



**THE PARISHES OF
LEDBURY AND EASTNOR**



*Worshipping God,
Following Jesus, Sharing His Love*

**Sunday 29th December
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
Led by The Revd Michael Gallagher
- 10.00am Parish Communion and Prayer Ministry
*Led by The Revd Keith Hilton-Turvey
Preacher The Revd Michael Gallagher*
- 6.30pm Carol Praise
Led by The Revd Keith Hilton-Turvey

Church Diary for the week ahead

Monday 30 th December	8:00pm	Ecumenical Worship, Ledbury Baptist Church
Thursday 2 nd January	7-12-7	Prayers
Friday 3 rd January	9:00am	Prayer Meeting, S ^t Anne's Chapel
	10:30am	Holy Communion, S ^t Katherine's Chapel

**Next Sunday 5th January 2020
EPIPHANY**

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion and Prayer Ministry
6.30pm Evensong

If you are new here, welcome. Please fill in one of the 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 can be found posted in the church porch and on the church website www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk under the 'Services' section.

Facebook – The church's facebook page: fb.me/stmichaelsledbury – take a look, like and participate.

Twitter – Do sign-up to S. Michael's twitter account: [@LedburyParish](https://twitter.com/LedburyParish).

Parish office: phone number: 01531 631 531.

Email: ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net

Readings for 29th December:

Christmas 1

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 63: 7 – 9

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us and the great goodness to the house of Israel that He has granted them according to His compassion, according to the abundance of His steadfast love.

⁸For He said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And He became their Saviour. ⁹In all their affliction He was afflicted and the angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 2: 10 – 18

¹⁰It was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

¹¹For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹²saying,

"I will tell of your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."

¹³And again, "I will put my trust in Him."

And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."

¹⁴Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

¹⁶For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham.

¹⁷Therefore He had to be made like His brethren in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 13 – 23

¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and His mother and flee to Egypt; and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy Him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take the child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and

His mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

COLLECT

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in Your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through Your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as He came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of His divinity; 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, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help Your Church to live as one family united in love and obedience to You and Your Word and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; 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, Mtwarra and S^t John the Baptist Church, Likonde.

Those who are sick:

Phyl Sykes	Steve Taylor	Dean Jackson	Mike Wakeford
Barbara Williams	Jenny Bury	Jane Nicholas	Mildred Gray
Sheila Anthony	Eve Stone	Don Rule	Miles Oliver
John Boyle	Hilary Sharp	Shirley Everard	

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

Dougie Caffull	Doris Mitton	Mary Bagley	James Mansell
Alan Moore			

NOTICES

Tower Lights are sponsored this week by Sue Simpson.

Intercessions. The rota for the first half of 2020 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).

Stop Press The Bible in a year

Why not begin on **1st January** to read or listen to the Bible as a year's project?

With the Holy Trinity Brompton app you can load it onto your 'smart phone' or iPad and listen or read each day from the Bible. You can also choose to listen or read a short commentary by Rev'd Nicky Gumble (of Alpha fame) who will briefly explain each passage. You can log on at any time and you do not need to wait till the New Year to start!

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/bible-in-one-year/id504133402>

Lent Groups 2020

Ecumenical discussion groups will again be organised for Lent 2020 - which runs from **February 26th to 11th April**. We plan to offer at least seven different groups at a range of venues (usually homes) and on a selection of weekday time-slots - morning, afternoon or evening.

Do consider making one of these stimulating groups part of your personal Lenten preparation! And if you can offer to host or facilitate a group, please get in touch with Stephen Chowns (01531 634896 or schowns@aol.com) or Peter Veasey (01531 632099 or oldwell@btinternet.com).

Bells Appeal: We have now had offers for sponsorship for 30 of the 48 items which offer specific naming opportunities. Our warm thanks to all who have responded to this latest initiative. This includes, for instance, four new bells (@ £10,000), 19 of the 22 clock hammers (@£500) and 3 or the ten bell ropes (@ £200). We would love to have found sponsors for the three remaining clock hammers and 7 remaining ropes before the end of the year. Can you help us? It is a great chance to have your name permanently associated with the tower. Do you know anyone else who could help us? (Contact Tim Keyes on 579021).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TODAY at 6.30pm: Carol Praise. Have you missed singing any of your favourite Christmas Carols this year? Let Philip or Keith know and we can all sing them together at Carol Praise.

Friday 3rd January 10am - 12noon: Coffee Stop in the Chapter House. Please drop in. It would be good to see you.

Sunday 5th January: Epiphany Sunday

Tuesday 7th January, from 10.00am.

Contemplative Prayer. Sessions take place in St. Katherine's Chapel on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Sunday 19th January 3pm: Christian Unity Service. A new time so that the Roman Catholics and Romanian Orthodox are able to join us.

Saturday 25th January – 9.15am for 9.30am Men's Breakfast at the Seven Stars restaurant on the Homend. Cost £8. The speaker will be the Revd Graeme Anderson talking about how he came to be leading a major city centre church in Coventry. Please sign the sheet at the back of church if you hope to come so that we can give some idea of how many to cater for. Thank you

Saturday 25th January - Burns Night: 7.00 pm in St Katherine's). Tickets are now available for this "not-to-be-missed" Friends event. There will be a piper, traditional food, all the special ceremony and (short!) speeches, some poems of Burns and a bit of dancing at the end for those who like to do that. It will a great evening out. Contact Tim Keyes – 01531 579021. Tickets £15.

Advance notices:

Sunday 26th January 3:30pm Newcomers Welcome Tea. Mary Anne Keyes will be organising this regular event after Christmas.

Sunday 2nd February 4pm Candlemas. A new Candle Service which will be followed by refreshments.

Tuesday 25th February – Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 26th February – Ash Wednesday: 12:30pm: Ash Wednesday Communion (with ashing for those who wish) followed by soup in the chapter house.

Wednesday 26th February – Ash Wednesday: 7:30pm: Ash Wednesday Communion (with ashing for those who wish)