

Advent prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our Father,  
 the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary  
 that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid,  
 she responded to your call with joy.  
 Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
 to share like her in your great work  
 of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
 the light who is coming into the world.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
 blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;  
 blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.  
 Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
 and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.

Those we are praying for

Rev'd Father Robert Britton, Wynn Evans, Derek Lucas, Paul, Elaine Mason, Caroline Rowley, Pat Holloway Far, Susan Smith, Malcolm Holbrook, Renee Nicholls, Rob Carstairs, Carly Hicks, Pat Turpin, Andrew Wiltshire, Brian, Ruth and Sophie Redman.

**Please keep Amy updated as to who needs prayer. We commit to praying for one month unless otherwise advised.**

Priest-in-Charge of Benefice	Rev. Jordan Ling	0117 3304953
Focal Minister for St Michael's	Rev. Nicola Callen	0117 9658833
Priest-in-Charge of St Ambrose and St Leonard	Rev. Nicola Coleman	0117 9556678
<b>East Bristol Partnership Office</b>		
T: 0117 9586412 E: <a href="mailto:eastbristol.org@gmail.com">eastbristol.org@gmail.com</a>		



Weekly Newsletter



4 Churches seeking to equip God's people to live as a Christian presence in the world



St. Aidan's



St John's



St Michael's



St Ambrose & St Leonard's

Welcome

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

Our Collect Prayer for this week – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation  
 In Jesus Christ our Lord.

What's happening this morning?

St Michael's Church	9.00am	Lay-led Service	Anthony Hick
St Ambrose Church	9.30am	Nine Lessons and Carols	Rev. Nicola Coleman
St Aidan's Church	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev. Canon Paul Denyer
St John's Church	10.30am	Eucharist	Rob Towler leading and Rev. Jordan Ling presiding and preaching

Readings this week	Mic 5. 2-5a;	Heb 10. 5-10;	Luke 1. 39-45;
Readings next week	1 Sam 2. 18-20, 26;	Col 3. 12-17;	Luke 2. 41-end;

**‘Reaching Out to Welcome In’**

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

**Sunday Service 10.30am**

**Special notices**

**St Aidan’s Christmas Services.** The Crib Service will take place at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass starts at 11.15pm and the Christmas Day **Said** Eucharist will start at 9.30am. Everyone is warmly welcome to any of these Services.

**A Service of Vespers in the Orthodox Tradition.** Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 6.30pm at St Aidan’s Church. Choir members from any of the Partnership churches – or from any church – are welcome to come and join us; there will be a choir rehearsal at 5pm the same day.

**Regular weekly events**

<b>Sundays - 1<sup>st</sup> in month</b>	<b>MESSY CHURCH</b>	<b>9am - 10.15am</b> in the Church
<b>Sundays – Fortnightly</b>	<b>DEAF CHURCH</b>	<b>3pm</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>EVENING PRAYER</b>	<b>7pm</b> in the Lady Chapel
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>MESSY CHURCH</b>	<b>3.30pm</b> at Air Balloon Primary School
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b>	<b>9.15am</b> in the Lady Chapel
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>COFFEE &amp; CHAT</b>	<b>10am - 12pm</b> in the Café area of Church



**Special notices and upcoming events for all**

**New Curate.** We are pleased to announce that Mary Hotchkiss will be starting her Curacy in June 2019 in the benefice of St. Aidan, St. John and St Michael and across the wider EBP. Please pray for her and her husband and 3 children as they prepare for their move and join our church communities.

**This week**

**EBP Joint Service.** The next Joint Partnership Service is on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December 10.15am at St John’s Church. Please come along and support this.

**This month**

**A Service of Vespers in the Orthodox Tradition.** Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 6.30pm at St Aidan’s Church. Choir members from any of the Partnership churches – or from any church – are welcome to come and join us; there will be a choir rehearsal at 5pm the same day.

**Epiphany Carols.** Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 6.30pm at St Mary’s Church. Everyone is very welcome to come along!

**Further ahead**

**Project Linus.** On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January there is a workshop being organised by Project Linus at All Saints Church. Project Linus is not focused on fundraising, our volunteers mainly make patchwork quilts, which they donate to the project. Other volunteers place the quilts, with disadvantaged children in the UK. Anyone who is interested in learning how to do patchwork and quilting is welcome to come along. As materials are provided, numbers need to be known in advance. If you would like to sign up there are some booking forms at the back of each Church or contact Janet Purvis on 07956522719 or [linusworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:linusworkshop@gmail.com).

Thought for the week by Rev. Canon Trevor Denley



**St. Luke**

Luke is responsible for both his Gospel account of the life of Christ, and his account of the actions of the early Christian church in the 'Book of Acts'. This makes him the most prolific writer in the New Testament.

