

## Parish of St. Michael, Tadley (with Kingsclere) and St. Oswald, Burghfield Common

Priest-in-Charge: Father Stephen Vooght - Parish Administrator: Dan Wisniewski

Presbytery & Office: Tel. 0118 981 4572 – Email: [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Office hours: Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri: 9.45am-2.45pm. Closed on Mondays

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

***“The people that walked in darkness has seen a GREAT LIGHT;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone” (Is 9:1)***



As we celebrate the great event of Christmas, let us look with wonderment at the Crib scene. Let us behold the child Jesus, the ‘GREAT LIGHT’ Isaiah spoke about. Let us be truly grateful for His birth and for His coming into our dark and unbelieving world to be ***“a lamp for my footsteps and a light for my path”*** (Psalm 119:105).

Blessings and thanks to everyone for your commitment and support of our faith communities of St Michael and St Oswald. Thank you for being with us and sharing your prayers and love.

Through our coming together in Christ, His heavenly light of love radiates and shines among us. It is by sharing this union in Christ that makes us greater sources of His light to the world.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas. May we always remain in the light of Christ and so always be filled with His peace and joy.

Fr Stephen

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS TIMETABLE

Day	Date	Feria, Memorial (M), Feast (F), Solemnity (S)	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Tomas Landers RIP
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	9.00am	St. Michael's	Martin & Johanna Higgins RIP
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Mon	22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	NO MASS			
Tues	23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Advent	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	Terry & Norman Lee RIP
Weds	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	CONFESSIONS 10.00am – 11.00am at St. Michael's			
Weds	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – Vigil	8.00pm	St. Michael's	
Thurs	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	9.00am	St. Michael's	
Thurs	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Fri	26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	St. Stephen (F)	10.30am	St. Michael's	Jim & Margaret Darroch
Sat	27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	The Holy Family (F) - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Cecilia Shennan RIP
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	The Holy Family (F)	9.00am	St. Michael's	Thomas Christopher Reilly RIP
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	The Holy Family (F)	11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec - Weds 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec: NO MASSES					
Thurs	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Mary, The Holy Mother of God (S)	11.00am	St. Michael's	
Fri	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	NO MASS			
Sat	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Nativity - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Philip John Burton RIP
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Nativity	9.00am	St. Michael's	Penfold Family deceased RIP
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Nativity	11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Mon	5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	NO MASS			
Tues	6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Epiphany of The Lord (S)	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	
Weds 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan - Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan: NO MASSES					
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Baptism of the Lord – Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Patricia (Pat) Kan RIP
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Baptism of the Lord	9.00am	St. Michael's	Brindley Family deceased RIP
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Baptism of the Lord	11.00am	St. Oswald's	
<i>The 8.00pm Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at St. Michael's will be preceded by carol singing from 7.30pm</i>					

### Basingstoke Hospital – Patients & Staff - Christmas Arrangements

Deacon Tony will be taking Holy Communion to Basingstoke Hospital on Christmas Morning. The hospital will provide him with the names and locations of all of the Catholic patients known to them. If you or a loved one is going into hospital, please make sure that the Chaplaincy Team are notified.

If you are a member of staff who is working on Christmas Day, please contact him by email at:

[adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) by Monday 22nd December, letting him know where in the hospital you are located & he will do his best to find you.

### Parish Christmas Donations

The individual parish online donation page for your Christmas Collections is now live on Give As You Live: [tadley-st-michael-and-st-oswald-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2025](#)

### Christmas Crib Collection

Bishop Philip has asked that the crib offerings from Christmas be donated this year to the Friends of the Holy Land. Thank you for encouraging generous donations as our brothers and sisters in Christ there are suffering.

### **Holiday Arrangements – Fr. Stephen & Parish Office**

- Father Stephen will be taking some days off as follows:

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec - Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec; Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan; Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan

- The Parish Office will be CLOSED & Dan will be on holiday as follows:

2.45pm Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December - 9.45am on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

(during this period, e-mail will not be checked. Telephone messages will be checked only on a sporadic basis)

- The next Parish Newsletter will be for the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> January

### **Emergency Cover**

If a serious need arises to contact a priest during these periods, please immediately use the emergency contact details shown below:

#### **Hospital Chaplaincy Contacts:**

##### **Basingstoke Hospital Chaplaincy Team**

Office Hours: 01256 314901

Urgent & Outside of office hours: Via the Hospital Switchboard 01256 473202

(Alternatively, St. Bede's Parish Office during Office Hours only: 01256 465214)

##### **Royal Berkshire Hospital Chaplaincy Team**

Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm: 0118 322 7105

Urgent & Outside of office hours: contact switchboard 0118 322 5111 to ask for the on-call chaplain.

