Sunday 15 November 2026 Second Sunday before Advent

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to
destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and
heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and
great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal
and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING **Zephaniah 1:7. 12-end**

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

PSALM **Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12**

R *Satisfy us by your loving-kindness; so shall we rejoice and be glad.*

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth." R

For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.
You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered. R

For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful
indignation.
Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your
countenance. R

[When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labour
and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we
are gone.
Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation? R]

So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. R

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL **Matthew 25:14-30**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

POST COMMUNION

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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St Martins of Tour

10.00 am Holy Communion

Lay by Rev. Mark Neave

If you are joining us for the first time, please introduce yourself. You are very welcome!
Please join us for tea/coffee after the service.

THIS WEEK WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

....The departed and those who mourn that they may be comforted and consoled and for those whose anniversaries we keep at this time all those dear to us who have passed...

Notices:

St Andrews is closed while necessary works are being undertaken on the building. The Church should be open again in time for the Carol Service on Sunday 13th December at 4pm, followed by refreshments being kindly provided by the Cricket Inn.

The Advent course will be running again this year, with dates and times listed below at their respective locations:

- The Rectory, West Charlton – 20th and 27th November and the 4th and 11th of December at 7pm
- The Old Exchange, Stokenham – the 23rd and 30th of November and the 7th and 14th of December at 2:30pm.

Further course details can be found on the poster at the back of the church.

Date for your diary

Saturday 21st November –.Neil Martin will be presenting a history talk – "A Quick Stagger Through History at St Michael's Church, Stokenham at 10am on Saturday 21st November 2026. All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be available.

26th – 29th November – St Michael's Church Christmas Tree Festival will be running again this year, with the "Switch On" happening at 4pm on the 26th of November. Refreshments will be available throughout the festival, except during Sunday Service. Opening times for the festival are listed below:

- 26th November , 4pm – 5pm
- 27th & 28th November, 11am – 5pm
- 29th November, 12pm – 4pm

Forthcoming Services:

Wednesday 18th	Holy Communion	St Michael's	10.00am
Sunday 22nd	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion Evensong	St Michael's St Michael's St Martins	8.00am 11.00am 6.00pm
Wednesday 25th	Holy Communion	St Michael's	10.00am
Sunday 29th	Benefice Holy Communion	St Michael's	10.30am