



THE PARISHES OF
LEDBURY AND EASTNOR



*Worshipping God,
Following Jesus, Sharing His Love*

SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am BCP Communion to be held in St Katherine's Chapel

Service to be led by Rev'd Joan Wakeling

10.00am Parish Communion

Service to be led by the Venerable Derek Chedzey, Archdeacon of Hereford

5.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Services in the church building and streamed live on the website

www.stmichaelsledbury.org

then available later on video

WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Christingle Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion

THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

8am BCP Communion with Carols

10.00am Christmas Day Celebration Communion

Church office: phone number: 01531 631 531.

Email: ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net

our website is: www.stmichaelsledbury.org

Facebook – The church's facebook page: fb.me/stmichaelsledbury –

Do have a look, like, follow and participate.

X (Twitter) – Do sign-up to S. Michael's twitter account: 'St Michael's Ledbury' @LedburyParish

SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

8am BCP Communion to be held in St Katherine's Chapel

10am Parish Communion

Readings for 21st December 2025:

Advent IV

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 7: 10 – 16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Emmanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when He knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

New Testament Reading:

Romans 1: 1 – 7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 1: 18 – 25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was

found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: [Isaiah]²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall call His name Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

COLLECT

Lord of the hosts of heaven, our salvation and our strength, without You we are lost: guard us from all that harms or hurts and raise us when we fall; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, who chose the blessed virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with Your grace, that in all things we may embrace Your holy will and with her rejoice in Your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Readings for 24th December 2025:

Christmas Eve

First Reading:

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of His burden and the staff for His shoulder, the rod of His oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Second Reading:

Titus 2: 11 – 14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 2: 1 – 14

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold! I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

COLLECT

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with Your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, for whom we wait, You have fed us with the bread of eternal life: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Readings for 25th December 2025:

Christmas Day

**An Old Testament Reading from:
verses 7 – 10**

Isaiah chapter 52:

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ⁸The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**A New Testament Reading from:
verses 1 – 4**

Hebrews chapter 1:

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Gospel Reading:

John 1: 1 – 14

¹In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him and without Him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In Him was life and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world and the world was made

through Him, yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own and His own people did not receive Him. ¹²But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ, Your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship You, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever.

Amen.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 21 December 5:30 in St Michaels – traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve 4 pm Christingle service. A family orientated service to celebrate the light of Jesus

LUMOS Experience, **Saturday December 27th**. A string trio will be playing music from Mozart Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and Vivaldi's Four Seasons surrounded by Candlelight. There are 2 sittings 5 - 6pm and 7 - 8pm. Tickets from: www.lumos-experiences.com.

Llangasty Quiet Weekend 2026. 'God's Abundant Love' led by Rosa Speyer – **Friday 13 - Sunday 15 February 2026**. Booking Forms with information will be available at the end of November. or if you wish to secure a place now, please contact Cherry on 01531 660261 or email cherryvabt@gmail.com

Please provide information for our weekly pewsheets by Wednesday each week to allow finalisation and printing to take place on Thursdays. Thank you. Please email your requests to Annie Lindon annielindon@gmail.com and to (cc) churchwardens@stmichaelsledbury.org Please begin your subject line with *Pewsheets*.

Sunday parking is for Blue Badge holders only. Town car parks free on Sundays.

Home and Sick Communion – If you are sick or housebound and would like to receive home communion, please let Val Houghton know. (val.houghton1@btinternet.com).

Prayer Chain. Please let Val or one of the wardens or know if you would like to receive prayer chain messages. If you have a request for prayer please use the same contacts.

Queries and suggestions about **repairs and maintenance** should be directed to Andrew Beech.

LEDBURY Services
8am Sunday BCP Communion held in St Katherine's Chapel
Please note that the 8am service has moved to St Katherine's Chapel until further notice
10am Sunday morning services held in church
Thursday 7am and midday prayers in church
Friday 10.30am Holy Communion in S^t Katherine's Chapel
EASTNOR Services
on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11.15am.

Notices

We need more people to operate the sound system on Sundays so we would like to set up a session to explain what is needed. If you are interested in helping, either regularly or occasionally please let one of the wardens know churchwardens@stmichaelsledbury.org It's not difficult and support is available!

Please note, the next **Thursday prayers** will be on the **Thursday 8 January 2026**.

Advent Books. Do have a look on the bookstall for a small selection of books which will help you through the Advent season. There are also some Christmas books for children. Recommended is "God's Book" by Andrew Ollerton. It comes highly recommended and describes itself as an "honest look at the Bible's toughest topics". Bear Grylls says "Wise answers to challenging questions. Hugely helpful". Do have a look.

Christmas Day Lunch. Do you know anyone who may be on their own on Christmas Day? Please tell them about the lunch held at the Baptist church, Ledbury. Transport is available and we can assure them of a warm welcome, delicious meal and good company. The telephone number to book a place is via Clare on 637374. There is an answerphone and Clare will respond.

We pray for: Our link CMS mission partners, our Leprosy Mission partners & S^t Michael and All Angels, Mtwara and S^t John the Baptist Church, Likonde

We pray for those who are sick: we have amended the list below, but if you know of anyone who should still be included, please let us know.

Elizabeth Watson	Andrew Broughton	Stephen Vicarage	Terry Dold
Georgina Hicks	Christabel Panter	Peter Tattersall	

We remember those who have died and pray for those who mourn their passing:

Jean Gabb	Olive Bramley	Jean Hosegood	Val Hale
Glenda Dixon	Sandra Thomas	Ann Roberts	Louis Lock
Bryan Turner	Richard Green	Barbara Price	Ann Blandford
Barbara Meikle			