**NOTE:** When contacting Hospital Chaplaincies, please clearly state you require a Roman Catholic priest. It is the responsibility of the family to request a Chaplain to attend.

**If there is a problem in finding a priest, DEACON TONY DARROCH will help as far as possible, if available - Tel: 07723 763767**

#### **Other alternative contacts:**

St. Bede's, Basingstoke 01256 465214

St. Joseph, Basingstoke 01256 323595

Douai Abbey (Woolhampton Parish) 0118 9715350

### **Maureen (Mo) Dudgeon-Smith R.I.P.**

Mo's Memorial Mass will be on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January at St. Michael's Church, however, the time has yet to be finalised & will be separately announced when known.

### **REMINDER!: Live Animal Nativity starting at St. Michael's Church, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

This year's CTAT Nativity experience will start outside our church at 4pm and journey on to Tadley Common Methodist Church and then on to St Mary's Church, where there will be a Nativity stable with live animals outside and refreshments inside the church hall, ending at 5.30pm. All welcome!

Note: There will be no parking in St Michael's car park from 3.30pm on Monday 22 December to 5pm. We recommend those bringing cars to park in Newchurch Road, near St Mary's Church, where the Nativity Trail will end.

**We really need more volunteers please to steward the opening scenes outside St Michael's Church,** weather permitting, or inside the church if necessary, in order to keep people safe. Also, volunteers to help serve refreshments at St Mary's or to give donations of mulled wine and mince pies would be much appreciated.

Please let Mary Lee know if you can help in any way on 07821 254100 or email [maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk)

Many thanks.

## Archangels

### **Christmas Afternoon Tea Party**

On Wednesday 10 December, the Archangels Social Group hosted a Christmas Afternoon Tea Party at St Mary's Church Hall, where 37 parishioners enjoyed gathering together for a sociable afternoon, good food and conversation, and joining Rick Wallis and Jo Mellor in singing a lovely selection of carols to round off the afternoon!

Gifts will be delivered to the eight parishioners who were sadly not well enough to join us on the day, so they know they are still remembered by the community of St Michael's Parish.

Many thanks to those who volunteered to help the Archangels with setting up the hall, transport, hosting and clearing up – your help was much appreciated! Thanks also to those who have supported Archangel events during the year, which raised funds to contribute to the costs of the party. Apologies if we missed someone from our guest list – if so, please do let us know, so we can include them next year!

## CTAT

### **Appearance of Christmas Stars in Tadley**

An amazing display of over 1,900 stars crafted by parishioners from across the CTAT churches took place last weekend at Tadley Common Methodist Church at the Festival of Stars. Many thanks to all those parishioners who made stars! On Tuesday and Wednesday morning, children going to Tadley primary schools found the Christmas Stars had appeared overnight, hanging on hedges and fences on the approach to their schools, each one with a tag, directing them to the CTAT website for information of Christmas services in local churches. Our thanks to all those involved, especially Vivien Gregg, Pauline and Gerry Penfold from our community, who went out at 6am to join parishioners from other CTAT churches hanging out the Stars – a great team effort!

### **CTAT Challenge for Churches in 2026**

At the last CTAT Forum, it was proposed that each CTAT community be challenged to discuss hosting one event in 2026 that would have a social element to bring CTAT members together, possibly just for fun or possibly to raise funds, and to bring suggestions to the next meeting on 22 January 2026. If you have any ideas of an event St Michael's could offer to organise, please contact Mary Lee in the first instance on 07821 254100 or email:

[maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk)

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

**CTAT Christian Unity Service:** Sunday 18 January 2026 at St Paul's Church, Tadley, at 10.30am.

**CTAT AGM:** Thursday 22 January 2026 at the Salvation Army Hall, 7pm refreshments for 7.30pm start.