

# Services this week

## Epiphany: Sunday Cycle Year A

Services/Events are at St Michael's unless stated otherwise  
St Michael's open: Monday-Friday 8.30 am - 4 pm  
St Mary's open: Tuesday 10 am - 1 pm (not Jan-Feb)

SUNDAY (25) EPIPHANY 3	Mass with Hymns (St Peter) Sung Mass Prayers for Unity (St James)	9 am 10.30 am 12 noon
Monday (26) Conversion of Paul	Morning Prayer and Rosary	8.45 am
Tuesday (27) Feria	Morning Prayer	8.45 am
Wednesday (28) Thomas Aquinas	Morning Prayer	8.45 am
Thursday (29) Feria	Morning Prayer Mass	8.45 am 11 am
Friday (30) Charles, king and martyr	Morning Prayer Messy Church	8.45 am 3.15 pm
Saturday (31) John Bosco	Morning Prayer Mass	8.45 am 9.30 am
SUNDAY (1) PRESENTATION OF CHRIST	Mass with Hymns (St Peter) Sung Mass	9 am 10.30 am

## Notices

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Final opportunity to join in Prayers for Unity, today 12 noon at St James the Less.

### Messy Church - Friday 30 January

Helpers needed please see Gill Kerney. Families welcome - please encourage booking (to help with catering) at <https://www.chalkspringchurches.org/coming-soon>.

### Christian Basics / Refresher Course

The last session is from 10.30-12 noon on Saturday 31 January at St Michael's. See Fr Michael for information.

### Dorothy Tibbles RIP

Dorothy's funeral will take place on Monday 9 February, 11 am at Tribe's Chapel, Shoreham.

### Next Chalk Spring Supper Club

Saturday 21 February, 7.30 pm at Beach Green Hotel. Sign up sheet available. Please sign up by Sunday 8 February.

### No parking in the church garden please

Please could we discourage any parking in the St Michael's church garden at the moment as the ground is very wet and boggy. Your support with this is appreciated.

### Please send all events in for the Bulletin

For all church groups or events please submit details so it can be included in the parish calendar, on the Bulletin and avoid clashes. If dates change it is also important to make this known. Send emails to [stmichaelslancing@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelslancing@gmail.com).

### Two opportunities to sponsor a candle - only £5

Sheets are now available to sponsor the candle by the Blessed Sacrament or the candle by the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary - for a special prayer request, for a cause / charity / society, in memory of a loved one, or to mark an important date.

### Recycling to raise funds

Don't forget we can collect and recycle gold and silver jewellery, costume jewellery, watches, banknotes and coins (UK or foreign of any age), mobile phones, film cameras, digital cameras, sat navs, games consoles, games and accessories, iPods, MP3 players and tablet computers to raise money for our churches.

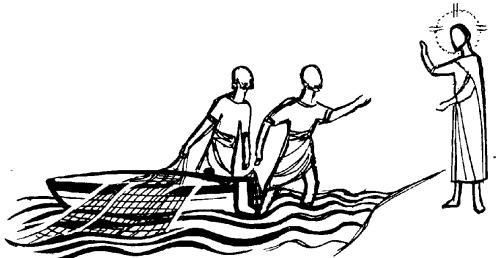
# SUNDAY BULLETIN

Bulletin No. 435

25 January 2026

St Michael and All Angels, Lancing  
St Mary the Virgin, Sompting  
St Peter the Apostle, Sompting

## Third Sunday of Epiphany



Welcome to our worship today.

9 am Celebrant and Preacher: Father Gerald Kirsch

10.30 am Celebrant and Preacher: Father Ben Scott

*Father David Pike is the celebrant at St James the Less*

Refreshments are available after both services

## For your prayers...

BIRTHDAYS: Mary Violet, Suzanne Pike, Annette Williamson, Carol Ferrario

SICK OR IN NEED: Tony Goldstraw, Ben Hollins, Daphne Gaitley, Laurette Gaitley, Mark Gilbert, Rena Gaitley John and Brenda Wyatt, Olive Leonard, Richard Thompson, Ben Stanton, # Susan Walpole and Patricia Barrett # (#= due for renewal)

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Dorothy Tibbles, Reginald Spells and Denise Sandell

THE DEPARTED COMMEMORATED THIS WEEK: Winifred Parsons, Florrie Sandaver, William Duplock, Jill Slattery, Charles Snow and Joe Mackey

PARISH: Coniston Close, Langdale Close, Ambleside Road

THE LAMP BURNING BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is sponsored this week for John Redman RIP

THE LAMP BURNING BY THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY STATUE is sponsored this week for Edward Joseph (Joe) Mackey RIP

*Names of the sick are included on the Bulletin for 4 weeks after which they have to be renewed in writing.*

