



Dear Friends,

My Daily Readings calendar has just taken me to Micah Chapter 5, from which the priests and teachers of the law quote in Matthew 2:6 when King Herod asks where the Messiah was to be born. **“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ‘But you, Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”**

These are words we are familiar with hearing every year, as part of the Christmas story, and they answer King Herod’s question, but what immediately follows in the remainder of Micah 5:2 is truly astonishing. This coming ruler, says Micah, will be, one, **“whose origins [or “goings forth”] are from of old, from ancient times.”**

These are remarkable words which no ordinary human being could possibly hope to fulfil, but the baby born in Bethlehem was no ordinary human being. John writes at the beginning of his gospel, **“Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.”** (John 1:3.)

No wonder, therefore, that Jesus was able to do the things He did! The apostle Paul was later able to say, at his hearing before King Herod Agrippa and the Roman governor Festus, **“The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because IT WAS NOT DONE IN A CORNER.”** (Acts 26:26.)

Those alive at the time witnessed who the baby grew up to be, and knew what He said and did. People today are very unwise, therefore, to think that the baby in the manger can simply be packed back up with the Christmas decorations for another year once Christmas is over.

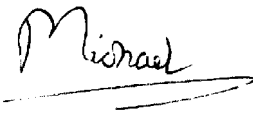
We are far wiser to heed the words of John 3:17-18. –

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

However inconvenient this may be for us, this is the truth which stands at the very heart of Christmas. It is wonderful that God should have gone to such lengths to seek us out and bring us back to Him, and we should therefore welcome Jesus with all our hearts.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
FROM ALL OF US AT THE VICARAGE!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael". The signature is written in black ink and is underlined with a long, horizontal stroke.

From the Bishop. -

Clergy have been informed that:

“The Bishop has noticed that the practice of intinction seems to still be in evidence in some churches. Clergy are reminded that this practice had been banned and that there is no theological or medical reason for doing this, in fact the dipping of wafers where fingernails and fingers enter the wine is actually counter-productive to any supposed medical reason from not using the common cup.”

Church members are therefore asked not to dip communion wafers into the wine in the chalice. Should you be suffering, perhaps, from a cold and do not wish to risk sharing it with others by drinking from the cup, it is sufficient just to receive the bread alone.

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DIARY FOR DECEMBER

- Tues 5th** 7.00-7.30am Prayer Meeting in St Teilo's Prayer Room.
10.00am MOPS (Mothers - or Carers- of Pre-Schoolers) in St Teilo's Church Hall.
7.00 for 7.30pm Tuesday Night Fellowship Meeting in Upstairs Hall.
- Weds 6th** 10.30am Holy Communion
- Fri 8th** 9.30 for 10.00am House Group at Old Hunt Kennels, Milo
The Prayer Course (6) Partnership in Prayer: Spiritual Warfare.
This will be followed by a Bring'n'share lunch. The Milo Meetings will resume on Friday 12th Jan 2018 with a new study.
7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice at St Teilo's.
- Mon 11th** 6.30pm Community Carol Singing, Civic Corner, with Llandeilo Town Band
- Tues 12th** 7.00-7.30am Prayer Meeting in St Teilo's Prayer Room.
10.00am MOPS (Mothers - or Carers- of Pre-Schoolers) in St Teilo's Church Hall. MOPS will re-start on Tues 16th Jan 2018.
7.00 for 7.30pm Tuesday Night Fellowship Meeting in Upstairs Hall.
- Wed 13th** 10.30am Holy Communion
12.00pm Women's Fellowship Lunch in Upstairs Hall.
- Fri 15th** 7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice at St Teilo's.
- Sat 16th** 8.30am Men's Breakfast Christmas Special in St Teilo's Upstairs Hall
- Tues 19th** 7.00-7.30am Prayer Meeting in St Teilo's Prayer Room.
7.00 for 7.30pm Tuesday Night Fellowship Meeting in Upstairs Hall.
- Weds 20th** 10.30am Holy Communion
- Fri 22nd** 7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice at St Teilo's
- Sat 23rd** Cantorion Llandeilo Singers Concert in St Teilo's at 7pm
- Weds 27th** No 10.30am Wednesday Communion this week

Services and Readings for December

10th Dec (Advent 2)

11am Morning Worship

6pm Holy Communion

Maesteilo

9.45am Holy Communion

Taliaris

9.45am Morning Prayer

17th Dec (Advent 3)

NO 8am Communion this Sunday

9.15am Cymun Bendigaid

11am Morning Worship

6pm Carols by Candlelight

Maesteilo

9.45am Carol Service

24th Dec (Advent 4, Christmas Eve)

11am Christmas Eve Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Taliaris

6.00pm Christmas Communion

25th Dec (The Nativity of our Lord)

10am Family Communion

Maesteilo

9.45am Holy Communion

Taliaris

9.45am Christmas Morning Service
(not communion)

31st Dec (Christmas 1)

8am Holy Communion

11am Morning Prayer

7th Jan (Epiphany 1)

8am Holy Communion

11am Holy Communion

Maesteilo

9.45am Holy Communion

Readings for Principal Services

Isaiah/Eseia 40: 1-11

Psalm/Salm 85 [1,2] 8-13

2 Peter/2 Pedr 3: 8-15a

Mark/Marc 1: 1-8

Isaiah/Eseia 61: 1-4, 8-11

Psalm/Salm 126

1 Thessalonians/1 Thesalonaiad 5: 16-24

John/loan 1: 6-8, 19-28

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Psalm/Salm 89: 1-8

Romans/Rhufeiniaid 16: 25-27

Luke/Luc 1: 26-38

Isaiah/Eseia 9: 2-7

Psalm/Salm 96

Titus 2: 1-14

Luke/Luc 2: 1-14, [15-20]

Isaiah/Eseia 61: 10 - 62: 3

Psalm/Salm 148: 7-14

Galatians/Galatiad 4: 4-7

Luke/Luc 2: 15-21

Genesis 1: 1-5

Psalm/Salm 29

Acts/Actau 19: 1-7

Mark/Marc 1: 4-11

ST TEILO'S CHURCH

MOSAIC: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sun. at 11am

Holy Communion : Wednesdays at 10. 30am