

## First Reading at Service Bible Reading from the Old Testament

### Isaiah 61: verses 1 to 4 and 8 to 11 The Good News of Deliverance

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the  
nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring  
up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and  
praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading at Service Gospel Reading

### John 1: verses 6 to 8 and 19 to 28 The Word Became Flesh

There was a man sent from God, whose name was  
John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so  
that all might believe through him. He himself was  
not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

### The Testimony of John the Baptist

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews  
sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,  
'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but  
confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked  
him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.'  
'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they  
said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for  
those who sent us. What do you say about  
yourself?' He said,  
'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord" ',  
as the prophet Isaiah said.  
Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They  
asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are  
neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the

prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water.  
Among you stands one whom you do not know, the  
one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie  
the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany  
across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Bible Reading from the New Testament

### 1 Thessalonians 5: verses 16 to 24 Final Exhortations, Greetings, and Benediction

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in  
all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ  
Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not  
despise the words of prophets, but test everything;  
hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of  
evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept  
sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord  
Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and  
he will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**



## Notices

**Refreshments** – please join us for a cuppa and a biscuit after the service. Thank you to all who have signed up on the rota to help for 2024. There are still spaces available if you would like to help!

**Open Church Wednesdays back in 2024.** The church will be closed on Wednesday afternoons during December. We shall be back in the New Year to welcome you every Wednesday between 1pm and 4pm for refreshments, a chat or simply as a space for quiet reflection. We will be delighted to see you!

### **Don't forget your Christmas stamps!**

Please continue to save your used stamps and help us find a cure for cancer.



**Christmas Gifts** made by Julie Jones are being sold in Church on the 10th and 17th December for St Michael's funds.



For more information please visit our website:  
[www.klmm-parishes.org.uk](http://www.klmm-parishes.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/klmmparishes](https://www.facebook.com/klmmparishes)  
If you would like to include a notice in the pew sheet,  
please contact Emma Jones.

## Dates for the Diary



20<sup>th</sup> December – 2.15pm Carols in the Afternoon with Kirk Langley School. All Welcome.

24<sup>th</sup> December - 6pm Carol Service. All welcome.

25<sup>th</sup> December – 9.30am - Morning Prayer.

31<sup>st</sup> December – 10.30am – Joint Benefice Service of Holy Communion at All Saints' Mugginton led by Rev Jane Legh

## Contacts

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WELCOME TO  
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
KIRK LANGLEY

Sunday 17th December 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent



The service today is Holy Communion

*If you have a prayer request, please  
pass to the Church Warden.*

*Please take this leaflet home with you for reference.*