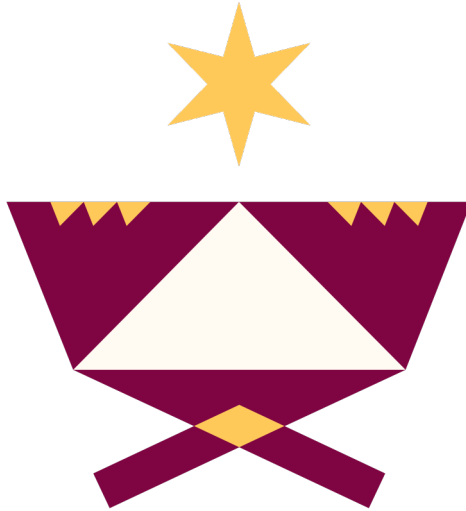


THE CHURCHES OF

St Michael All Angels

Southam, Woolstone, Gotherington & Oxenton



Service for Christmas 1
Sunday 28 December

The Greeting

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:
and we beheld his glory

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

Introduction to the service.

Prayers of Penitence

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour
Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins Lord Jesus,
you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring
you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

The 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.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2.13-18

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, **15** where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. **17** Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 “A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”

Reflection

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

For the peace of the world this Christmas season, we pray.

For justice and mercy to be shown to all people, for the leaders of the nations that they would make decisions for the good of all not only for the benefit of those with power and influence.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

For the church throughout the world and for our own Christian community. We pray for our bishops, priests and deacons for all God's faithful people that the joy and the hope of this season will encourage and refresh them.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for those who today are sick or suffering in body mind or spirit. We pray for those for whom Christmas is difficult or lonely or full of work with no time for festivities. We pray for all those who care for others, those who are paid and those who are not and we pray for kindness, gentleness and patience in their work. We pray for your healing touch for all those who need it.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We remember before God those who have died. We remember those who we miss particularly at this time of year. We pray for all who mourn that they would be comforted and for all who have departed this life that they now dwell in heavenly rest.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In a few moments of quiet we bring to God those things which are on our hearts and in our minds today. Those things we are grateful for, those things we are worried about and those people and places and situations we know of that are in need our prayers.

(silence)

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Merciful Father
Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son
Our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, in whatever form or language is closest to our heart, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as
we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Notre Père...
Baba wa...
我們在天上的父...
Nna Anyi...
Ojcie Nasz...
Vater unser...
Ein Tad...
Wo tye...
Baba mu... ..
اناباً
Padre nuestro...
Πάτερ ἡμῶν...
Отче наш...
Pater noster...

Blessing

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts and fill your lives with his joy and peace. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Please join us for our services on Sunday 4 January:

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at St Michael's Church
- 9.30am Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension, Southam
- 10am Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Oxenton
- 11.15am Café Church at St Michael's Church.