

# STAYING CONNECTED

**Taken from the service book for Advent Antiphons led by Tim Garrett**

The “O Antiphons”, also known as “The great Os” are Magnificat antiphons used at Vespers during Advent in Western Christian traditions.

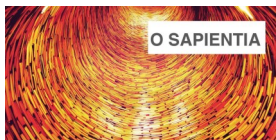
Each antiphon is a name of Jesus, one of his attributes that are mentioned in Scripture.

They are: December 17: O Sapientia (O Wisdom)  
December 18: O Adonai (O Lord)  
December 19: O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)  
December 20: O Clavis David (O Key of David)  
December 21: O Oriens (O Dayspring)  
December 22: O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)  
December 23: O Emmanuel (O God With Us)

**The first mention of them is by Boethius (AD 480–524).**

## O Wisdom (O Sapientia)

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.



*"The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord – and he will delight in the fear of the Lord." [Isaiah 11 \(2-3\)](#)*

## O Lord (O Adonai)

O Adonai (Lord), and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.



*"For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is He who will save us. ." [Isaiah 33 \(22\)](#)*

## Tree of Jesse (O Root of Jesse)

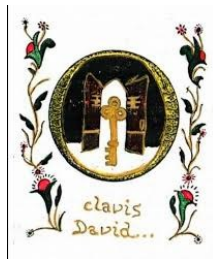
O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

*"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit..... In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting-place will be glorious.. [Isaiah 11 \(1-3 and 10\)](#)*



## O Clavis David (O Key of David)

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.



*"I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open."* [Isaiah 22 \(22\)](#)



## O Morning Star (O Oriens)

*O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.*

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined."* [Isaiah 9\(2\)](#)



**Church of the Ascension,  
Southam**

### Services December 2025

#### Sunday 7 December

9.30 am—Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension, led by Carol Farrer

#### Sunday 14 December

9.30 am—Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension led by Maggie Sharpe

10.00 am—Church on the Hill, Cleeve Hill, led by Lucy Barbour

#### Sunday 21 December

5.00 pm—Carol Service at Church of the Ascension, led by Bill Blakey

#### Christmas Day 25 December

9.30 am—Christmas Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension, led by Tim Garrett

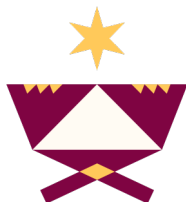


**St Martin de Tours Church, Woolstone,  
St John the Baptist Church, Oxenton,  
and using 'The Old Chapel' in Gotherington**

***SERVICE INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER 2025***

***All services start at 10:00 am unless otherwise stated.***

Sunday 7 December:	Holy Communion	Oxenton
Sunday 14 December:	Carols for Christmas 10.30am	Gotherington Village Hall
Sunday 21 December:	Carols and Lessons 4pm	Oxenton
Thursday 25 December:	Christmas Holy Communion	Oxenton



Team Rector	Reverend Tim Garrett	tim@stmbc.uk
Team Vicar	Reverend Ben Williams	ben@stmbc.uk
CHURCH OFFICE	See Notice Boards	07354 874617
Churchwarden	Michael Bower (Oxenton)	01242 672900
Churchwarden	Bob Wickens (Woolstone)	01242 679345 rwickens242@gmail.com
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PCC Treasurer	Michael Bower	01242 672900
Bell Ringing Team	Pauline Bower	01242 672900
Church Flowers Woolstone	Joan Hocken	01242 674453
Church Flowers Oxenton	Pauline Bower	01242 672900
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## Christmas Services in the Benefice

### **Sunday 7 December**

9.30am Advent Antiphons: St Michael's, Bishops Cleeve

11.15am Christingle: St Michael's, Bishops Cleeve

5.30pm A Quiet Christmas Service

### **Sunday 14 December**

10.30am Carols for Christmas: Gotherington Village Hall

3.00pm Christmas Extravaganza: Gotherington Village Hall

6.30pm Carol Service by candlelight: St Michael's, Bishops Cleeve

### **Sunday 21 December**

4.00pm Carols and Lessons: St John the Baptist, Oxenton

5.00pm Carol Service: Church of the Ascension, Southam

6.30pm Cakes and Carols: St Michael's, Bishops Cleeve

### **Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24 December**

2pm and 3.30pm Nativity Services: St Michael's, Bishops Cleeve

3.00pm: Crib Service: St Martin de Tours, Woolstone

11pm Midnight Mass: St Michael's, Bishops Cleeve

### **Christmas Day: Thursday 25 December**

9.30am Christmas Holy Communion: Church of the Ascension, Southam

10.00am Christmas Holy Communion: St John the Baptist, Oxenton

10.30am Holy Communion for everyone: St Michael's, Bishops Cleeve

We are here for you.  
Get in touch:



[admin@stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk)



07354 874617



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## **Sunday Bible Readings from the Lectionary**

### **2nd Sunday of Advent**

#### **- 7 December**

Isaiah 11.1-10

Psalms 72.1-7, 18, 19\*

Romans 15.4-13

Matthew 3.1-12

### **3rd Sunday of Advent**

#### **- 14 December**

Isaiah 35.1-10

Psalms 146.4-10 or

*Canticle: Magnificat*

James 5.7-10

Matthew 11.2-11

### **4th Sunday of Advent**

#### **- 21 December**

Isaiah 7.10-16

Psalms 80.1-8, 18-20\*

Romans 1.1-7

Matthew 1.18-25

#### **Christmas Eve**

#### **- 24 December**

2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-11, 16

Psalms 89.2, 19-27

Acts 13.16-26

Luke 1.67-79

#### **Christmas Day**

#### **- 25 December**

Isaiah 9.2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2.11-14

Luke 2.1-14[15-20]

