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

Sunday 15th November – The Second Sunday before Advent

Services this week

The Second Before Advent	**15th**	**8am**	**Holy Communion**	**St. Michael's**
		9am	**Holy Communion**	**Christ the King**
		10.30am	**Holy Communion**	**St. Michael's**
		6.30pm	**Evening Prayer**	**St. Michael's**
Monday	**16th**	**8am**	**Morning Prayer**	**Zoom**
		6pm	**Evening Prayer**	**Zoom**
Tuesday	**17th**	**8am**	**Morning Prayer**	**Zoom**
		10am	**Holy Communion**	**Christ the King**
		10.30am	**Drop In**	**Christ the King**
		3pm	**Chavasse Trust**	**Christ the King**
		6pm	**Evening Prayer**	**Zoom**
Wednesday	**18th**	**8am**	**Morning Prayer**	**Zoom**
		6pm	**Evening Prayer**	**Zoom**
Thursday	**19th**	**9.30am**	**Holy Communion**	**St. Michael's**
		10am	**Drop In**	**St. Michael's**
		6pm	**Evening Prayer**	**Zoom**
Friday	**20th**		**No services**	
Saturday	**21st**	**8am**	**Morning Prayer**	**Zoom**
		11am	**Christmas Fayre**	**St. Michael's**
		6pm	**Evening Prayer**	**Zoom**
Christ the King	**22nd**	**8am**	**Holy Communion**	**St. Michael's**
		9am	**Holy Communion**	**Christ the King**
		10.30am	**Holy Communion**	**St. Michael's**
		6.30pm	**Evening Prayer**	**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.

It's getting a little chilly – but then it's only six weeks to Christmas!

Readings for Holy Communion – 15th November

The Collect

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of
eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious
kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading *Zephaniah 1.7,12-18*

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.'
13 Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

[14]The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
[15]That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
[16]a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
[17]I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
[18]Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Psalm 90.1-8

R: May the favour of the Lord, the Lord our God be upon us

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the earth and the world were formed,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. **R**
3 You turn us back to dust and say:
'Turn back, O children of earth.'
4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday,
which passes like a watch in the night. **R**
5 You sweep them away like a dream;
they fade away suddenly like the grass.
6 In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered. **R**
7 For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
8 You have set our misdeeds before you
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance. **R**

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 5.1-11*

[1]Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to
have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves know very well that the day of
the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]When they say, 'There is peace and
security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come
upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4]But you, beloved, are not
in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5]for you are all children of
light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6]So then let
us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; [7]for those who
sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8]But since we
belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and
for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has destined us not for wrath but for
obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us, so that
whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11]Therefore encourage
one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven. **Alleluia.**

Gospel *Matthew 25.14-30*

Jesus said to his disciples, [14]"The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey,
summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15]to one he gave five
talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he
went away. [16]The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded
with them, and made five more talents. [17]In the same way, the one who had the two
talents made two more talents. [18]But the one who had received the one talent went
off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19]After a long time the
master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20]Then the one who
had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying,
"Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents."
[21]His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy
of your master." [22]And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying,
"Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents."
[23]His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy
of your master."

[24]Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." [26]But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29]For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30]As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Prayer of preparation

To you we come, Father of lights,
with angels and saints,
where heaven and earth unite.
May Jesus meet us in the breaking of the bread.
Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Readings for Evening Prayer

Psalm *89: 19-24*

R: My song shall proclaim your steadfast love, O Lord

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:
'I have set a youth above the mighty;
I have raised a young man over the people.
20 'I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him. **R**
21 'My hand shall hold him fast
and my arm shall strengthen him.
22 'No enemy shall deceive him,
nor any wicked person afflict him. **R**
23 'I will strike down his foes before his face
and beat down those that hate him.
24 'My truth also and my steadfast love shall be with him
and in my name shall his head be exalted. **R**

