

## Our 10.15am Sunday Service

We welcome Mike Dilly to lead the service

Welcome

Call to Worship

Candle Prayer

We light our Advent candles

**Song** Advent Candles tell their story

*A Santa Quick Quiz*

*Children and youth leave for their groups*

*Confession*

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 11: 1-9

**Song** God is working his purpose out

Gospel Reading Matthew 19: 13-22

*Thinkspot:*

*Will the REAL Father Christmas please stand up?*

**Song**

Light of the World you stepped down into darkness

*Prayers*

*The Collect for Saint Nicholas*

*Intercessory Prayers*

*The Lord's Prayer*

**Song** Love divine all loves excelling

*Children and youth return from their groups*

*A Prayer as we go*

*The Grace*

After the service please join us for refreshments, and remember there are people willing to pray with you in confidence.

### Online Services:

Follow on YouTube by searching for St Michael's Church Highworth

## This week and upcoming

### Sunday 7th December

8.30am Holy Communion

10.15am Morning Worship with Mike Dilly

### Monday 8th December

10-11.30am Toddler Group in Church

5.30pm Westrop School Christmas Concert

7.30pm Prayer Hour in the Church Room

### Tuesday 9th December

9.30am Morning Prayers in Church

7-9pm Youth Group in Church

### Wednesday 10th December

2-4pm Prospect Pop-In in the Church Room

### Thursday 11th December

7.30pm Bellingring Practice

### Friday 12th December

9.15am Friday Blessings in Church

1-11pm Military Wives Choir Concert in Church

### Saturday 13th December

10am-12pm Christian Aid Saturday Drop In

1-7pm CAP Christmas Event in Church

### Sunday 14th December

10.15am Holy Communion

### Monday 15th December

12-2.30pm Bumps to Babies in Church

### Tuesday 16th December

### Pre-booking essential this month

10.30am Meet Greet Eat in Church

### Wednesday 17th December

11am Midweek Church

*Coffee and cake served from 10.15am prior to the Service*

**Time TBC** - Bags of Hope Food Collection Aldi

7pm Carol Service at St James Sevenhampton



## Sunday 7th December 2025

**T**hat “Baby in a manger” didn't just happen, God's “spur of the moment” idea. From the very beginning God's rescue plan for broken human beings was in place – and it would cost!

Advent lets us examine God's dealings with people – this week the Prophets. They repeatedly warned a nation who had left God's ways that “God knew!” and there would be consequences if they didn't change.

They also pointed to a wonderful future of peace and harmony if they did, which God Himself would make happen. “The wolf shall live with the lamb” said Isaiah in today's reading. Micah foretold The Baby would be born in Bethlehem – which helped those Wise Men find Him.

Father Christmas is seen everywhere, so we will search out the real person under that red suit with white trimming as December 6th was St Nicholas' Day, and you are guaranteed to find out something you didn't know!

Have a Blessed Advent adventure.

**Mike Dilly**

# Join us for Prayer

## **Prayer Hour:**

The next prayer hour is on Monday 22nd December at 7.30pm in the Church Room.

Please do consider joining us.

It is vital that we join together to pray for our church, our community and the wider world.

## **Tuesday Prayers:**

Prayers are held in church every Tuesday morning from 9.30am.

We come together to pray for the week ahead.

## **Friday Blessings:**

Blessings are held in church every Friday morning from 9.15-9.45am. It is a time for everyone to come together to bless the Town.

# Get in touch

Parish of Highworth with Sevenhampton & Inglesham

**Ministry Enquiries:** Telephone: 07841 106717

Rev Phil Goodey (day off Friday)

Email: rector@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Rev Andy Bissex (day off Wednesday)

Email: curate@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

## **Administration/General Enquiries:**

(including baptisms, weddings, funerals etc.)

**Church Office:** Telephone: 01793 762702

Email: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

**Website:** stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

**Bulletin:** bulletin.stmichaels@yahoo.com

Copy deadline is 12pm Thursday

# For Prayer

***John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus.***

***Let us pray that all our pre Christmas activities do likewise!***

Our Christingle and Crib Services;

Midweek Church;

Meet Greet Eat;

Our Carol Service;

***In the wider world we remember...***

... migrants and refugees, sleeping rough and feeling unwelcome;

... many areas of political tension and conflict.

