

Notices continued:

The Healing Team: Two members of the Healing Group will be in our Space For Grace after the 9.30 service today for anyone to share their concerns, doubts, fears or worries or to say thank you. It is done in complete confidence.

The Knit and Stitch group: Thank you to everyone - £160 has been sent to The Benjamin Foundation - proceeds from the Knit & Stitch Christmas stall and the silent auction of the Advent calendar. The next proper meeting will be on Friday 19th January at 2.30pm. All welcome More details from Mary:638897 or Geraldine

Food Bank Update: Thank you to everyone who has been donating food for the food bank, everything goes to the Salvation Army. Please bear in mind when you buy that some people don't have cookers, but anything you can spare is very welcome. Please continue to check the sell by dates, this is really important. Thank you all for your support. Sandy R.



The Third Sunday of Advent. December 17th 2017.

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH AT ADVENT:

As you light your Advent candles in anticipation of celebrating the coming of the Christ child, we invite you to join USPG in praying for mothers and children who are served by the mission world church. *
USPG – United Society Partners in the Gospel.

Third Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist:

O God of justice, whose servant John prepared the way for Jesus' coming; we pray for the medical mission of the Church of Bangladesh as it prepares the way for prematurely born children. Bless the babies from different faiths who share the warmth of a common incubator. May their world become a fair and just home for all.

Processional Hymn: 140 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Gradual Hymn: 589 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Offertory Hymn: 307 Hills of the north rejoice

Final Hymn: 692 Tell out, my soul

Collect: God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son; give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 61.1–4, 8–11

The servant of the LORD said: 1The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the

Services at St Michael's:

Next Sunday: 24th December 2017: (NO 8AM SERVICE)

9.30 am Said Communion (BCP) for Advent 4;

3.30pm Crib Service;

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day:

10.15am Family Service with Holy Communion afterwards for those who wish to stay.

New Year's Eve: 31st December 2017

No services at St Michael's Church.

Services at All Saints Saxtead:

Next Sunday: 24th December 2017:

6.00pm Carol Service

Christmas Day:

9.15am Holy Communion and Carols

New Year's Eve: 31st December 2017

10am Holy Communion joint with St Michael's (CW) AT SAXTEAD.

Rector: The Rev Canon Mark Sanders Tel: 01728 768875 Email: revmarksanders@tiscali.co.uk Associate Priest: Revd. Mary Lamb. Email: marylamb1952@googlemail.com Parish Office: Telephone 01728 621255 Email framparish@gmail.com

captives, and release to the prisoners; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 8 For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For the word of the Lord.

Response (ALL): **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn: 589 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Advent Gospel Acclamation - Rees

GOSPEL: John 1.6–8, 19–28

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Response (ALL): Glory to you, O Lord.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' 21 And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' 22 Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' 23 He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as the prophet Isaiah said. 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are

neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' 26 John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' 28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Response (ALL): **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Post Communion: We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever. Amen.

Please pray for: Thelma Durrant, Patrick Lowin, Olwin Bridges, Desmond and Renee Clifton, Trevor Newton, Joyce Davis and any who are unwell at this time.

Wednesday 20th December – 10.30am Holy Communion – *There will be no mid-week Communion on Wed 27th December.*

Notices:

Prayer Meeting: The next meeting is on Monday 18th December 7 – 8pm, at the Rectory. Please bring a Christmas prayer and/or a poem to read. All welcome.

Carol Singing in the Co-op for Christian Aid: Monday 18th December, 4-6pm, at the Co-op. All voices and players welcome! Tea and mince pies to follow in UFC Hall.

New choir members for Christmas! If you enjoy singing and would like to be part of the choir for our midnight service on Christmas Eve then please come along to choir practice on Friday 22nd 6pm in the Tower Room. For more information ask any choir member or talk to our organist Paul. We would love to see you there.

Christmas Holly Wreaths: If anyone would like to order a holly wreath to hang up in church in memory of a loved one please see the sign-up sheet at the back of church. Thank you.

Lifts for the New Year's Eve Service at Saxtead: On Sunday 31st December at 10am there will be a joint Parish Communion service with Saxtead at All Saints Church, *there will be no service at St Michael's on that Sunday.* Could anyone who will be driving from Framlingham and would be willing to offer a lift to those who need one, please add their name to the sign-up sheet at the back of church? Thank you.

Christmas Eve Nativity Play and Carols: Everyone is welcome to come along at 3.30pm on Sunday 24th December to see the children of Framlingham present the Christmas story here at St Michael's Church.