

## Notices:

**Women's British Legion:** A warm welcome to the Framlingham Women's branch of the Royal British Legion who are laying up their Standard in St Michael's Church this morning.

**FOSM Christmas Lunch** This delicious lunch is happening on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Everyone is welcome to come to this very sociable occasion, so do join us.

**Christmas Wreaths:** If you would like to give some money to buy flowers instead of a Christmas wreath this year, please let Wendy Phelan know. Names of people remembered will be listed in the Space for Grace.

**Collection at Light up a Life:** St Elisabeth's Hospice are delighted to say that the collection at the service here on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November raised £285.68. This sum will provide over 14 hours of nursing care and is very much appreciated. A big thank you to all who attended the service and gave so generously.

**Suffolk Historic Churches Bike Ride:** Many thanks to those who contributed in any way to the success of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride this year. St Michael's has now received £132.50.

**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. It is done in complete confidence.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to those of you who have continued to contribute donations of food to the church food bank. As you know everything from St Michaels goes to the Woodbridge branch of the Salvation Army. Quite a lot of the people they help are homeless and don't have access to cookers, so could you bear that in mind as well when you are buying. Tinned meat or fish and other basics are the most urgently needed (all within the sell by date please). Once again many thanks and keep them coming. Sandy Rowles.

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

The  
**Church of Saint Michael**  
Framlingham  
with All Saints Saxtead



## The Third Sunday of Advent December 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

### Today's Service:

Ceremony for the Laying up of the Standard for the Framlingham Women's branch of the Royal British Legion (See A5 sheet)

**Hymn: 547** O God our help in ages past

**Processional Hymn: 286** Hark! A herald voice is calling

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

**Offertory Hymn: 786** Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling

**Final Hymn: 307** Hills of the north, rejoice

Kyries in Advent 3 - Michael Booker.

**Collect:** O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### First Reading: Isaiah 35.1–10

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, 2 and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will

come and save you.' 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

For the word of the Lord.

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

**Gradual hymn: 589** On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

**Alleluia:** For Advent – Alan Rees

**Response (ALL) Alleluia x 3**

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 11.2–11

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' 4 Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger

ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." 11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent**

John the Baptist

Lord Jesus, your cousin John

prepared the way for your coming.

Inspire your church across the world,

Like John, to speak out against injustice:

that the world may become

a fairer and just home for all.

**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:** Patrick Lewin and Graham Vellacott, Michael Bridges, Olwin Bridges, Desmond and Renee Clifton, Trevor Newton, Joyce Davis and any who are unwell at this time.

**Wednesday** 14<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am Holy Communion. In the Rectory.

**Next Sunday:** Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December: 8am Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer.) 9.30am Parish Communion (Common Worship). 6.00pm Churches Together carol service. Saxeat: 11.15am Holy Communion (CW.)