

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

Sunday 23rd August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Services this week

Twelfth Sunday After Trinity	23rd	8am 9am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer	St. Michael's Christ the King St. Michael's St. Michael's
Monday <i>Bartholomew</i>	24th	8am 6pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Zoom Zoom
Tuesday	25th	8am 2pm 6pm	Morning Prayer Memory Café Evening Prayer	Zoom St. Michael's Zoom
Wednesday	26th	8am 6pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Zoom Zoom
Thursday <i>Monica, 387</i>	27th	9.30am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Drop In Evening Prayer	St. Michael's St. Michael's Zoom
Friday <i>Augustine, 430</i>	28th		No services	
Saturday	29th	8am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Summer supper	Zoom St. Michael's
Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity	30th	8am 9am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer	St. Michael's Christ the King St. Michael's 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.

As we draw towards the end of the long summer holidays we need some (gentle) rain to replenish the rivers and refresh the gardens.

Readings for Holy Communion – 23rd August

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is
afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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. **Amen**

First Reading

Isaiah 51.1-6

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Psalm 138

R: Lead me, O Lord, in the path of your commandments

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods will I sing praise to you.
2 I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name
and your word above all things.
3 In the day that I called to you, you answered me;
you put new strength in my soul.
4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
5 They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.
6 Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly;
as for the proud, he regards them from afar.
7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you will preserve me;
you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand will save me.
8 The Lord shall make good his purpose for me;
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;
forsake not the work of your hands.

Second Reading *Romans 12.1-8*

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of the Lord endures for ever.

The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 16.13-20

¹³When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Prayer of preparation

Wise and gracious God,
you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of
life
and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Readings for Evening Prayer

Psalm 95

R: We give thanks to you, O God

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God;
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
- 8 O that today you would listen to his voice:
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
on that day at Massah in the wilderness,
- 9 'When your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof,
though they had seen my works.
- 10 'Forty years long I detested that generation and said,
"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways."
- 11 'So I swore in my wrath,
"They shall not enter into my rest."

First Reading

2 Kings 6.8-23

⁸Once when the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he took counsel with his officers. He said, 'At such and such a place shall be my camp.' ⁹But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, 'Take care not to pass this place, because the Arameans are going down there.' ¹⁰The king of Israel sent word to the place of which the man of God spoke. More than once or twice he warned such a place so that it was on the alert.

¹¹The mind of the king of Aram was greatly perturbed because of this; he called his officers and said to them, 'Now tell me who among us sides with the king of Israel?'

¹²Then one of his officers said, 'No one, my lord king. It is Elisha, the prophet in Israel, who tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedchamber.' ¹³He said, 'Go and find where he is; I will send and seize him.' He was told, 'He is in Dothan.' ¹⁴So he sent horses and chariots there and a great army; they came by night, and surrounded the city.

¹⁵When an attendant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. His servant said, 'Alas, master! What shall we do?' ¹⁶He replied, 'Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them.' ¹⁷Then Elisha prayed: 'O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.' So the LORD opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw; the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸When the Arameans came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, 'Strike this people, please, with blindness.' So he struck them with blindness as Elisha had asked. ¹⁹Elisha said to them, 'This is not the way, and this is not the city; follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.' And he led them to Samaria.

²⁰As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said, 'O LORD, open the eyes of these men so that they may see.' The LORD opened their eyes, and they saw that they were inside Samaria. ²¹When the king of Israel saw them he said to Elisha, 'Father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?' ²²He answered, 'No! Did you capture with your sword and your bow those whom you want to kill? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink; and let them go to their master.' ²³So he prepared for them a great feast; after they ate and drank, he sent them on their way, and they went to their master. And the Arameans no longer came raiding into the land of Israel.

Second Reading *Acts 17.15-34*

¹⁵Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, 'What does this babblar want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?' ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.' ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said,

"For we too are his offspring."

²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

³²When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.' ³³At that point Paul left them. ³⁴But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

The summer is usually a quiet time but there are things to look forward to later in the year.

29th August: Bring and share summer supper

9th September: Cluster service at St. Michael's

13th September: Pet Service at St. Michael's

26th September: Quiz Night

4th October: Harvest Supper

1st November: Memorial Service with refreshments

21st November: Christmas Fayre

5th December: Christmas Draw

13th December: Christingle Service

20th December: Candlelit Carol Service

24th December: Midnight Mass

Coming up soon:

Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity	30 th	8am 9am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer	St. Michael's Christ the King St. Michael's St. Michael's
Monday <i>Aidan</i>	31 st		No services	
Tuesday	1 st	8am 9.30am 10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Drop In Evening Prayer	Zoom Christ the King Christ the King Zoom
Wednesday	2 nd		No services	
Thursday <i>Gregory the Great</i> <i>604</i>	3 rd	9.30am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Drop In Evening Prayer	St. Michael's St. Michael's Zoom
Friday	4 th	8.30am	Bishop Michael's Pilgrimage	St. Michael's & Christ the King
Saturday	5 th	8am 6pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Zoom Zoom
Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity	6 th	8am 9am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer	St. Michael's Christ the King St. Michael's St. Michael's

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