

Have you heard of Michael Mouse?

Would you like to hear his story?

He lived in a hole in a grassy bank and one night when he was fast asleep he was woken by noisy singing and a bright light in the sky and wondering what it could be hurried to his friend Owl, who lived at the top of a tree and had a good view of everything that went on. Owl told him it was all because a little baby was to be born in Bethlehem and now everyone was going to see him.

It was a long journey but Michael Mouse wanted to go too. He had to climb hills and swim rivers and at last he arrived outside the stable where the baby had been born. First he met a sheep and asked if he could go in with her on her back so that he would be able to see the baby. "Have you got a present?" she asked. But Michael hadn't so he couldn't go in. Then he met a cow and asked if he could go in with her on her back so that he would be able to see the baby. "Have you got a present?" she asked. But Michael hadn't so he couldn't go in. Next he met a hen and asked her if he could go in on her back so that he could see the baby. "Have you got a present?" She asked. But Michael hadn't so he couldn't go in. A big ginger cat made Michael jump, "What are you doing here?" asked the cat. "I've come to see the baby but I haven't got a present" said Michael. "Well you had better clear off" said the cat pouncing at Michael. Then some shepherds came to the stable and they went in to see the baby. Poor Michael he felt very sad and a big tear

rolled down his nose. Something made him look up and he saw a chink of light in the stable wall. A little hole, he wondered if he could climb up to it ? It was very high up, but he made it! He squeezed into the hole first his head and then his body and then his bottom stuck in the hole leaving his tail dangling outside. It was bright inside the stable, he could see the baby in the arms of Mary his Mother and she was looking at him. Then , Joseph, the baby's Father winked at him, and said, "Thanks little mouse" . Michael was puzzled. Joseph explained. " That hole was too high for me to reach and we were worried in case Jesus would feel the draught and catch a cold." Michael was really thrilled , he had brought a gift for the baby after all. Now he watched the sheep and the cow and the hen giving their gifts and also the shepherds. He stayed all night in the hole in the wall until morning came when he made his way home. He was very tired. His friend Owl was there to greet him. He said he'd heard all about it from the sheep, the cow and the hen and they had told him that Michael hadn't got in because he didn't have a present. "Oh, but I did see the baby" said Michael. "But you didn't have a present" said Owl. "What did you give him?" Michael said "I gave him me , for as long as he needed me."

Here at St Michael's we have some friends of Michael mouse and if you look for the colour on their tails you can match it up with what they are going to tell you about some very important things in the church.

FONT

“I watch Mums and Dads bringing their babies here to be washed and given a special sign of the cross. They light candles and pray that the new baby will shine with the light of Jesus. It is called Baptism. Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist. Can you find a bird called a dove on the font?”

LECTERN

“I listen to stories being read from the bible. Do you know how many books there are in the bible? 66! Each Sunday two or three different stories are read. I wonder why there is an eagle on the lectern ? Do you think it could be so that he can fly off carrying all the stories to everyone?”

ALTAR

“ This is where they come together to share bread and wine , it seems like the table where Jesus ate the last supper with his friends and now they celebrate it every Sunday to remember Him. I look for crumbs but there never seems to be any!

If you look up at the window above, there is a picture of Jesus holding little children. I can see some words written there maybe you can read them.

‘He took them up in his arms and blessed them’
Children are very special to Jesus.”

PULPIT

“Sermon, that’s what it is called , I think, and it sometimes goes on forever! Though I must admit without it I would find it hard to understand the meaning of the stories we hear from the bible. I suppose the Vicar climbs up here so that he can see who has nodded off!”

ORGAN

”What a shock I get if I’m dozing and there is a sudden blast from the organ! I nearly jump out of my skin! Triumphant is the word that comes to mind , though it can be quiet and peaceful , even comforting at times. It certainly helps to sing praises to God.”

BELL

“ When this rope is pulled the bell tolls high up in the tower calling people to worship. At the end of weddings it rings out telling everyone that the couple are married! When it rings slowly it will be for someone who has died. I suppose it is a sort of messenger.”

I hope Michael’s friends have been helpful to you during your visit and that you will come again.