First Reading *1 Kings 1.15-40*

15So Bathsheba went to the king in his room. The king was very old; Abishag the
Shunammite was attending the king. 16Bathsheba bowed and did obeisance to the king, and
the king said, 'What do you wish?' 17She said to him, 'My lord, you swore to your servant
by the LORD your God, saying: Your son Solomon shall succeed me as king, and he shall
sit on my throne. 18But now suddenly Adonijah has become king, though you, my lord the
king, do not know it. 19He has sacrificed oxen, fatted cattle, and sheep in abundance, and
has invited all the children of the king, the priest Abiathar, and Joab the commander of the
army; but your servant Solomon he has not invited. 20But you, my lord the king – the eyes
of all Israel are on you to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after
him. 21Otherwise it will come to pass, when my lord the king sleeps with his ancestors,
that my son Solomon and I will be counted offenders.'
22While she was still speaking with the king, the prophet Nathan came in. 23The king was
told, 'Here is the prophet Nathan.' When he came in before the king, he did obeisance to
the king, with his face to the ground. 24Nathan said, 'My lord the king, have you said,
"Adonijah shall succeed me as king, and he shall sit on my throne"? 25For today he has
gone down and has sacrificed oxen, fatted cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited
all the king's children, Joab the commander of the army, and the priest Abiathar, who are
now eating and drinking before him, and saying, "Long live King Adonijah!" 26But he did
not invite me, your servant, and the priest Zadok, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and your
servant Solomon. 27Has this thing been brought about by my lord the king and you have
not let your servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?'
28King David answered, 'Summon Bathsheba to me.' So she came into the king's presence,
and stood before the king. 29The king swore, saying, 'As the LORD lives, who has saved
my life from every adversity, 30as I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, "Your
son Solomon shall succeed me as king, and he shall sit on my throne in my place", so will I
do this day.' 31Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground, and did obeisance to
the king, and said, 'May my lord King David live for ever!'
32King David said, 'Summon to me the priest Zadok, the prophet Nathan, and Benaiah son
of Jehoiada.' When they came before the king, 33the king said to them, 'Take with you the
servants of your lord, and have my son Solomon ride on my own mule, and bring him
down to Gihon. 34There let the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan anoint him king
over Israel; then blow the trumpet, and say, "Long live King Solomon!" 35You shall go up
following him. Let him enter and sit on my throne; he shall be king in my place; for I have
appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.' 36Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered
the king, 'Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, so ordain. 37As the LORD
has been with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon, and make his throne greater
than the throne of my lord King David.'
38So the priest Zadok, the prophet Nathan, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and the
Cherethites and the Pelethites, went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule,
and led him to Gihon. 39There the priest Zadok took the horn of oil from the tent and
anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, 'Long live King
Solomon!' 40And all the people went up following him, playing on pipes and rejoicing with
great joy, so that the earth quaked at their noise.

Second Reading *Revelation 1.4-18*

[4]John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and
who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, [5]and
from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings
of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, [6]and made us
to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for
ever and ever. Amen.

[7]Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

[8]'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to
come, the Almighty.
[9]I, John, your brother who share with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and
the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and
the testimony of Jesus. [10]I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud
voice like a trumpet [11]saying, 'Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven
churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and
to Laodicea.'
[12]Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven
golden lampstands, [13]and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man,
clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. [14]His head and his hair
were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, [15]his feet were
like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many
waters. [16]In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-
edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.
[17]When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me,
saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, [18]and the living one. I was dead, and
see, I am alive for ever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.

Christmas Fayre
Saturday 21st 11am to 1pm

Coming up soon:

Christ the King	22nd	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St. Michael's
Monday	23rd	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Tuesday	24th	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday	25th	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Thursday	26th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		10am	Drop In	St. Michael's
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
		7.30pm	PCC	St. Michael's
Friday	27th		No services	
Saturday	28th	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Advent Sunday	29th	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St. Michael's

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