



St. Michael the Archangel, Mere

Sunday 10th December 2017
Welcome to St. Michael's

Your prayers are asked for all those who are sick, bereaved or in need of God's special help, especially:

Sick: Stephen Paterson, Charlotte Tyler, Jo Avery
Circle of Prayer: Jean Rees, Sheelah Brown, Alf & Jean Cummings, Steven Burnip, Tam Moffatt and his family, Blanche Johnston, Peggy Collinge

Year's Mind: Amy Humphrey December 11th
Jock Porch December 11th
Irene Whybrow December 11th

Prayer Diary: School Christmas Events
Church Re-ordering Group
Underhill

You are very welcome to add the names of people who are ill to the prayer list. Please be sure you have the person's permission and let us know if they would like a home visit.. Also please ask for the name to be removed from the list when appropriate.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tuesday: 12.00 pm Mothers' Union Carol Service
Friday: 8.00 am Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 10th: 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 am Parish Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Advent Service

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Carol Wilson-Barker 01747 861859
e-mail: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk
Lay Ministers: Mrs Jane Hurd 01747 860218
Mrs Christine Marsh 01747 861212
Churchwardens: Mrs Lynette Elliott 01747 861646
Mrs Elizabeth Howden 01747 863424
Parish Administration: Sherry Dixon 01747 861319
Parish Office e-mail: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk
Website: www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Children's Craft Morning: Monday 18th December 10-12 in Grove Building, helpers required. Please contact Rev. Carol.
Cardboard toilet and kitchen roll centres needed please.

Christmas Lunch: Please would you consider offering help towards the Christmas Day Lunch. Please sign the list at the back of the church indicating what help you could offer.

Mothers' Union Carol Service: Tuesday 12th December at 12 noon in Church, followed by refreshments in the Grove Building. Everyone welcome.

Cadman Christmas Cafe: Live music, Wednesday 13 December 7.30pm in the Grove Building. Tickets £4 on the door.

Church decorating for Christmas: we need evergreen foliage (especially holly, and conifer) to decorate pillars and window sills. Decorating will be Sunday and Monday 17, 18 December 2-4pm, please come along if you have a little spare time, no expertise required! Please phone Elizabeth 863324.

Shreen Harmony Christmas Concert: 7.30pm Saturday 16th December in the Grove Building.

Christmas Services:

Tuesday 19th 7.00pm Lessons & Carols by Candlelight
Thursday 21st 7.00pm Christmas Service of Remembrance
Remembering loved ones at Christmas
Sunday 24th 11.00am Carols at the Clock Tower
4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Monday 25th 10.30am Family Communion

ADVENT 2

Collect: O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Isaiah 40.1-11*

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' ⁶A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Second Reading: *2 Peter 3.8-15a*

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and

godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Gospel Reading: *Mark 1.1-8*

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Post Communion Prayer:

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 61 1-4, 8-11: 1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24: John 1. 6-8, 19-28