

## NOTICES

**Lent Discussion Groups:** We will focus on the spiritual writings of Henri Nouwen. 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 have booked a mini-Parish Retreat at St Mary's on 1<sup>st</sup> April to conclude and prepare for Holy Week. **On Retreat with Henri Nouwen** and costs around **£12.99**: it is widely available but please order now as delivery times vary.

If you wish to be included on the Tuesday Zoom list beginning on 28<sup>th</sup> February, please send an email to Mark at [wincneslodge@gmail.com](mailto:wincneslodge@gmail.com). If you would like to attend on Wednesdays at 11.00 (in the Parish Centre after the Communion Service), please tell Patsy Cann or Sue Vaughan, so that we know how many to cater for.

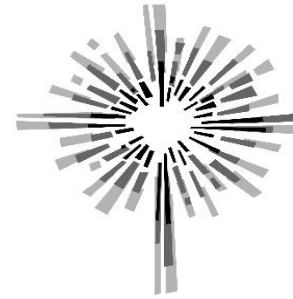
To find out more about Nouwen, visit <https://henrinouwen.org>, the website of the Henri Nouwen Society, which also offers a daily meditation by email.

The next **Deanery Synod** will take place on **8<sup>th</sup> March at St Stephen's Church, Watling Street AL1 2PT** – doors open at 7.00 p.m. for light refreshments and is open to the public. The speaker is Catherine Ross, Net Zero Carbon Programme Officer for the Church of England and this is a good opportunity to hear the latest information on the practical steps that churches can take to reduce their carbon footprint. If you wish to join online, the link is: <https://youtube.com/live/Pt3nziwaSY?feature=share>

### FOR INFORMATION

**ELECTORAL ROLL:** Before for the **Annual Meetings on 21<sup>st</sup> May**, the parish Electoral Roll needs to be revised, and **will be open for revision from 31<sup>st</sup> March**.

- If you are already a member of the Roll, you do not need to complete a form.
- If you are a regular worshipper aged 16 and above, and not yet on the Roll, please take an Electoral Roll Application Form from the back of either church, fill it in, and return to the Parish Office at the Vicarage. Membership of the Electoral Roll gives you voting rights at parish meetings and helps keep our pastoral contacts up to date.



*St Michael with St Mary*

### Services this week

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023:**

#### Second Sunday of 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. Holy Communion (St Mary's)

#### Wednesday

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

**Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023:**

#### Third Sunday of 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)

**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: Genesis 12: 1-4a (OT p.9 in the Pew Bibles)  
Between the readings we hear Psalm 121 - Chant by Barry Rose**

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills  
from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh even from the Lord :  
who hath made heaven and earth.  
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved :  
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.  
Behold, he that keepeth Israel :  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord himself is thy keeper :  
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;  
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day :  
neither the moon by night.  
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil :  
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.  
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in :  
from this time forth for evermore.

**New Testament Reading: Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 (NT p.142 in the Pew Bibles)**

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**Gospel Reading: John 3: 1-17 (NT p.87 in the Pew Bibles)**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**During Communion the choir sings:**

God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten son,  
that whoso believeth in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son  
into the world to condemn the world,  
but that the world through him might be saved.

God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten son,  
that whoso believeth in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.

Words from John 3.

Music from The Crucifixion by John Stainer

**Please remember in your prayers**

- those who are **ill**, including: Nicola Cann, Sandra Dove, Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Rev'd Ruth Goatly, Debbie Greenwood, Edna Hames, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, JoAnne Laws, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Paul Wiggett