



St Michael's Messenger

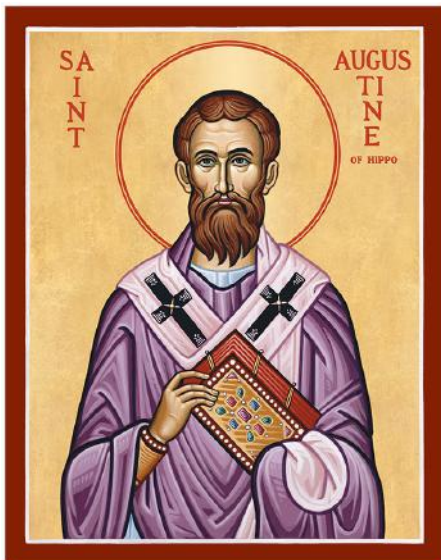
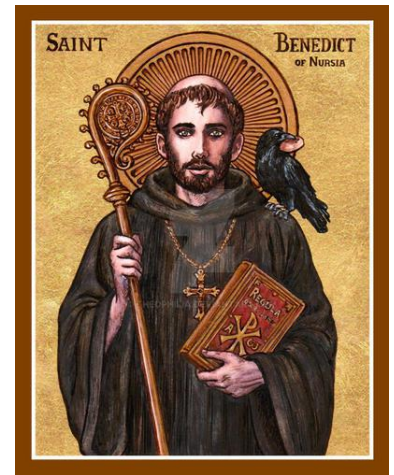
DECEMBER 2025

A prayer for the month of December

Advent Prayer

*Gracious and Holy Father, give us the wisdom to discover You,
the intelligence to understand You,
the diligence to seek after You,
the patience to wait for You,
eyes to behold You,
a heart to meditate upon You,
and a life to proclaim You,
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

– St. Benedict (480- 547)



A Christmas Prayer

*Let the just rejoice,
for their justifier is born.
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,
For their saviour is born.
Let the captives rejoice,
For their Redeemer is born.
Let slaves rejoice,
for their Master is born.
Let free men rejoice,
For their Liberator is born.
Let All Christians rejoice,
For Jesus Christ is born.*

– St. Augustine (354-430)

Messenger Diary Dates December 2025-January 2026

Sunday 7 December 10h00 – Eucharist - Advent 2

Readings: 1. Isaiah 11-10 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2011-10&version=NRSVA>
2. Romans 15 4-13 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2015%3A%204-13&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Sunday 14 December 10h00 – Eucharist – Advent 3

Readings: 1. Isaiah 35 1-10 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2035%3A%201-10&version=NRSVA>
2. James 5 7-10 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%205%3A%207-10&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Sunday 21 December 10h00 – Eucharist – Advent 4

Readings: 1. Isaiah 7 10-16 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%207%3A%2010-16&version=NRSVA>
2. Romans 1 1-7 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%201%3A%201-7&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Monday 22 December 18h00 – Ecumenical Advent Service

Celebrated with members of the Roman Catholic and Danish Lutheran Churches

Wednesday 24 December 18h00 – Eucharist – Christmas Eve

Readings: 1. Isaiah 52. 7-10 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2052%3A%207-10&version=NRSVA>
2. Hebrews 1 1-4 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%201%3A%201-4&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

11h00 – Danish Lutheran Service

Thursday 25 December 10h00 – Eucharist – Christmas Day

Readings: 1. Isaiah 9 2-7 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%209%3A%202-7&version=NRSVA>
2. Titus 2 11-14 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus%202%3A%2011-14&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Sunday 28 December 10h00 – Eucharist – Holy Innocents

Readings: 1. Jeremiah 31 15-17 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%2031%3A%2015-17&version=NRSVA>
2. 1 Corinthians 1 26-29 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%201%3A%2026-29&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Sunday 4 January 10h00 – Eucharist – Epiphany

Readings: 1. Isaiah 60 1-6 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2060%3A%201-6&version=NRSVA>
2. Ephesians 3 1-12 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%203%3A%201-12%20&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Thursdays at 12h15 Exercise and Relaxation