So we pray for peace, justice, for God's kingdom to be visible!

We pray for **friends in special need**

ill, anxious, or bereaved.

May God's peace be on us all, and those who live in Westrop and The Willows

***O come, O come, Emmanuel!***

## **Prayer Chain**

To commit to join the prayer chain or if you have something for which you would like specific or urgent prayer, please email smprayerchain@yahoo.com All requests are confidential.

# News and Events

## **Meet Greet Eat - Christmas**

We'll be meeting on Tuesday 16th December from 10.30am for a festive feast.

**Pre-booking is required this month.**

Please do confirm to the office, by 8th December, if you will be attending.

## **Bags of Hope**

Final details for collecting the shopping from Aldi on Wednesday 17th December are being made. We hope to have use of a large vehicle again to transport it but the logistics are still being worked out. We will need plenty of helpers to pack the bags on Thursday 18th December from 9.30am in Church. Please let the office or Bella know if you can help out.

We will be providing 88 bags this year and each bag has been costed at £55 each so all financial donations are very gratefully received.

## **Christian Aid Saturday Drop In**

The Drop In in church on Saturday 13th December is supporting the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal 'No Crib for a Bed'.

There will be the usual bacon sandwiches, games, prayer space and warm welcome.

But we should take a bit of time out to think of mothers, small children and babies caught up in a situation which is not of their making, where they have no food, warmth or shelter.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

*Peter and Patricia Croton.*

## **Eco Tips - Christmas**

Buy 'Fair Trade' items for your Christmas goodies.

# Update from Phil Goodey

Dear Church family

As we approach Christmas I thought it would be a good idea to let you know how I am getting on.

On the 16th October, I had a full replacement of my left knee at the Great Western Hospital.

There were some complications as they had to remove some previous work done on my knee 30 years ago, but overall the surgery was successful.

Recovery time is very individual, but the minimum is usually 6 - 8 weeks to walk without aids, with about 1 year before you are pain free.

I was walking very swiftly, but I am still experiencing significant pain and sleep loss and I can only stand for about 10 mins at a time.

There was a major hiccup about 3 weeks into my recovery, when I had a severe allergic reaction to an anti-biotic, but I am now over that and things are again progressing fairly normally. I will be receiving Physio support for several months moving forward.

Archdeacon Christopher visited me today (1st December), and we agreed I would not go back to work until the New Year.

However we also agreed that I could begin to engage with church life again with the clear understanding that I was not to return to work until January and even then I would go slowly. In both his and my experience we have seen people coming back to work after major surgery relapsing because they took on too much too soon.

What this means is that I will be attending morning prayer in St Michael's once a week on Tuesday's  
and I will be taking a small number of Christmas services.

My aim is to attend the carol singing in Coldharbour on the 16th

the Carol service at St Michael's on the 21st

and Christmas Holy Communion in Hannington on Christmas day.

Sandra and I will be going to Kent after Christmas to visit our grandchildren and I will officially start back to work on Mon 5th Jan 2026.

Have a wonderful and happy Christmas

Lots of love and God Bless

*Rev Phil Goodey*

# Curates Corner

## Advent 2: Service

Matthew 20:28

“... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve ...”

This week I popped into Timpsons / Johnsons in West Swindon in order to get my Cassock dry-cleaned.

Timpsons are renowned for not just a ‘one-stop shop’ for key cutting etc, but also for how they serve our communities.

The Timpson Foundation provides employment support for those with criminal convictions and for other people on the margins of society ([www.timpson.co.uk](http://www.timpson.co.uk)). Service is at the heart of who they are and what they do.

This reminded me of the one of the characteristics of the Lord Jesus, the King who has come and who is coming again. Service.

Paul reminded us last Sunday that as we wait for our Kings return, we should be awake, aware and active.

Serving others is one way we can wait expectantly. As we get into Advent proper, how can you serve others this week?

A word of encouragement? A donation to a charity? Perhaps stepping up in helping to support our church activities here?

There are so many ways to serve and we are so grateful for all those who already do so much. So why not join us?

‘This is our God, the servant King, who calls us now to follow him ...’ Graham Kendrick.

Rev. Andy