



THE PARISHES OF LEDBURY AND EASTNOR

*Worshipping God,
Following Jesus, Sharing His Love*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday 23rd December 2018



- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
Led by The Revd James Stewart
- 9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
Led by The Revd Keith Hilton-Turvey
- 11.15am Eastnor Parish Communion
Led by The Revd Joan Wakeling

Church Diary for the week ahead

Monday	24th December		Christmas Eve
		4.00pm	Christingle
		4.00pm	Eastnor Carol Service
		11.15am	Midnight Communion
Tuesday	25th December		Christmas Day
		8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
		9.30am	Christmas Morning Communion
		11.15am	Eastnor Christmas Communion
Friday	28th December	10.30am	Holy Communion, S ^t Katherine's Chapel

Next Sunday 30th December 2018 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
- 6.30pm Favourite Hymns and Carols

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 23rd December 2018: *Advent 4*

First Reading: **Micah 5: 2 – 5a**

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore He shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵And He shall be their peace.

Second Reading: **Hebrews 10: 5 – 10**

⁵... when Christ came into the world, He said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings You have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸When He said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then He added, “Behold, I have come to do Your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Reading: **Luke 1: 39 – 55**

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry,

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And 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.

⁵⁰And His 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 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	John Lowe
Rob Harding	Jules Schad	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 Fred and Millie Holland.

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 the children will be rehearsing for Christingle and Christmas morning and Christingle Orange making. There will be no Young Church next week.

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.

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 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!

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)

STAMPS FOR GOOD CAUSES: Please remember that any of the stamps on the Christmas cards people kindly send to you can be used to raise money for the LEPROSY MISSION. Please put them in the box at the back of the church. Many thanks.

A Message from Sue Farrell: Thank you to the church family for your loving concern and prayers for me during these weeks of my illness. The CT scan and other procedures have shown no sign of cancer, for which I am truly grateful. I am now being treated for Iron Deficiency Anaemia. I hope that gratefully my strength and vitality will be restored and I shall be back to my normal self.

These "laid aside" days have been filled with God's presence, and His many, many blessings. I give him the praise and the glory.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name." Ps 103

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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