I find myself drawn to the Gospel of Luke, because it is written from the perspective of the outsider. Luke, of the four Gospel writers was not Jewish, he was a gentile and is thought to have hailed from Antioch in modern day Syria, his writing was highly educated and in a Greek style similar to other writers of his day. His writing is for the Gentiles. Luke is clear that this is not an eye-witness account; he has researched in detail and has compiled this for his friend Theophilus so that Theophilus has in writing a confirmation of all that he has been told and taught. It is a very detailed piece of writing so that non-Jews would understand the background from which Christ came. Our primary source of the infancy of Christ is found in chapters 1 and 2 of Luke.

Luke is only mentioned three times by name in the New Testament, in Colossians 4, in 2 Timothy, and in Philemon, each time it is by St. Paul, to whom he was personally known as it implies that Luke is with him at the time of writing. It is Paul who gives us the tradition that Luke was a doctor when he writes in Colossians 4 of 'the most dear physician'.

The Gospel of Luke is diverse, it is full of historical references to those in power at the time, to censuses, to governors of Syria, and that it was in the reign of Tiberius Caesar that the word of God came to John. It also contains the Sermon on the Plain, chapter 6, vs 17-49, which is a shorter form of Matthew's Sermon on the Mount but still has much of the same stark ethic. Statements that we, in today's world, may find as equally challenging as those on the time of Christ would. In this gospel we also find unforgettable parables and sayings. And it is also full actions of Christ in which his kindness to society's outsiders, the weak, children, shepherds, lepers, tax-collecting Roman collaborators, Samaritans, the sick and the handicapped is highlighted.

This gospel is also full of affection and esteem for women. It's been called the 'Gospel of Womanhood.' Mary, and Elizabeth, and Anna the prophetess appear in the first chapters, and in the last chapters it is to three other women that Jesus first appears after he rises from the dead. In this gospel we meet the widow of Nain, and a sinful woman who anointed the Lord, the sisters Mary and Martha and the persevering widow. There are references to women in many other chapters. However as well as extolling Christ's compassion, the gospel of Luke also contains the righteous Christ. The Christ of Luke is not portrayed as a pushover but as a strong forthright character.

To summarise, the purpose of the book is fourfold and is as relevant now as when first written. Firstly, it is full of teaching to tell Christians what they are to believe. Secondly, it is full of ethics to tell Christians how they should live. Thirdly, it is full of comfort to tell Christians why they should rejoice and finally, it is full of prophecy to tell Christians what they are to expect. In our world dominated by ignorance, wickedness, despair and confusion, how important is the gospel of Luke? Read again chapter 6, verses 17 to 49, and pray as to how we can respond.

**A happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas to you all.**



**'Serving the Community Worshipping God'**

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

**Sunday Service 10.30am**

**Special notices**

**St John's Christmas Services.** The Crib Service will take place at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass starts at 11.30pm and the Christmas Day **Said** Eucharist will start at 10.30am. Everyone is warmly welcome to any of these Services.

**Real bread.** During the Communion on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January real bread will be offered.

**RELEASE Service.** The next RELEASE Service will take place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm. Everyone is very welcome!

**St John's PCC.** The PCC will next meet on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm.

**Regular weekly events**

<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b>	<b>9.15am</b> in Church
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>COFFEE &amp; CRAFT</b>	<b>10am - 11.30am</b> in Church
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> <b>followed by Coffee</b>	<b>10am</b> in Church
<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>10am</b> in Church

**Regular monthly events**

<b>Sundays - 1<sup>st</sup> in month</b>	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	<b>8am</b> in Church
<b>Sundays - 2<sup>nd</sup> in month</b>	<b>RELEASE SERVICE</b>	<b>7pm</b> in Church
<b>Mondays - 1<sup>st</sup> in month</b>	<b>MENS GROUP</b>	<b>8pm</b> in Church



# St Michael's Church

*'Serving the Community of Two Mile Hill'*

**Sunday Service 9am**

## Special notices

**Carols by Candlelight.** This will take place this evening starting at 6pm. Everyone is very welcome to come along.

**St Michael's Christmas Services.** The Crib Service will take place at 4pm on Christmas Eve and Midnight Mass will start at 11.15pm. Everyone is warmly welcome to both these Services.

**St Michael's PCC.** The PCC will next meet on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm.

## Regular weekly events

<b>Fridays</b>	<b>COFFEE AFTERNOON</b>	<b>2pm - 4pm in Church</b>
<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>COFFEE MORNING</b>	<b>10am - 12pm in Church</b>
<b>Wednesdays - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in month</b>	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> With prayers for Healing	<b>10am in Church</b>
<b>Wednesdays - last in month</b>	<b>FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS</b>	<b>2pm - 4pm in Church hall</b>



# St Ambrose and St Leonard's Church

*'At the heart of the Community'*

**Sunday Service 9.30am**

## Special notices

**St Ambrose and St Leonard Christmas Services.** The Crib Service will take place at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass starts at 11pm and the Christmas Day Eucharist will start at 9.30am. Everyone is warmly welcome to any of these Services.

## Regular weekly events

<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>HOLY COMMUNION followed by Coffee</b>	<b>10am in Church</b>
<b>Tuesdays - 1<sup>st</sup> in month</b>	<b>HEALING EUCHARIST</b>	<b>7pm in Church</b>