

Your prayers are asked for all those who are sick, bereaved or in need of God's special help, especially:

Sick: Roy Sims, Ross Thompson.

Circle of prayer: Sue Jeans, Georgina Tanner, David Longbourne, Ken Toms.

RIP:

Years Mind: Aggie Smith, Ann Boyland,
Gordon Austin, Leslie Avery

You are welcome to add the names of people who are ill to the prayer list, but please be sure you have the person's permission and let us know if they would like a phone call.

St Michael's Church is open for private prayer every day.

Lay Ministers:	Mrs Jane Hurd	01747 860218
	Mrs Christine Marsh	01747 861212
Churchwardens:		
Mere	Mr Richard Wilson	07966 244373
	Mr Kit Stallard	07803 086161
West Knoyle	Mrs Jill Randall	01747 830534
	Lord Colin Seaford	01747 830263
Administrator:	administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk	
	07942 291266	
Website:	www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk	
Facebook:	St Michael's Church, Mere	
Pewsheets items to	colin2423@sky.com	



2nd Sunday before Advent
St Michael's, Mere
19th November, 2023

Next week's services at St Michael's, 26th November – 'Christ the King

10.30am Parish Communion:

We welcome as our celebrant and preacher today, The Rt Rev Richard Chartres, formerly the Bishop of London.

'Shoe Box' gifts for those in poverty in SE Europe are welcomed and blessed, before being collected later today.

Wednesday 22nd November: Come along to the Fair Trade Pop-up Shop at the Angel Tea Rooms during opening hours. A full range of Fair Traded gifts, goodies and cards available and you could pick up that special gift in the knowledge it will help the producer to a more sustainable life.

Friday 24th November at 7.30pm: Carmenco Concert in aid of the Friends of St Michaels. Tickets cost £8.

Wednesday 29th November at 7.30pm: Pre- Christmas Quiz in aid of Suchana in the Grove Building. Tickets at £7.50 including festive refreshments. To book a place call 860553/861168/863324 or sign list at the back of the Church.

Zeph 1.7,12-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

1 Thes 5. 1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25.14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two

more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Post Communion

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.