

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

**Sick:** Roy Sims

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

**RIP:** Jean Young

**Years Mind:** Jeff Savage, Jimmy Sutton, Eileen Ruth Paul, Evelyn Flowers,

*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.**

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



**Advent Sunday**  
**St Michael's, Mere**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2023**  
**The Coming of Christ**

**Next week's services at St Michael's, 10th December, 2023**

**10.30 – Parish Communion**

**3.30pm – Christingle Service**

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**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am: Christingle Making Workshop for the Sunday service. Please join us to help make them.**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 12noon: Mother's Union Carol Service with refreshments. All welcome.**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December: Decoration of the Church for Christmas begins. Please contact Elisabeth Barrett or Kit Stallard if you can lend a hand.**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6pm: Carol Service**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm a Crib Service and at 11.30pm Midnight Mass.**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am Christmas Day Communion. Readers, Servers, Chalice Assts, Sidespeople are needed for this service. Please contact Pat Isom (01747-86176) if you can help in any way.**

### **Isaiah 64.1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

### **1 Cor. 1.3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Mark 13.24-37**

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and

gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

## **Collect**

**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

## **Post Communion**

**O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