## Events this week

*Full list of services on the back page*

Services/Events are at St Michael's unless stated otherwise

Sun: Epiphany 3: Prayers for Christian Unity 12 noon (St James the Less)  
Thur: Mass 11 am; Funeral Reginald Spells RIP (Tribe's Chapel, Shoreham); Funeral Denise Sandell RIP 1 pm (St Mary); Baby Boomers coach trip to Southampton to see Miss Saigon, time tbc (Mayflower Theatre)  
Fri: Messy Church 3.15 – 5 pm  
Sat: Mass 9.30 am - all Walsingham pilgrims are requested to attend; Christian Basics course 10.30 am  
Sun: Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas): Services at usual times; Alive! (Children's group)

All items for inclusion in next Sunday Bulletin, in writing, to Ian Tout by Wednesday 12 noon. Please send emails to [stmichaelslancing@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelslancing@gmail.com)

## Calendar

### JANUARY

Sunday 11	<b>Baptism of Christ:</b> Services at usual times
Thursday 15	Mass 11 am; <u>Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting</u> 7.30 pm
<u>18th - 25th January - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</u>	
Sunday 18	<b>Epiphany 2:</b> Services at usual times; 9 am (St Mary); <u>United Service</u> 4 pm (St Michael)
Monday 19	<u>Prayers for Christian Unity</u> 12 noon (Sompting URC)
Tuesday 20	<u>Craft Club</u> 10 am; <u>Prayers for Christian Unity</u> 12 noon (St Mary)
Wednesday 21	<u>Prayers for Christian Unity</u> 12 noon (Methodist); <u>Evergreen</u> 2 pm
Thursday 22	Mass with Anointing 11 am; <u>Prayers for Christian Unity</u> 12 noon (St Michael)
Friday 23	<u>Prayers for Christian Unity</u> 12 noon (Holy Family); <u>Memory Lane Cafe</u> 2 pm
Saturday 24	Mass 9.30 am (Walsingham Cell); <u>Prayers for Christian Unity</u> 12 noon (St Peter); <u>Games</u> Afternoon 3 pm
Sunday 25	<b>Epiphany 3:</b> Services at usual times; <u>Prayers for Christian Unity</u> 12 noon (St James the Less)
Friday 30	<u>Messy Church</u> 3.15 – 5 pm

### FEBRUARY

Sunday 1	<b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas):</b> Services at usual times; <u>Alive! (Children's group):</u> "The Net" (Spring) printing
Monday 2	<u>Craft Club</u> 10 am
Tuesday 3	<u>Ecumenical Morning Prayer</u> 8 am (Holy Family); <u>Social Afternoon</u> 2 pm (St Peter)
Wednesday 4	Church cleaning 9.15 am; Mass 11 am
Thursday 5	Mass for the Company of Mission Priests
Friday 6	12 noon; <u>Mothers' Union meeting</u> 2.30 pm, <u>XYZ</u>
7-14 February: Marriage Week	
Sunday 8	<b>2 before Lent:</b> Services at usual times
Thursday 12	Mass 11 am; <u>Standing Committee meeting</u> 7.30 pm
Saturday 14	Mass 9.30 am; <u>Mini Market</u> 10 am - 12 noon
Sunday 15	<b>Next before Lent:</b> Services at usual times; 9 am (St Mary); <u>Evening Worship</u> 6.30 pm (St Peter)
Tuesday 17	<u>Craft Club</u> 10 am, <u>Rooted</u> 3-4.30 pm
Wednesday 18	<b>Ash Wednesday:</b> Mass with Giving of Ashes 11 am (St James the Less); <u>Evergreen</u> 2 pm; <u>Solemn Mass with Giving of Ashes</u> 7.30 pm (St Michael's)
Friday 20	<u>Wedding of Charlotte Hollis and Jack Carter</u> Time TBC (St Mary); <u>Stations of the Cross and Benediction</u> 7.30 pm
Saturday 21	Mass 9.30 am; <u>Reflection/Quiet Day</u> 10 am - 3.30 pm; <u>Chalk Spring Supper Club</u>
Sunday 22	<b>Lent 1:</b> Services at usual times
Thursday 26	Mass with Anointing 11 am
Friday 27	<u>Memory Lane Cafe</u> 2 pm; <u>Stations of the Cross and Benediction</u> 7.30 pm
Saturday 28	Mass 9.30 am (Walsingham Cell); "The Net" (Spring) folding 10 am

