

**Duty Rota:** Marg will soon begin preparing the new Duty Rota for the period 1st March to 30th June. Please let her know **before 20th January** of any dates you will be unavailable. You can email her on: [marg.rhodes@btinternet.com](mailto:marg.rhodes@btinternet.com)

Thank you to everybody who undertakes these duties to maintain the smooth running of our church.

#### The Parish Pass



gives free entry into York Minster. If you want to visit the Minster during the Christmas holidays, ask Helen Shaw for the digital pass. I'm working on a pass for Westminster Abbey!

**Next Tuesday Tea** on 13th January at 2.15 pm. Join us for tea and cake and a relaxing chat.

**REMINDER: Save your stamps!** Oxfam make £20 from each kilogram of used stamps they receive, so please bring in your Christmas stamps and leave them in the bag at the back of church.

Items for Weekly Sheet to: [helen.shaw59@btinternet.com](mailto:helen.shaw59@btinternet.com)

**Privacy Notice:** seating in the side aisles is designated a "video-free" area - out of range of our cameras.

**Vicar:** Revd Canon Richard Walker  
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Usual Rest Day is Friday.

**World Day of Prayer:** would anyone like to represent St Michael's at this event? The late Nan Noble was our rep and she was due to have a speaking part in next year's service on Friday 6th March. The theme will be "I Will Give You Rest: Come" and the service will be prepared by the women of Nigeria. If you are interested, please speak to Janice Clark: [clark.janice@gmail.com](mailto:clark.janice@gmail.com)

**31st December:** in the church calendar we remember **John Wycliffe**, who died on this day in 1384. Significant for his outspoken criticism of the established Catholic church and for overseeing the production of the first complete English Bible, Wycliffe is seen by many as a forerunner to the Reformation. His ideas were later taken up by Jan Hus and Martin Luther in 15<sup>th</sup> century central Europe. He was born near Richmond in the North Riding of Yorkshire sometime prior to 1330 and studied at the University of Oxford, where he remained for most of his life and produced a large body of philosophical and theological works. Ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1351, Wycliffe's radical and revolutionary ideas unsettled the medieval church. He challenged Catholicism's power and doctrine and denied the divine authority of the Pope. He was convinced that "Holy Scripture is the pre-eminent authority for every Christian," and believed the ordinary person "should have the Scriptures in a language which they fully understand." Wycliffe set about organizing the translation of the Latin Vulgate Bible into English. His followers copied the text by onto parchment & put themselves at risk by doing so.



**28th  
December  
2025**

Please  
silence  
your  
mobile  
phone



## St Michael's Church, Malton

*The Church in the Market Place*

We are a church, who invites and welcomes others, to journey together, growing in our love of Christ and deepening our relationship with Him.

### Welcome to our service today

We welcome to Communion all baptized Christians. Coffee is served after the Parish Communion service; please stay for this and, if you are new to St Michael's, make yourself known to us.

### Collect

Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong:  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
and establish your reign of justice and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in your humility you have stooped  
to share our human life with the most defenceless  
of your children:  
may we who have received these gifts of your passion  
rejoice in celebrating the witness  
of the Holy Innocents to the purity of your sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross;  
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Website: [www.maltonbenefice.org.uk](http://www.maltonbenefice.org.uk)

**A big thank you** to our Churchwardens, Heather and Mike, who have carried a heavy load during the vacancy but have kept everything running very smoothly. We hope they can now enjoy a bit of rest and relaxation.

**Thank you** to Canon Bob for coming to lead our service this morning.

During Communion, the choir will sing Hymn 74 & "Child in the Manger." At the end of the service, Alison will play Fantasia on "Adeste Fideles" by Eric Thiman.

**HYMNS: 56, \*, 55, 73**

#### **BENEFICE PRAYERS WEEK 12**

Please pray for those who live or work in these roads: Colling Wood Gardens, Fenton Lane, Mount Road, Rowan Avenue, Saville Street and York Road.

**Another big thank you** to Alison for devising another memorable service of Carols by Candlelight last Sunday evening. Also to Ian Little for playing the organ, the augmented Choir and Junior Choir and especially the courageous soloists. The readers also deserve our thanks. The church was almost full to capacity and the atmosphere was just wonderful.

**Yet another big thank you** to everyone who contributed to making the Christmas Eve Crib Service such a special event for the 135 attendees.

**Also,** all involved in the well-attended Auction Mart Carol Service: Revd Canon Simon who led it, Alison, the choir & the readers, as well as members of our congregation who lent support.

#### **READINGS & DUTIES**

##### **Sunday 4th January at 9.30 am All-Age service for Epiphany**

Readings	Isaiah 60.1-6 Ephesians 3. 1-12 Matthew 2. 1-12
Duty Leader	Mike Rhodes
Assistant	Marg Rhodes
Sides-person	Joyce Birch
Readers	All-Age team
Intercessions	All-Age team
Coffee	Clare Firth Watson family

**NB: NO** Holy Communion service this coming Wednesday morning as it is New Year's Eve.  
NO Lego church today.

#### **Iona-style service next**

**Sunday 4th Jan** at 4pm  
& on the theme of  
Advent. Tea & cake  
afterwards and all are welcome.



**Sunday 11th January:** we are invited to worship with our Methodist friends at the Wesley Centre. Start time 10 am. Short, said service of Holy Communion at St Michael's at 4 pm.

**Sunday 18th January:** we are invited to join Churches Together for a Unity Service at Norton College starting at 11 am. Rise & Shine at 9.30 am and a short, said service of Holy Communion at 4pm in St Michael's.

#### **Readings for the Holy Innocents**

##### **A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah**

Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country. Jeremiah 31. 15-17

##### **A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians**

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

I Corinthians 1. 26-29

##### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord, according to Matthew**

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

Matthew 2. 13-18