Fridays at 19h00 Pentecostal Service in French



Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day 2025

The church fell silent as the Roll of Honour was read out to the congregation on Remembrance Sunday, one of the most solemn days of the year at St Michael's. The service was led by locum priest Rev Liz Morris. The Roll of Honour was read out from the organ loft by David Knight. Many members of the congregation wore the Poppy of the Royal British Legion, symbolizing their support of and solidarity with veterans of all the Armed Forces, members of the Resistance, the Merchant Navy, and the police and rescue services who served during any military conflict. The side altar of the church was decorated with a garland of poppies and framed photographs of some of the veterans now passed away. At 11h30am on Armistice Day, Tuesday 11 November, a parade organized by the town of Beaulieu-sur-Mer including dignitaries, veterans, residents of Beaulieu and school children was led by an honour guard through the gates of the Monument aux Morts de 14-18.



There, Mayor Roger Roux addressed the crowd and the children read out the names of the dead inscribed on the Monument. The bugle was sounded, flags were lowered, and wreaths were laid to honour the men and women of Beaulieu who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. St Michael's wreath was placed by Egill, Rev Liz Morris and David.



A **video** of the placing of the wreath, filmed by Nancy, can be seen here:

https://youtu.be/H_K8v9w6y1Y

After the wreath-laying, *The Marseillaise* was sung and the crowd moved away from the Monument grounds for an apero sponsored by the Mairie.



From the Churchwardens

There is some progress to report in ***the search for a permanent priest*** for St Michael's. In November, a candidate was in Beaulieu for interviews and mutual evaluation in line with the Diocese's procedures. The result is positive. Next steps are administrative matters on the Diocese level, after which we can share more details with everyone. In any case, we have locum priests booked through Easter.

On Monday, 24 November, around 70 people attended the ***concert of baroque music*** given in the church by an ensemble directed by Cédric Constantino.

The program included performances of "*Three Odes to Saint Cecilia*" by Henry Purcell as well as Charpentier's "*Dialogue sur Sainte Cécile, martyre.*"

The music and singing were absolutely fantastic, and Cédric explained aspects of each piece before they were performed.

On St Cecilia's Day, 22 November, Christians venerate the patron saint of music and musicians.

Photo by Egill



A reminder for everyone to please have a look at the sheets in the back of Church and see if you can fill in a spot with your name for readings and especially for refreshments – your help is needed throughout the month of December. Thank you in advance.

And to our locum priests in 2025...

Fr Ed Hanson, Fr Grant Holmes, Fr David Houghton, Rev Margaret Marquardt,
Rev Liz Morris, Rev Chris Springfield and Fr Patrick Springfield,

...from the entire St Michael's community, thank you!

- Egill and Bob



Advent, the first season of the church year, lasts for four weeks leading up to Christmas Day on December 25th. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming or arrival” and as used by the church, refers both to Jesus Christ’s birth on the first Christmas and when he returns to judge the living and the dead. Advent weaves these two longings, ancient and ongoing, into a single season of hope, letting the first coming of Christ illuminate the second. In the prophets’ poetry and in the psalms of exile, Israel waits for God to act decisively; the Incarnation was not an isolated miracle but the culmination of centuries of yearning. Thus Advent begins not in nostalgia but with the faith that Christ, who came in humility, will return in majesty. Advent teaches us to live in that tension: rejoicing in a salvation already given yet yearning for its full consummation. Hope becomes not vague optimism but disciplined attention to the promises Christ has not yet fulfilled. The meaning of Advent, therefore, is a season of preparation; of waiting for that future day when Christ will make all things new.



The Advent wreath is rich in symbolism. In medieval times, Advent was a period of fasting during which people’s thoughts were directed to the expected second coming of Christ, but in modern times it has instead been primarily seen as the lead up to Christmas. In that context the Advent wreath serves as a reminder of the approach of the feast.

Originating with German Lutherans in the 16th century, its circular shape denotes God’s endlessness, love for mankind and immortality. The evergreen boughs show our hope in his return; Christ was born in the dead of winter to bring new life for mankind. Lastly, the candles, a new one lit each week during Advent, represent the Christian concepts of hope, peace, joy and love.

