

ORDER OF SERVICE

Leader: Rev'd Gareth Morley

Welcome and Notices

Quiet Time

Opening Prayer

Hymn: At the name of Jesus

Welcoming prayer and response

The Collect

Young people leave for Sunday School

Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Hymn: God has spoken by His prophets

Reading: Mark 6: 14-29

Sermon

Hymn: From heaven you came, helpless babe

Prayers of intercession, Road Prayer, Lord's Prayer

The Peace

Young people return and share

Hymn: I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above

Communion

Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Blessing and Dismissal, followed by The Grace

Coffee

The YouTube link to view the live stream on Sunday is: https://youtube.com/live/sEQ13xAWHQI?feature=share



PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

God of justice, love and grace we pray for all who stood as candidates in the General Election. We pray for all who will now take up their seats as Members of Parliament, for our newly elected Government, and for those parties that will serve on the opposition benches. May all who serve in Parliament do so with integrity, with care for the most vulnerable, and with concern for the common good. We pray they will be filled with compassion, wisdom and mercy. May every member of the Government seek to do what is right, for the benefit of all. In your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

This week we pray for all those living in Liscombe. May they know your presence, feel your love and listen to your wisdom in their lives.

NOTICES

Church Finances

We do not take a collection during the service but a Response Box(for cash) and a contactless machine (for cards) is on the Information Table, should you wish to make a donation to the work of our Church. Alternatively, you could sign a Standing Order form committing to regular monthly giving, which allows our Treasurer (Ben) to monitor the church finances more closely. Please do speak with Ben if you wish to make arrangements for this.

School second-hand uniform sales

Every Sunday in July. Thank you to everyone who has offered to stay after the service to help run these sales for new students joining the school in September, It's a fantastic way to show how welcoming and inclusive our church is – perhaps the new families may join us more in the future.

Nominations for new charities to support

Every 2 years we select charities to support, one local charity, one national and one international. 2 years ago we decided to continue with the same charities, but it's now time to choose new charities. Over the last 4 years we have supported Bracknell FoodBank, Steven & Diki and the Children's Society. Please do think about a charity to nominate and let Ben or another member of the leadership team know – we need to decide by the end of this month!

NOTICES FROM ST MICHAEL'S

School Admissions

To make the system fair and transparent, those wishing to apply to St Michael's or Ranelagh church schools on church attendance criteria will be asked to sign a register at the back of church each time they attend (even if they have a sibling at the school). To make sure that all new signees understand the admissions criteria we ask that you email the parish office to make an appointment.

Please note: Please go to the relevant school website for the latest admissions policy.

Ranelagh St Michaels

Rev'd Carol's Welcome Service

The service will be on Monday 15th July, 7.30pm at Langley Parish Church, Slough. Please contact Helen in the Parish Office, by Sunday, if you would like to attend as they require numbers.



READINGS

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Praise for spiritual blessings in Christ

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he[a] predestined us for adoption to sonship[b] through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he[c] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

11 In him we were also chosen,[d] having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.

Mark 6: 14-29

John the Baptist beheaded

14 King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying,[a] 'John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.'

15 Others said, 'He is Elijah.'

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READING Continued...

And still others claimed, 'He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago.'

16 But when Herod heard this, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!'

17 For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' 19 So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, 20 because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled[b]; yet he liked to listen to him.

21 Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. 22 When the daughter of[c] Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, 'Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you.' 23 And he promised her with an oath, 'Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.'

24 She went out and said to her mother, 'What shall I ask for?'

'The head of John the Baptist,' she answered.

25 At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: 'I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a dish.'

26 The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27 So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, 28 and brought back his head on a dish. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. 29 On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.