

## 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.

**Cakes for Cops** is an initiative of the Christian Police Association where local church congregations bake a cake or small cakes for the officers and staff at their local police station as an appreciation of their work in the community and PC Gary Bentley will be reading one of the lessons at our Carol Service on 18<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like to participate and bake a cake for our local police officers, please speak to either Val or Mark for more information.

**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.'

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Church Cleaning.** Can spare some time to help to clean the church after it has been decorated for Christmas? If you are able, please meet at the church from 11.00 a.m. onwards - you are sure of a warm welcome, and your help would be greatly appreciated.



## Services this week

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

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

### Wednesday

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

### Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022: Third Sunday of Advent

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. All-Age Communion and Children's Nativity Play (St Michael's)  
*President: Rev'd Canon Iain Lane*
- 6.00 p.m. Christmas Carol Service (St Mary's)  
*The traditional nine lessons with popular carols for all to sing.*

**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 11: 1-10 (OT p.583 in the Pew Bibles)**

#### **Between the Lessons:**

The Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel : for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us : in the house of his servant David;  
As he spoke by the mouth of his holy Prophets : which have been since the world began;  
That we should be saved from our enemies : and from the hands of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers : and to remember his holy Covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham : that he would give us;  
That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies : might serve him without fear;  
In holiness and righteousness before him : all the days of our life.  
And thou, Child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest :  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people : for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God :  
whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death :  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

### **New Testament Reading: Romans 15: 4-13 (NT p.151 in the Pew Bibles)**

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name';

and again he says,

'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

and again,

'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him';

and again Isaiah says,

'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;

in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 3: 1-12 (NT p.2 in the Pew Bibles)**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." '

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

### **During Communion the choir will sing**

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| 1. Adam lay ybounden<br>Bounden in a bond<br>Four thousand winters<br>Thought he not too long.   | 3. Ne had the apple taken been<br>The apple taken been<br>Ne had never our lady<br>Abeen heavenè queen. |
| 2. And all was for an apple<br>An apple that he took<br>As clerkes finden written in their book. | 4. Blessed be the time<br>That apple taken was<br>Therefore we moun singen Deo gracias!                 |

### **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 Wigggett