

NOTICES (CONTINUED)

As announced at last week's services, **The Rev'd Jonathan Lloyd**, currently Minor Canon (Precentor) of St Albans Abbey, has been appointed as Vicar of St Michael with St Mary, St Albans. The Institution and Installation service will be held on **Thursday, 11th May 2023 at 7.30 p.m.** Please remember Jonny and his family in your prayers.

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, 14th 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 as lifts can be arranged.'

Saturday 17th 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.

Centre 33 provides an evening meal service for homeless people and others, operating each evening, Monday to Thursday and Sunday, from the Salvation Army Citadel in Victoria Street, St Albans. They urgently need more volunteers so that they can remain open. If you can help or would like more information, please email the Volunteer Coordinator on volunteers@centre33.org

Ginny Allkins writes: 'Thank you to everyone for their generous donations for the purchase of the jars of Japonica and Crab Apple Jelly. We have sent £70 to the charity **WaterHarvest** (formerly Wells for India) which is based in Winchester. Many thanks for your support'

Could your Christmas present to St Michael's be volunteering for the coffee rota? This is a rewarding and low commitment role as part of our welcome to all who attend the 9.30 a.m. service. You would only be asked to help serve coffee up to twice in a four-month period and would usually be serving in a group of three. New starters are always put with experienced coffee servers. When serving coffee, you just need to arrive by 9.00 a.m. on the day to help set up, and then leave the service after Communion to do the last few tasks before the service ends and coffee is served. Please do consider joining our friendly team of coffee servers - it's also a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners better. For more information, please email Sophie Levitt on sophie.levitt@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office will be **closed** for Christmas for general and hall booking enquiries for an extended period **from 12.00 p.m. on Friday, 23rd December** until **9.00 a.m. on Monday, 9th January 2023.**



Services this week

Sunday, 11th 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.

Wednesday

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

Sunday, 18th December 2022: Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
President: Bishop Stephen Venner
- 4.00 p.m. Christmas Carol Service (St Michael's)
The traditional nine lessons with popular carols for all to sing.
- 6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office is CLOSED on Wednesdays

Contacts

Key information is available on 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.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11: 2-11 (NT p.10 in the Pew Bibles)

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

NOTICES

Christmas Retiring Collections at St Michael's Church will support:

Carol Service: 18th December

Children of Peace: Conflict resolution among children and young people in Israel and the Palestinian territories (Registered Charity Number 1112301)

Crib Service: 23rd December

Keech Hospice Care: Local hospice care for children (Registered Charity Number 1035089)

Midnight /Christmas Day: 24th/ 25th December (Split 50/50)

Living Room: Addiction Support (Registered Charity Number: 1080634)

Centre 33: Homelessness Support in St Albans (Registered Charity Number: 1146438)

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

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 18th 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.

Continued!