



**THE PARISHES OF
LEDBURY AND EASTNOR**

*Worshipping God,
Following Jesus, Sharing His Love*



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday 24th December 2017

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
(Led by The Revd Michael Gallagher)
- 9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
*(Led by The Revd Bill Mackenzie
Preacher: The Revd Michael Gallagher)*
- 4.00pm Eastnor Carol Service
(Led by The Revd Joan Wakeling)
- 4.00pm Christingle
(Led by Revd Keith Hilton-Turvey and Mary Ann Keyes)
- 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion
*(Led by Revd Keith Hilton-Turvey
and Revd William Simmonds)*

Church Diary for the week ahead

- Monday 25th December Christmas Day
 - 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
 - 9.30am Christmas Communion
 - 11.15am Eastnor Christmas Communion
- Friday 29th December
 - 9.00am Prayer Meeting, S^t Anne's Chapel
 - 10.30am Holy Communion, S^t Katherine's Chapel

Next Sunday 31st December 2017

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
- 6.30pm Watchnight Service

Readings for 24th December 2017:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 1 Samuel 2: 1 – 10

¹Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation. ²"There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God. ³Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge and by Him actions are weighed. ⁴The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. ⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. ⁶The LORD kills and brings to life; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and He exalts. ⁸He raises up the poor from the dust; He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honour. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's and on them He has set the world. ⁹"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. ¹⁰The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them He will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; He will give strength to His king and exalt the power of His anointed."

Second Reading: Luke 1: 34 – 38

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy —the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 46 – 55

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For *behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed*; ⁴⁹for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich He has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, ⁵⁵as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring for ever."

COLLECT

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray for:

) Our link CMS mission partners, our Leprosy Mission partners Victor & Mary Parisipogula, and S^t Michael and All Angels, Mtwara and S^t John the Baptist Church, Likonde.

Those who are sick:

Dean Jackson	Sheila Anthony	Pauline (Eastnor)	Margaret Riley
Valerie Clark	Steve Taylor		

We remember those who have died and pray for those who mourn their passing:

Bob Hayden	Andrew Pickup	Barbara Bush	Kath Mowbray
Margaret Cherry	Jean Elton	Gisela Gardner	

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 5th January 2018 COFFEE STOP in the CHAPTER HOUSE from 10.00am to 12.00noon. Do come and join us.

February 9th-11th 2018 Llangasty Quiet Weekend. This is a reminder that The Llangasty Weekend is coming up again at the beginning of next year. Revd Elizabeth Reed will be the speaker and the theme she has chosen is "Blessings". Further details from Cherry Bentley-Taylor 660261 Email: cherry@bently-taylor.com. Closing date for booking is **Sunday 7th January 2018**. Please see Christabel for booking forms.

Saturday 3rd March 2018 Church Awayday at Pool Barn, Priors Court. The LMDG is organising a Church awayday. The Revd. Dr. John Daniels will be leading the day. If you are interested, please put this in your diary.

2018 Lent Lunches. Raising funds for a school bus for kindergarten children in Mtwara. **Saturday 24th February** at Ashperton Village Hall, **Friday 16th March** at New House Farm, Putley, **Thursday 22nd March** at S^t Katherine's Hall and **Tuesday 26th March** at 26 Pound Meadow, Ledbury. More dates to follow. We hope to raise £1000, watch this space.

Saturday 14th April 2018 – Advance Notice. The Ledbury Choral Society present Bob Chilcott's *Requiem*. see www.ledburychoral.btck.co.uk

NEW VENUE

Ecumenical Worship on Monday evenings at 8.00pm will now take place at Ledbury Baptist Church. All very welcome.

NOTICES

Tower Illuminations: are sponsored this week by Chris Flynn and Wendy Jones.

The new list of dates for sponsoring the tower lighting is now available at the back of church. Thank you to all who signed up for this year. If you have not paid the sponsorship money, please give it to a churchwarden.

Young Church: There is no Young Church today or Sunday 31st December.

Christmas Cards! Stop!

Before you rush out and buy lots of Christmas cards for your friends at St Michael's, remember that you can put a single card for all your friends on the board in the church. Think of the time you will save! And the money! You might like to give this to the two charities which have been chosen by the church by putting it in the container which will be at the back of the church from the beginning of December, **The Friends of St Michael's** and **Ledbury Community Action** which runs Dial a Ride and provides mobility vehicles and community transport for the town.

Stamps raise money – a reminder to please put all and any used stamps from the Christmas cards you receive into the box at the back of the church. These and other 'collectibles raise a lot of money for the work of the Leprosy Mission each year.

Magazine. The December/January edition is now available. If you feel that there is someone who would appreciate a copy but does not come to church, please take a copy for them. The February copy will be compiled by Brian Bowers and contributions should be sent to him by **15th January**. Contact details - by Email at blizbowers.10@gmail.com or by phone at 631306.

Intercessions. The rota for the first half of 2018 has now been distributed to intercessors, by email where known, otherwise in pigeon holes. Please would you check that you have received your copy. Any problems, please let Tony Goodall know (635480).

Chapter House Small Group: There will not be meeting on the morning of Thursday 28th December.

If you are new here, please fill in one of the blue welcome cards located at the end of each pew so that you can receive information about church activities. Yellow Gift Aid envelopes are available at the end of each pew and at the back of the church. There is a Hearing Loop in this Church. Gluten free wafers are available; please ask one of the Sidespeople.

Service Times and lectionary readings can be found posted in the church porch and on the church website www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk under the 'Services' section.

Facebook – The church has a facebook page:

[fb.me/stmichaelsledbury](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsledbury) – take a look, like and participate

Twitter – If you use Twitter do sign-up to S. Michael's twitter account: **@LedburyParish**

Parish office: phone number: 01531 631531. **Email:** ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net