### MARCH

Sunday 1	<b>Lent 2:</b> Services at usual times; <u>Alive! (Children's group):</u> "The Net" (Spring) distribution
Tuesday 3	<u>Craft Club</u> 10 am
Wednesday 4	<u>Ecumenical Morning Prayer</u> 8 am (St Michael); <u>Social Afternoon</u> 2 pm
Thursday 5	Church Cleaning 9.15 am; Mass 11 am; <u>Lent Lunch</u> 12-1 pm; <u>Lent Course</u>
Friday 6	<u>World Day of Prayer service</u> 10.30 am (St Michael and All Angels); <u>Stations of the Cross and Benediction</u> 7.30 pm
Sunday 8	<b>Lent 3:</b> Services at usual times
Thursday 12	Mass 11 am; <u>Lent Lunch</u> 12-1 pm; <u>Lent Course</u> ; <u>Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting</u> 7.30 pm

## Fr Ben writes...

As we begin 2026, the Church invites us not just to turn a page on the calendar, but to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's revealing love. The world around us may feel cold and dim, and yet the liturgy of the Church glows with the bright promise of Epiphany. When the nights are long and the earth appears dormant, the Gospel speaks insistently of manifestation, illumination, and hope.

We begin this season with the feast of The Epiphany of the Lord, when the wise men from the East are drawn by a light they do not fully understand. They come with gifts, not knowing what they will find, but trusting that the star has guided them to truth. Their journey is our journey. Like them, we offer what we have – our time, talents, material wealth – placing them at the feet of Christ so that he may use them for the building up of his Church and the blessing of the world. Epiphany reminds us that our generosity is a spiritual act: a participation in the self-giving love through which God reveals himself.

This revelation continues in the feast of The Baptism of the Lord. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus steps into the depths of our human condition, sanctifying the very elements of creation and opening for us the way of eternal life. The Father proclaims, "This is my beloved Son." It is a moment of profound unveiling: Christ is made known to all nations. And in our baptism, we share in that epiphany. We are called to make Christ known, to be living signs of his presence in a world that often struggles to see beyond its present darkness.

Our journey then finds its fulfilment in the feast of Candlemas, or The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, when we celebrate Christ as the Light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of God's people Israel. On that day, candles are blessed and carried – a reminder that the light which shone over Bethlehem and guided pilgrims from afar now burns in our own hearts. Candlemas marks the hinge between Christmastide, and the events of Holy Week and Easter. It invites us to carry the light of Christ forward, not as something fragile, but as something triumphant, entrusted to us for the sake of the world.

May we journey with confidence that the true Light has come into the world, a light the darkness cannot overcome. Let us offer our gifts with generosity, our lives with devotion, and our witness with courage, that Christ may be revealed afresh in our parish, in our community, and in our own hearts.

With my prayers and every blessing for the year ahead.

Father Ben

## Christmas in our two parishes

Victor Oliver

It's amazing to think that the 11th century Coombes Church in the hamlet of Coombes is mentioned in the Domesday Book. This was the location for one of the many recent Christmas services in the two parishes on a coldish 20 December afternoon. It has no electricity supply; any kind of heating would probably damage its fragile structures, so a large congregation (extra seating was required) sat wrapped in coats and jackets – just as well the temperature outside was not sub-zero.

What we lacked in heat was made up by beautiful music from the Sinfonia of Arun Wind Quintet as we sang traditional carols. Given the bare essentials, it was the ideal setting for the baby Jesus story that, as we know, features a basic stable. After the service, we repaired to the Coombes Farm barn and warmed ourselves on mulled wine and mince pies.

In the other churches, radiators ran hot. Ian Tout's Top 10 carols 'show' at St Michael's proved to be jolly. I can't remember now which came in at No. 1, but I can tell you that on Classic FM, it is 'O Holy Night' and for the tenth year running.

In the evening of the 20th, the Boundstone Chorus Christmas Celebration drew a large crowd. Earlier in the month at St Michael's there was the launch of our Christmas Tree Festival, sponsored by H G King Funeral Services, helping to raise funds. The reception was attended by local dignitaries including local MP Tom Rutland.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Crib Service is always very

popular with families, and this year drew close to 220 people to St Michael's. St Peter's celebrated an early Midnight Mass at 8 pm. St Michael's Midnight Mass followed at 11.15 pm.

Christmas Day masses were celebrated concurrently at 10.30 am at St Michael's and St James the Less, Lancing.

At St Michael's on Sunday, Fr Michael reminded us that while 'merriness' is the modern, commercial theme of this season, 'holiness' is what it's really all about in the Church – in the sense of dedication to divine purpose and spirituality. To illustrate his talk, he produced his own excellent crayon hand-drawings – which suggests a religious art exhibition could always serve as another 'social' if we tire of cocktails or 'Play Your Cards Right'.

Wishing you all and yours a productive and safe 2026.

