



Services

3rd December 11:00am Holy Communion

10th December 9:30am Sunday School

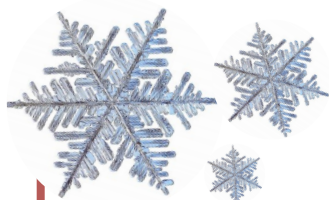
Thursday 21st Dec 7:00pm Carol Service

24th December 4:00pm Crib Walk

24th December 10:00pm Christmas Communion

31st December 10:30am Benefice service

At Hinstock Church



Crib Walk

Christmas Eve 24th December at 4pm

Starting from our Village Hall and making our way to check if there's any room at the inn, see who is arriving from the East and then checking in on the Shepherds, before making our way to 'Bethlehem' in the church for our service. It would be wonderful to see you all.



Carol Service 21st Dec

7:00pm



A Wonderful night of traditional and all the well-known Christmas favourites. Joining us will be the Childs Erccall Choir, and due to popular demand, the camels are back

A fabulous night to get you in the Christmas spirit, including Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.

Midnight Communion

24th December

Christmas Eve

10:0pm

Come and enjoy our last service before the big day.

Bernard will be on refreshments



Dec & Jan Clergy Letter

Christmas is coming! At least if you read this in the first part of December.

My hope is that you are able to enjoy the traditional activities of Christmas – celebrating with family and friends but maybe taking a glance at the reason we have this festival time. For Christians, Christmas is when we give thanks for the central event of our faith - God coming among us in the baby at Bethlehem. Maybe it seems an attractive story, but one that speaks also of deprivation, of homelessness and exile. Such themes have echoes in today's world with the traumatic events in Jesus' homeland, in Ukraine and so many other places.



In Advent we look forward both towards the coming of Jesus as a human being – as one of us – and towards God summing up all things in him. In January we have the season of 'Epiphany' (*or revelation*), less prominent in this country, when we mark the coming of the Wise Men and other events in the Bible like Jesus being taken to the Temple to give thanks for his birth and then his baptism. All these are part of God *revealing* his love and care for humanity. We are invited to play our part *in revealing God's light and love* by relieving the inequalities in our own times and communities.

As we share together at this time, let us remember the words from the beginning of John's Gospel, our theme for this year's Christmas services across our Benefice –

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it". (John 1 v.5)

The Light is Jesus whose coming and ongoing presence we celebrate. We are all invited to share in this flow of God's love in the world – to carry God's light into its dark corners.

As part of this I have many things to be thankful for – I will mark 40 years in the Christian ministry at the beginning of December - most of those years whilst also working as a GP. The past 8 years working with the churches of the Benefice and more recently with Wistanswick United Reformed Church. I am particularly grateful for the support of my family and those in the churches I have worked with so that together we have been able, in a small way, not only to speak about God's love as we know it in Jesus, but to be helped to live out that love in our daily lives. So, a big thank you to so many – and I hope you all have a very happy Christmas and New Year (and Epiphany!).

Rev Marcus Griffiths

**CHRISTMAS
APPEAL**



**HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOODBANK
WITH FOOD AND FUNDS THIS CHRISTMAS**

01630 654007

marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk

We would like to make an appeal for Shepley's Butchers Vouchers

We have given these out in previous years with our Christmas hampers, it enables our clients to buy some meat/dairy for over the Christmas period.

We will be distributing the hampers from 12 - 19th December

Please could you get vouchers to us at the Parish Rooms, Market Drayton from 8 - 11.30am on Tuesdays and Fridays before these dates.

FOODS NEEDED FOR DONATIONS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Long Life Fruit Juice	Coffee & Biscuits	Tins of Ham/Chicken	Custard & Rice Pudding
UHT Semi Skimmed Milk	Christmas Puds/Cake	Savoury Snacks	Instant Mash/Tin Potatoes
Chocolate treats	Jams	Please go to our website if you wish to donate financially	

Each year our Christmas Trees have been donated to church by Mick Lea's family from Dodecote. Mick sadly passed away in June of this year, but we are so pleased that Judy and family are keeping the tradition going and in late November Pete Edwards and Nick Gallagher collected two beautiful trees. One has been positioned outside and the other one is in its special place by the pulpit. Thank you to you all.

The church is open everyday and if you would like to go in and hang a bauble on the tree for somebody you are thinking of or even one of your own their will be a basket of baubles available next to the tree.



Sunday School
CHRISTMAS
Party
2nd Dec 11am-1:30pm
Childs Ercall Club
Bring food and join in



Sunday School

10th December @ 9:30am

Come and join in with crafts, stories, songs, food and fun for everybody.

Plenty of exciting Christmas things for your children to Enjoy and a chance to catch up with other parents.



Christmas Thank You Messages



From all at St Michael's we would like to send a HUGE Thank you to all the people who help with keeping our church looking beautiful and tidy over the last 12 months.

Thank you to Linda, Debbie, Claire, Fiona, and Gill for ensuring the church is open daily for your all to enjoy.

Thank you to everyone out there delivering Newsletters for us and thank you also to Trevor for keeping our clock wound up and in good working order and thank you to you all for your support, in kindness and friendship we are blessed to live in such a wonderful village.

A BIG thank you to John and Cheryl and The club team for hosting the Church's Bingo which was a great success. Thank you to all of you who donated prizesit was a great night.

Thanks also go to the Community Association for their donation of £81.00 from a raffle held at the latest Quiz night Thank you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

January 2024



Visit:

[www.](http://www.theunitedbenefice.com)

theunitedbenefice.com

Or follow us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
theunitedbenefice](http://www.facebook.com/theunitedbenefice)

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Gill Mellor

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PCC Meeting

1st Feb 2024



**Special Days in
January**

Services

7th 11:00am Holy Communion

14th 9:30am Sunday School

28th 4:00pm Christingle

If you would like to come to Sunday School you will be warmly welcomed. January's Sunday School is on 14th, starting at 9.30a. Crafts, singing, snacks, stories and socialising. If you'd like to know more, please contact Judy Warrilow.

St Michaels, Childs Ercall
28th Jan 4:00pm
Christingle
Come and join us for our all age Christingle Service

STRAW BEAR DAY—The 'straw-bear' being a man completely covered in straw, led by a string, and made to dance in front of people's houses, in return for money, beer or food.

PLOUGH DAY—Traditionally the first Sunday after Epiphany, a time to celebrate the long hours of tilling and preparing the soil before the seed can be sown. To celebrate the mystery of land and human labour.

FIRE FESTIVAL, SCOTLAND—Held every year to celebrate the end of Yule. Over 900 colourfully dressed "guisers" follow the Jarl's squad of Vikings and their longship through the darkened streets of the town to the burning site. Here the official ceremony ends in a spectacular blaze as 800 flaming torches are thrown into the galley.