

## NOTICES

**Lent Discussion Groups:** Following our reading and discussions last year (and John Bannister's sermon - now on the website), we would like to focus on the spiritual writings of Henri Nouwen. He is a writer who aims to stimulate our self-understanding and sense of purpose. An anthology of his writings, engaging with life's big questions, including 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 1<sup>st</sup> April to conclude and prepare for Holy Week. The book is **On Retreat with Henri Nouwen** and costs around **£12.99** and is available from the publisher (<https://canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781786223760/on-retreat-with-henri-nouwen>) and other well-known sources. Please buy a copy soon as delivery times vary.

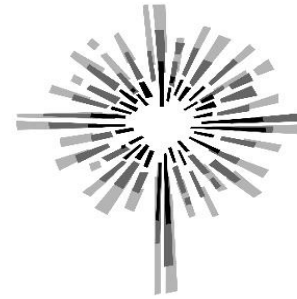
To find out more, John has reminded us of <https://henrinouwen.org/>, the website of the Henri Nouwen Society which also offers a daily meditation to your email, which might be a focus for Lenten preparation. Groups will meet by Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 8pm (facilitated by Mark) beginning on 28<sup>th</sup> February and on the following Wednesdays at lunchtime in the Parish Centre. As usual, there will be an opportunity to discuss our reading after the Wednesday communion and a team of people will be providing a light lunch.

There will be a concert of popular classical music at Dagnall Street Baptist Church on **Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Albans Cathedral** is hosting an exhibition about asylum seekers in St Albans which runs from **Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> February** in the north transept. This is a reflective and ambitious interactive exhibition, made in collaboration with St Albans' asylum seekers. Admission is free but donations are welcome. To find out more please visit [www.stalbanscathedral.org/Event/seeking-asylum-in-st-albans](http://www.stalbanscathedral.org/Event/seeking-asylum-in-st-albans)

A Pre-Lent Quiet Day has been organised by the St. Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit and will take on **Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephen's Church in St. Albans 10.00am – 4.00pm (Cost £5)**. Guiding the Quiet Day will be the **Dean of St Albans the Very Rev Jo Kelly-Moore**. The theme for the day is **'Faces of the Cross'**. A warm invitation is given to all. To book please contact Chris Hancock on the Circuit Office Tel: 01727 854211 / [admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk](mailto:admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk)

**For your diary:** There are places available on garden tours of Gorhambury House on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> June. If you are interested, please email Olivia Berry, Estate Office Manager at Gorhambury: [office@grimstontrust.co.uk](mailto:office@grimstontrust.co.uk)



*St Michael with St Mary*

### Services this week

#### Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023:

#### Second Sunday before Lent

- 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)

#### Wednesday

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

#### Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023:

#### Sunday Next before Lent

- 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)

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1 to 2:3 (OT p.1 in the Pew Bibles)**

#### **Between the lessons the choir sing from Psalm 136:**

- give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious :
- give thanks unto the God of all gods :
- thank the Lord of all lords :  
for his mercy endureth for ever.

Who only doeth great wonders :  
Who by his excellent wisdom made the heavens :  
Who laid out the earth above the waters :  
for his mercy endureth for ever.

Who hath made great lights :  
The sun to rule the day :  
The moon and the stars to govern the night :  
for his mercy endureth for ever.

Who giveth food to all flesh :  
○ give thanks unto the God of heaven :  
○ give thanks unto the Lord of lords :  
for his mercy endureth for ever.

### **New Testament Reading: Romans 8: 18-25 (NT p.146 in the Pew Bibles)**

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For

in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 6: 25-34 (NT p.6 in the Pew Bibles)**

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

#### **During Communion the choir sing:**

Praise we the Lord, who made all beauty  
For all our senses to enjoy.  
Give we our humble thanks and duty,  
That simple pleasures never cloy.  
Praise we the Lord, who made all beauty  
For all our senses to enjoy.

Praise Him who makes our life a pleasure,  
Sending us things which glad our eyes.  
Thank Him who gives us welcome leisure,  
That in our heart sweet thoughts may rise.  
Praise Him who makes our life a pleasure,  
Sending us things which glad our eyes.

Words: Steuart Wilson Music: French trad. (harm. Martin Shaw)

#### **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
- Rev'd Ruth Goatly who has had her knee operation and hopes to be home in the near future.