WGO- John the Baptist – Mary Isaiah 7:10-16 Matthew 1: 18-25

**No 11.15am Service at St Michael's**

**No 10.00am Service at Woolstone**

**9.30am Said Holy Communion-St Michael's Church**

**4.00pm Carols & Lessons- St John the Baptist Oxenton**

**5.00pm Carol Service- Church of the Ascension, Southam**

**6.30pm Cakes & Carols-St Michael's Church**

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

**There will be no service at 11.15am on the 21 December at St Michael's**

**There will be no Thursday Holy Communion on 1 January at St Michael's**



## Sunday 21 December

**9.30am Said Holy Communion – St Michael's Church**

(As there is no 11.15am service, help to clear up after coffee would be welcome)

**4.00pm Carols and Lessons – St John the Baptist, Oxenton**

Please come and join us for an afternoon of carols, traditional readings and prayers at this wonderful time of year.

**5.00pm Carols and Lessons – Church of the Ascension, Southam**

Come and celebrate the festive season with family and friends, for carols and readings.

**6.30pm Cakes and Carols – St Michael's Church**

A contemporary carol service for you and your friends

Mulled wine and cake before the service and during the interval.



## Upcoming Services

**Wednesday 24 December**

2.00pm Nativity Service- St Michael's Church

3.30pm Nativity Service- St Michael's Church

3.00pm Crib Service – St Martin de Tours

11.00pm Midnight Mass-St Michael's Church

**Thursday 25 December**

9.30am Christmas Day Holy Communion-The Church of the Ascension Southam

10.00am Christmas Day Holy Communion-St John the Baptist Oxenton

10.30am Christmas Day Family Holy Communion-St Michael's Church

**Friday 26 December**

11.00am Connect Chatter-St Michael's Church

**Sunday 28 December**

For an online service on Sunday 28 December, please see the body of this newsletter.

## 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.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk/christmasincleevebenefice>



## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

### 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!



For more information, please visit our website

<https://www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/exciting-news-for-sunday-mornings-in-2026> or scan the QR code

### Praise and Play Extra

*Praise and Play Extra* — Sundays Just Got Even More Joyful!

We're feeling incredibly blessed in our benefice to run **three vibrant parents and toddler groups**, each one bursting with fun, faith, and friendship. It's a joy to see little ones singing, crafting, and learning about Jesus — and now, we're bringing that same spirit to Sundays!

Please visit our website or scan the QR code for further information:

<https://www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/praise-and-play-extra>



### Experience Christmas and Christingle services

Please go to our website <https://www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/blog> to see how we have been connecting with local pre-school and school age children through Experience Christmas and Christingle services. Or scan the QR code:



## WHAT'S ON?

### Online Services Sunday 28 December

If you would like a service on Sunday 28 December, please see below for three options, and either follow the link: [Online services for 28 December](#) or scan the QR code

1. Christmas 1 online service led by Ben, available from 9.30 am on 28 December

[https://youtu.be/2\\_azroQE6bg](https://youtu.be/2_azroQE6bg)



Watch Ben's service

2. Church of England online service,

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online>



Watch Church of England service

3. Radio 4 Sunday Worship

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002nv2z>



Listen to Radio 4's service

### Men's Breakfast – 2026

Please note there will be no meeting in January, but we will kick off again on February the 6th. Many thanks to all the support we have had this year. Not only those who have come but those who have organised our various visits. Kind regards Kevin

### 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

**Please note on the 26 December there is a change of venue and Connect Chatter will be at St Michael's Church at 11.00am everyone welcome.**

If you no longer wish to receive Weekly News, please email [admin@stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk)

## Women's Breakfast – Save the date-Saturday 17 January 2026 – St Michael's Church

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

## Quiz Night Friday 30 January 5.30pm for 6.00pm Start

### St Michael's Centre

St Michael's Centre will be hosting their annual quiz night on Friday 30 January. Tickets are £10 (cash sales only) from the Bishop's Cleeve Bookshop or St Michael's Church Office located at the St Michael's Centre. For card sales call Helen on 07852 549672. **Tickets include a tasty two course meal**, bar opens at 5.30pm serving beers, wine & soft drinks. Teams: 4 (minimum) – 6 (maximum). No team? Just come along and make up a team on the night.

## Save the Date

### Holiday Club Summer 2026

We will be holding our Holiday Club from Tuesday 11 August to Thursday 13 August.  
More information to follow in the New Year.

