

NOTICES

The vicar and wardens receive a request annually to nominate two people from the parish to receive a gift from The Jane Nicholas Charity. If you know of someone in the parish who would benefit from a one-off payment, please let Val on chiesa@btinternet.com or Mark on wincleslodge@gmail.com know **by 31st January**.

Today at **4.00 p.m.** at the Homewood Road site of the newly formed St Albans United Reformed Church., there will be a service for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. The preacher at the service will be **The Very Rev'd Jo Kelly-Moore, Dean of St Albans**

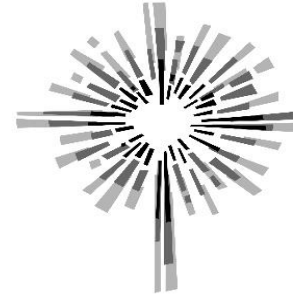
The Friends of St Michael's Church will be holding their Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, 25th January 2023 at 6.00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at Maynes Barn, Maynes Farm, Gorhambury, St Albans AL3 6AF.

We've received some information from The Living Room – a charity we support - that the **Abbey Theatre** will be hosting an adaptation by Derek Coe of "Measure for Measure" by William Shakespeare and proceeds from ticket sales will go to support the charity. The performance takes place on **Thursday 26th January 2023** at 8.00 p.m. (doors open at 7.30 p.m.). As this is a special charity performance, it cannot be booked via the regular Abbey Theatre website, so if you wish to attend, please book your tickets via <https://www.livingroomherts.org/Event/measure-for-measure>

Lent Discussion Groups: Following our studies and discussions last year (and John Bannister's sermon last week - now on the website), we would like to focus on the spiritual writings of Henri Nouwen. He is a writer who focuses on our self-understanding and sense of purpose. An anthology of his writings, engaging with life's big questions, with commentaries and meditations by Anglican writers, falls neatly into the five weeks of our Lent preparation, and we are looking at a mini-Parish Retreat at St Mary's on 1st April to conclude and prepare for Holy Week. The book costs £12.99 and is available at <https://canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781786223760/on-retreat-with-henri-nouwen>. Groups will meet by Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 8pm (facilitated by Mark) beginning on 28th February and on the following Wednesdays at lunchtime in the Parish Centre. Patsy Cann will facilitate and Sue Vaughan is providing a light lunch.

Sunday, 5th February is Candlemas - a festival of light to mark the close of the greater Christmas season - with **Christingle-making** taking place during the All-Age Communion at 9.30 a.m. Donations made at this service will be sent to **Youth Talk** (Registered Charity Number 1063572) which is a counselling and signposting service for young people in St Albans.

There will be a concert of popular classical music at Dagnall Street Baptist Church on **Saturday, 18th February at 7.30 pm** with a retiring collection for Christian Aid. Please try and support concerts and events like this as street collections raise less revenue than previously.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

Sunday, 22nd January 2023:

Third Sunday after Epiphany

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)
President: Rev'd John Bannister
- 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, 29th January 2023:

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)
President: Rev'd Canon Iain Lane
- 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.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9: 1-4 (OT p.581 in the Pew Bibles)

Between the readings the choir will sing Psalm 27

The Lord is my light, and my salvation; whom then shall I fear :

the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require :

even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle :

yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon
a rock of stone.

And now shall he lift up mine head :

above mine enemies round about me.

Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness :

I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord.

Hearken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee :

have mercy upon me, and hear me.

My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face :

Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

O hide not thou thy face from me :

nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.

Thou hast been my succour :

leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

New Testament Reading: I Corinthians I: 10-18 (NT p.153 in the Pew Bibles)

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized

none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4: 12-23 (NT p.3 in the Pew Bibles)

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

During Communion the choir will sing

Lord that descendedst, Holy Child,

Dwelling amongst us, Word of God, Thee we adore.

Jesus our Gospel, Way and Truth,

Master and Lover, Light and Life, Thee we adore.

Lord ever blessed, God most high,

Lord ever blessed, Thee we adore. Thee we adore.

Music: Eric Gritton

Words: Eric Milner-White

Please remember in your prayers

- those who are **ill**, including: Nicola Cann, Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Debbie Greenwood, Edna Hames, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, JoAnne Laws; Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Paul Wiggett