

## NOTICES

Each Christmas, **St Albans Vineyard Church Care Centre** organises a Gift Collection to support families within the Care Centre, Women's Refuge, the children of prisoners and other vulnerable families and we have been asked if we could support this initiative.

If you feel you are able to purchase a brand-new gift to donate to their Christmas gift collection, it would be appreciated if your gift is suitable for children aged 0-16 years; they would also appreciate stocking-fillers. Please do feel free to buy anything but some ideas are: wooden shape sorter, wooden building bricks, toy cars/trucks, dolls, dinosaurs, sticker books, colouring pencils or felt tip pens, bubbles etc.

Alternatively, if you prefer to shop on-line, you can access their Amazon Wish List on [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1Q1DETPTSPGPY?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1Q1DETPTSPGPY?ref_=wl_share)

**At the moment**, the FEED foodbank is particularly short of vegetable oil, laundry and cleaning products, nappies size 7 and 8, large-size Pull Up nappies. They also want to make available some of the seasonal goods which others take for granted. They are keen to encourage specific donations at this time of year of Christmas goodies such as non-alcoholic mince pies, Christmas puddings/cakes, chocolate logs etc. so if you can provide any of these, it would be greatly appreciated.

A 'shopping list' for both regular and Christmas goods is available at the back of each church, please take one if you can help. Thank you.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: St Michael's Churchyard Working Party – 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.** This is the last working party of the year and it would be greatly appreciated if you can spare some time to help to tidy the churchyard before the winter. For more information, please get in touch with Jim on 07770 324375.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: Church Cleaning – 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.** If you can spare some time to help to clean the church, please come along and join us - you are sure of a warm welcome, and your help would be greatly appreciated.

**Heating in St Michael's:** We are pleased to announce that the heaters are due to be commissioned on 8<sup>th</sup> December so, all being well, there should be heating in church from Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**From the Mission & Community Committee:** 'The Parish Walk and Lunch will start again in the Spring. However, weather permitting, we are planning a foraging walk for Christmas decorations for the church on **Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00 a.m.** Please meet at 11am at Batchwood in the car park on the right just before the house. If you want to come, please email [suecvaughan@btinternet.com](mailto:suecvaughan@btinternet.com) as lifts can be arranged.'



## Services this week

### Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022: Advent Sunday

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion with Holy Baptism (St Michael's)  
*President: Rev'd John Bannister*
- 5.00 p.m. Advent Carol Service (St Michael's)  
*There will be a Retiring Collection for the Choir Fund; this covers essential items such as music and robes.  
Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service.*
- 6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

### Wednesday

- 9.00 a.m. School Service
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)

### Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022: Second Sunday of Advent

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)  
*President: Rev'd Ruth Goatly*
- 6.00 p.m. Holy Communion (St Mary's)

**PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office is CLOSED on Wednesdays**

### Contacts

Key information is available on [www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk) or via the Parish Office: 01727 835037 (9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

Children's Church for those in school years Reception to Year 6 meets alongside the 9.30am service during term time. Please ask a Steward for more information and directions.

The **children's corner** in the North Aisle contains themed-worksheets, books and toys. Parents: please remain responsible for your children in this space. If your child needs time-out or privacy (e.g. nappy change) the Tower Room is available and has sound relay of the service.

**Toilets** are available in the Parish Centre at the east end of the churchyard; please see a steward for access.

Please stay for **refreshments** after the service in the Parish Centre.

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### **Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5 (OT p.575 in the Pew Bibles)**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

### **New Testament Reading: Romans 13: 11-14 (NT p.150 in the Pew Bibles)**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44 (NT p.26 in the Pew Bibles)**

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

### **During Communion the choir will sing The Advent Hymn**

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland,  
Der Jungfrauen Kind erkannt!  
Dass sich wundre alle Welt,  
Gott solch' Geburt ihm bestellt.

Now come, Saviour of the gentiles,  
recognised as the child of the Virgin,  
so that all the world is amazed  
God ordained such a birth for him.

Harmony by J.S. Bach, and preceded by a Chorale  
Prelude by G.F. Kauffmann

### **Please remember in your prayers**

- those who are **ill**, including: Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Debbie Greenwood, Edna Hames, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Paul Wiggett
- those who mourn the death of Doreen Anderson and Michael Hogben