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

### Would You Like to Volunteer?

If you would like to feel the reward of volunteering for a good cause, for as much or as little time as you have available please contact St Michael's Church Office where we can give you further information on the current volunteer need within the benefice. Please email: [admin@stmichael'sbishopsleeve.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmichael'sbishopsleeve.co.uk) or telephone **07354 874617**

## NOTICES

### 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](mailto:feehall@ymail.com) or Anne Nixon on [anne.nixon@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.nixon@btinternet.com)

### Notices from Ann Jessop

**The St Michael and Woolstone Bellringers** wish everyone a very Happy Christmas. We greet you as we ring for all the Christmas events.

**On New Year's Day**, St Michael's will be visited by a team of bellringers from Bisley, and they will be ringing out the New Year greeting to all from 9.30am to 10.30am. Enjoy.

**On New Year's Day**, coffee will be served in church from 10am to 11am and everyone will be welcome. Take us in on your morning walk.

### Foodbank Christmas Opening Times

23 Dec - Moreton open 9.30-12.30

- Winchcombe open 13.30-15.00

24 Dec - **Closed**

25 Dec - **Closed**

26 Dec - **Closed**

30 Dec - Moreton open 10.00-12.00

- Winchcombe open 13.30-15.00

31 Dec - **Closed**

1 Jan - **Closed**

2 Jan - Bishops Cleeve St Michael's Centre open 9.30-11.15

- Chipping Campden open 12.00 -13.30 (no Citizens Advice advisor)

Citizens Advice Advisors will **not** be available in the food banks from 25 December to 1 January inclusive. Details of our Christmas opening times and our locations are on the foodbank data system [here](#) (requires login), on our website and socials.

## Church Office for Christmas and the New Year

Following discussions with Tim and the clergy team, Tracy and Kate will both be on annual leave on Monday 22 December and Tuesday 23 December and Kate will also be on leave on Thursday 24 December, therefore the office will be closed on those three days.

On Monday 29 December, Tuesday 30 December and Wednesday 31 December we will be answering the phone from home to take any messages, explaining to those who ring that nothing will be dealt with until Monday 5 January 2026 when the office will re-open. All necessary printing for Christmas has been done and is ready for the various services.

We will send a weekly newsletter out on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December which will cover the two weeks between Christmas and New Year, and facebook posts will be scheduled to keep you all informed.

We hope you have a blessed and Happy Christmas.

## 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 consider signing up to emails or attending online or in person meetings. Email: [smprayerchain@outlook.com](mailto: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.

## 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>

Please click on this link for all the latest information: [2025 Christmas letter FINAL GR.pdf](#)

## 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 - DECEMBER

### 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](mailto:ro.hunt60@gmail.com) to arrange collection.

### Our Energy Saving Tip This Month

Please visit **A Sustainable Life Website** for 10 last minute tips for an ecofriendly Christmas.

<https://www.asustainablelife.co.uk/10-last-minute-tips-for-an-eco-friendly-christmas/>

## FROM BISHOP'S CLEEVE METHODIST CHURCH

### Covenant Service- 4 January 2026

There will be a covenant service at 10.30am on 4 January 2026. Everyone is welcome.

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](https://www.methodist-bishopscleeve.co.uk/page_2275125.html)

<b>Sunday:</b>	Worship at 10.30am followed by refreshments.
<b>Monday:</b>	Meeting for Prayer at 12.45 pm. Meet Up Monday 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm.
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Communion Service with other churches at 9.00 am. Fellowship Group with a speaker at 2.00 pm on alternate Wednesdays.
<b>Thursday:</b>	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.
<b>Saturday:</b>	Coffee mornings 10am - 12 noon as announced.

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

[www.stmichaelsbishopscleeve.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbishopscleeve.co.uk)

Service times: [stmichaelsbishopscleeve.co.uk/worship-services](http://stmichaelsbishopscleeve.co.uk/worship-services)

Safeguarding: [stmichaelsbishopscleeve.co.uk/safeguarding](http://stmichaelsbishopscleeve.co.uk/safeguarding)

Church Office: [stmichaelsbishopscleeve.co.uk/contact](http://stmichaelsbishopscleeve.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/@StMichaelsBishopsCleeveChurch](https://youtube.com/@StMichaelsBishopsCleeveChurch) 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