Traditionally, three candles are purple, a “royal” colour symbolizing repentance, preparation and expectation of the arrival of Christ the King. A fourth rose colored candle is lit on Gaudete Sunday, expressing joy. The fifth “Christ candle” is white and lit on Christmas Eve, signifying that Jesus is the light of the world.

- Adapted from: *Anglican Compass*

'Tis the season...

Two concerts sponsored by the Mairie will be held in the church this month:

Sunday 7 December at 18h

Opéra de Noël tells the story of King Herod's obsession: the soothsayers have announced the coming of a child who will be the future king of Judea. He can no longer sleep, convinced that this is the child who will seize his throne. Herod orders the massacre of all children under the age of three, thinking he can save his reign. Mary and Joseph flee to Egypt to save their future baby... and a modest sage welcomes them with kindness.

Admission is €15 per person

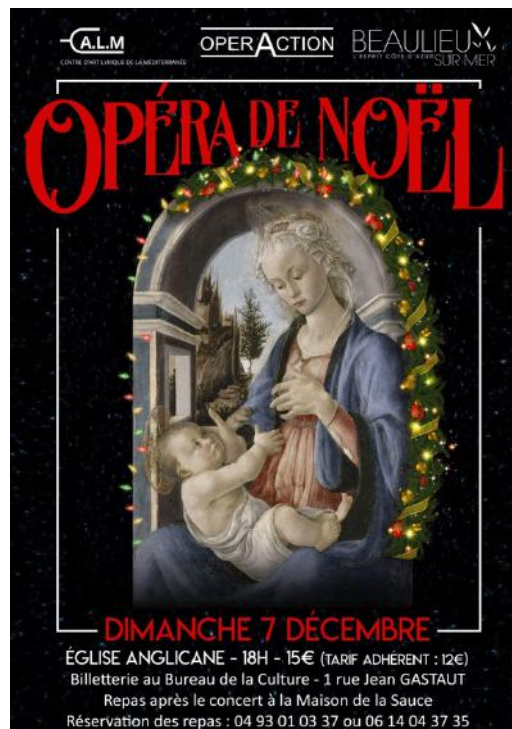
Reservations:

<https://destination.beaulieusurmer.fr/billetterie/>

Or at the Culture Office, 1 rue Jean Gastaut, Beaulieu

Or at the door

Meal after the concert at the Maison de la Sauce
To reserve, call: 0493 010 337 or 0614 043 735



Sunday 21 December at 18h

A holiday choral concert for families, ***"Christmas in the Colours of Europe"*** performed by the vocal ensemble "Musiques en Jeux," conducted by Alain Joutard, will be given in the church.

Admission is free.



Ecumenical Advent Service, Monday 22 December at 6pm

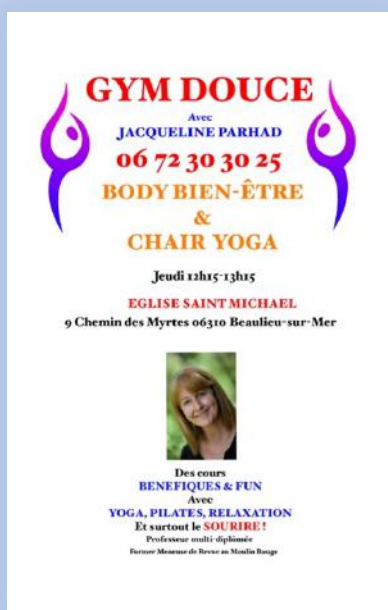
The annual Ecumenical Advent Carol Service will take place at St Michael's on Monday, 22 December at 6pm. Members of the Roman Catholic Church and the Danish Lutheran Church will join the St Michael's congregation in this year's celebration.

This service is multilingual, and all are welcome.

Mulled wine and festive refreshments will be served!



Weekly Bien-Être at St Michael's



A reminder that Jacqueline's popular exercise, chair yoga and relaxation courses are held in the church Thursdays at 12h15.

Come and join Jacqueline for a course in well-being and feeling well!

A portion of the fee is donated to St Michael's.



Thanks to everyone who stopped by the church to decorate for the season...



Special thanks to Antoino for renewing the parquet floors and welcome table!

Advent Season 2025



And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

- Luke 2: 8-14



*Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year
from The Messenger!*

Want to get in touch?

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Advent Season 2025