### **First Sunday of Christmas**

#### **- 28 December**

Isaiah 63.7-9

Psalms 148\*

Hebrews 2.10-18

Matthew 2.13-23

## **Our next themed readings:**

### **Sunday 7 December**

The Prophets:

Isaiah 11: 1-10

### **Sunday 14 December**

John the Baptist

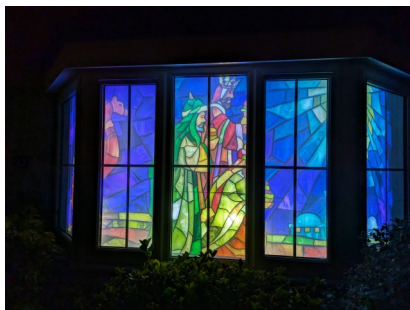
Matthew 11: 2-11

### **Sunday 21 December**

Mary:

Matthew 1: 18-25

## **Living Advent Calendar—Gotherington**



The Living Advent Calendar in Gotherington is in its seventh year of brightening up the village with beautiful window displays that come to life every night from 1st of December until Christmas Eve. It's a time when members of the community share their gifts of creativity and hospitality with neighbours, bringing joy and light into dark, cold nights.

By participating in Advent, may we embody the spirit of hope, sharing our gifts and hospitality with others. Let's embrace this season as an opportunity to actively wait, to hope, and to shine our light in the world.

## Our Pastoral Assistants are here

*to support the pastoral work in this benefice.*

- *If you would like to chat or need help - you or your family, friends or carers can contact us on your behalf.*
- *If you are going into hospital, moving or going into a care home - so we can keep in touch.*
- *If you can't get to church and would like Home Communion in the comfort of your own home.*

Contact: the Church Office 07354 874617

Email: [pastoral.stmichael@gmail.com](mailto:pastoral.stmichael@gmail.com)



### HOME COMMUNION

Our Pastoral Assistants' Team offer anyone who can't get to church a short Home Communion service in the comfort of their own home.

We are also available to pray with those who can't get to church, in their homes, if that is helpful.

Please call the Church Office  
07354 874617

### St Michael's Church Weekday Open for Visitors/Private Prayer

Monday 11am - 2pm

Wednesday 10am - 4pm

Thursday 12pm - 2pm

*(times may occasionally change due to*

*Services or volunteer availability*

*- check with Church Office 07354 874617)*

### Thursday 10.45am Communion Service St Michael's Church

*1st & 3rd Thursdays*

Dec 4th                      18th

Jan n/a                      15th

If you do NOT wish to receive copies of  
Staying Connected, please phone the  
Church Office on  
07354 874617

For more information about our services please see:

[www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk)

Email: [admin@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk)

Tel: 07354 874617



Four Sundays before Christmas the church celebrates the season of Advent. It is a time to reflect about and prepare for the coming of Jesus. We reflect on the truth of His coming as a baby and we prepare our hearts again to welcome Him into the centre of our hearts and lives. And to prepare for His promised return to finally redeem all things.

At Advent the church lights one candle each Sunday to help us in this process. They symbolise 4 truths we hold onto:

1. **Hope.** We remember how the many prophecies of the Old Testament about the birth of Jesus were perfectly fulfilled. This gives us confidence to trust God's promises to us. Please reflect on the faithfulness of God and give thanks for it in your prayers. Also pray for people who are really struggling at present with difficult situations, causing their faith to be challenged.
2. **Peace.** Jesus made peace with God available to us when He died on the cross. Please pray that more and more people will learn about this truth. Our church leaders are very busy at this time of the year with services for old and young. Uphold them in your prayers.
3. **Joy.** Jesus came that we might have joy and that our joy might be full. Pray for anyone you know personally who needs lifting up and experiencing more joy.
4. **Love.** The last candle reminds us of God's love. Spend some time soaking up the truth of the fact that God loves you, then pray for His love to be more real in the darkest parts of His world.

Thank you for your prayerfulness this year.

We at St. Michael's Church wish each of you very Happy Christmas and much blessing in the year ahead.

L.D.



## **St Michael & All Angels, Bishops Cleeve**

*Please join us for our*  
**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**All at 9.30 am**

1st Sunday – Morning Prayer

2nd Sunday – Holy Communion (with choir and organ)

3rd Sunday – Holy Communion

4th Sunday – Holy Communion (with choir and organ)

**All at 11.15 am**

1st Sunday – Café-style service (with children's activities)

2nd Sunday – Contemporary Worship (with children's groups)

3rd Sunday – Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion  
(with children's groups)

4th Sunday – Contemporary Worship (Explorers Extra at St Michael's Centre)

5th Sunday – Joint Service (Explorers Extra at St Michael's Centre)

## **The Church of the Ascension, Southam**

*Please join us for our*  
**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**all at 9.30 am unless otherwise stated.**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Church on the Hill at 10.00 am

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Breakfast Church at Southam Village Hall

## **The Parish of Woolstone with Gotherington and Oxenton**

*Please join us for our*  
**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**all at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated**

**St Martin de Tours, Woolstone**

1st Sunday—Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Oxenton

2nd Sunday—Morning Praise at The Old Chapel, Gotherington

3rd Sunday—Holy Communion at St Martin de Tours, Woolstone

4th Sunday—Café Church at The Old Chapel, Gotherington

5th Sunday—BCP Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Oxenton