## Top 10 Carols

As voted for by the visitors to the Christmas Tree Festival, the Top 10 were:

- 1 Silent night
- 2 Away in a manger
- 3 O come all ye faithful
- 4 Hark! The herald angels sing
- 5 O little town of Bethlehem
- 6 Ding dong merrily on high
- 7 Once in royal David's city
- 8 The holly and the ivy
- 9 Little donkey
- 10 Joy to the world

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

*Bishop Hovakim Manukyan and Dr Nicola Brady*

For this year, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches. These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 extends an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.

Our Scriptural theme for 2026 (Ephesians 4:4) reminds us that the call to unity is a call to work for peace for all people everywhere. It is a call that goes to the heart of the mission and ministry of the Armenian Church, throughout its history and today, and it is a vital part of the experience that Armenian Christians bring to the global work of Christian unity. In the major international ecumenical gatherings of recent years, the Armenian Church has brought a heartfelt appeal for a stronger collective voice of the Church as an advocate for just peace in the world, not only for Armenians, but for all those suffering as a result of violence, displacement and persecution.

With the Armenian diaspora numbering many times the population of the country itself, the Armenian Church brings together a truly global community that is present in Russia and in Ukraine, and throughout the Middle East. The Armenian community is impacted by these conflicts that have captured the attention of the world, while also experiencing the pain of the comparative neglect of the situation of the Armenian people attacked and displaced by Azerbaijan. The ethnic cleansing and associated human rights abuses perpetrated against the Armenian people, especially in the ancient Armenian homeland of Artsakh, have been well documented by international human rights observers, yet the international community fails to act as lives are lost, families are displaced, people are unjustly imprisoned and cultural heritage is destroyed.

For Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and the National Ecumenical Instruments on these islands, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland has provided a powerful witness to the call to be peacemakers – through prayer, through advocacy and humanitarian aid, through peace education, and through hospitality and encounter. This

goes hand in hand with a deeply rooted commitment to Christian unity as integral to how we live out Christ's commandment to love our neighbour, and as a source of hope in troubled times.

This Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, let us unite in prayer and advocacy for the people of Armenia and Artsakh, calling for an end to violence and the restoration of peace. Together, we can shine a light on these injustices and, in doing so, help build a future where the rights of all are upheld and respected.

*Bishop Hovakim Manukyan is Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland.*

*Dr Nicola Brady is General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.*

## Introduction to Mothers' Union

Our parish charity for 2026 is Mothers' Union:

Mothers' Union is a women-led, international Christian movement dedicated to ending poverty, violence and social injustice in communities in the UK and around the globe. Founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner in a parish just outside Winchester, Mothers' Union now has over 4 million members in 84 countries. We work with people of all faiths and none, transforming lives, strengthening families and advocating for meaningful change. Rooted in kindness, faith and compassionate action, we strive to create a better future where everyone has the opportunity and resources to thrive.

For nearly 150 years, Mothers' Union has supported communities throughout the world. At the core of all we do is our belief that faith and compassion can transform lives. Whatever the need, no matter how big or small in their communities, Mothers' Union members are there to help and provide support and love, free of judgment. From producing hygiene kits to knitting warm hats to facilitating safe spaces to talk and parenting support groups, our work helps build stronger, more resilient communities worldwide.

Our programmes include literacy and savings groups, parenting and resilience training, and gender-based violence/ domestic abuse awareness campaigns. Alongside these are countless small, everyday acts of service undertaken by our dedicated members. We are guided by the needs of local communities – listening first, then responding with practical, faith-led support. Where appropriate, we also collaborate with other organisations and governments to extend our reach and impact.

In the last year:

- Our Worldwide Parenting Programme ran 75 groups led by 97 facilitators with 3570 participants
- Our members facilitated 1415 literacy circles and savings groups, amounting in 28,313 beneficiaries
- 2174 adults and children were able to go on an Away From It All (AFIA) holiday or away day
- 195 bronze, 16 silver and 8 gold RISE UP (Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray) awards were awarded. Nearly 200 churches have supported this work in raising critical awareness and taking action against domestic abuse, in every form
- Support for families affected by imprisonment was active in 36 prisons, in Britain and Ireland, spanning across 24 dioceses

Mothers' Union is part of the global 16 Days of Activism campaign, joining over 6,000 organisations across 185 countries to call for an end to gender-based violence. Global delegates from Mothers' Union also attend the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

The 'Empower Her Literacy' campaign raises awareness of the critical issue of female illiteracy, which affects 480 million women worldwide. This initiative calls on global leaders, including the UK government, to prioritise women's education alongside girls' education in their international strategies.

Further information about Mothers' Union will be available throughout the year, including membership details. We'll be celebrating Mary Sumner Day on Sunday 9 August with The Revd Canon Emma Ham-Riche as our guest preacher.