



THE PARISHES OF LEDBURY AND EASTNOR

*Worshipping God,
Following Jesus, Sharing His Love*



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday 16th December 2018

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
Led by The Revd Canon Ryc Smith
- 9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
Led by The Revd Bill Mackenzie
Preacher The Revd Keith Hilton-Turvey
- 6.30pm Mary's Boy Child Service
Led by The Revd Keith Hilton-Turvey

Church Diary for the week ahead

Mon	17th December	8:00pm	Ecumenical Worship, Ledbury Baptist Church
Thurs	20th December	7-12-7 10.30am	Prayers Mothers' Union Corporate Communion, S ^t Katherine's Chapel
Friday	21st December	9:00am 10:30am	Prayer Meeting, S ^t Anne's Chapel Holy Communion, S ^t Katherine's Chapel

Next Sunday 23rd December 2018 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
11.15am Eastnor Parish Communion

If you are new here, welcome. 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](https://twitter.com/LedburyParish)

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

Readings for 16th December 2018:

Advent 3

First Reading: **Zephaniah 3: 14 – 20**

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgements against you;

He has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

He will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold! At that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

Second Reading: **Philippians 4: 4 – 7**

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!

⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: **Luke 3: 7 – 18**

⁷[John] said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”

¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorised to do.”

¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptise you with water, but He who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

¹⁷His winnowing fork is in His hand, to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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 for ever. **Amen.**

We pray for:

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

Those who are sick:

Dean Jackson	Steve Taylor	Doreen
Rob Harding		Summerfield

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

Michael Walker	Faith Gordon	Nancy Turner	John Cutler
Gwendoline Tilbrook			

NOTICES

Beginning on Sunday 6th January 2019 there will be some service changes:
(8am BCP remains unchanged)

Morning services at S. Michael's will (all) be at 10am

There will be a morning worship service on the second Sunday of the month

There will be a 6:30pm communion service on the second Sunday of the month

(this is in addition to the evening services on the 1st & 3rd Sundays which continue as before)

Baptisms will continue to take place on the first Sunday of the month.

The Tower Illuminations this week are sponsored by Doll Tow.

The 2019 Tower Sponsorship List is now at the back of the Church, please sign up to sponsor the illuminations.

A big thank you to Steve and Mark for putting up and decorating the beautiful Christmas Tree in Church.

Young Church: today there will be Rehearsals for Christingle and Christmas morning.

Next week the children will be rehearsing for Christingle and Christmas morning and Christingle Orange making.

Christmas Cards. The time for writing Christmas cards has come but don't panic. As in previous years we are going to have a display board for cards to other members of the congregation. *Put a card on the board for the rest of your friends here.* You don't need then to write and distribute individual cards. Maybe you would like to give a donation to the church of the money you have saved. The Board and the container to collect donations will be in place **today and next Sunday 23rd December.**

Travelling Crib: The Travelling Crib has started its journey around Ledbury. The List is at the back of the Church or see Jill (Young Church 01531 635129) if you or a group you are involved with would like to take it.

LIFTS TO CHURCH. Please is there anybody that would be able to give lifts to and from church on the first Sunday of the month for 3 older people living in the Biddulph Way area. I am no longer able to undertake this. Also lifts needed from New Mills area on any Sunday. If you are able to help please contact Joyce Potter TEL: 01531 637280

Readers Rota: Richard Thursby has prepared the Readers Rota for 2019. Those who have volunteered to read a lesson should have received a copy by email or in their pigeonhole. If you cannot find it, let Richard know.

Pastoral Care Support. Upto Christmas someone from the Pastoral Care Team will sit in one of the pews on **Tuesday mornings from 10.30 for about an hour**, offering support to anyone who feels like coming and having a little chat about whatever is on your mind. It happens to the best of us at times and it is comforting to know there is someone out there who is willing to sit and listen to whatever you want to talk about in confidence.

Pastoral Care Support Group. Christmas and the New Year can be especially difficult times for anyone who is housebound or on their own for any reason. It would be greatly appreciated if you can think of anyone who may enjoy a home visit, and let Priscilla know by phone 01531 632502 or via email priska@tiscali.co.uk. Giving name and contact details. It is important that you have permission for us to personally contact those concerned!

Intercessions. The rota for the first half of 2019 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).

Leadon Bank Bible Study Group has been fully attended since its inception but now has space for two more attendees due to participants 'moving on'. It is a very friendly group that meets in the Meeting Room at Leadon Bank on the **second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 10.30 am**. If you would like to come along or know someone who would, please ring David Wood-Robinson on 632347 or David Gates on 631263.

A new set of BCP Holy Communion orders of service are being printed (by Alan Starkey), for both the church and S. Katherine's. These will replace the current ones which are getting rather tired. We hope to use them for the first time on Christmas Day.

Magazine if you would like the magazine emailed to you please email Sarah in the Church office. (ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TODAY 16th December at 6:30 pm. Mary's Boy Child - a nativity play for people of all ages. Book the date now. Instead of the normal town carol service, we will be producing a nativity play for people of all ages. Singing will be led by the Ledbury Community Choir who will also sing a number of choral items. After the service mulled wine and mince pies will be provided. Please come and bring your friends. There is no better way to start the Christmas season. Invite people from the clubs to which you belong. We want a real celebration of what Christmas really means.

Wednesday 19th December - Carol Singing: Young Church, accompanied by Phillip Holland and other members of the congregation, will be singing at Harling Court and Born Court, as usual this year, **from 4.30 pm**. Please join us. Contact Jill 01531 635129 for more information.

Thursday 20th December – 10:30am MU Holy Communion in S. Katherine's Chapel with Revd. David Wood-Robinson.

Thursday 20th December – A Festive Evening at Eastnor Castle 6pm-8.30pm. This includes a tour led by James Hervey-Bathurst with Carols sung by Ledbury Choral Society, enjoyed with a glass of wine and a mince pie. To raise funds for Eastnor Tower Appeal. Tickets from Beverly 636378 or Joan Wakeling 633188.

Christmas Eve: Monday 24th December 4pm Christingle Service

Christmas Eve: Monday 24th December 4pm Eastnor Carol Service

Christmas Eve: Monday 24th December 11:30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day: Tuesday 25th December 8.00am BCP Holy Communion

Christmas Day: Tuesday 25th December 9.30am Christmas Morning Communion

Christmas Day: Tuesday 25th December 11.15am Eastnor Christmas Communion

Sunday 30th December 6:30pm Carol Praise: come and sing some of your favourite hymns and carols. Philip will be taking requests! Invite and bring family, friends and neighbours.

Monday 31st December 12noon Philip Holland is planning an open recital. Bring a seasonal piece to perform or come to listen and enjoy a mince pie and drink. Please contact Philip if you wish to play at ledburyorgan@gmail.com