

NOTICES

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
- those who mourn the death of Brenda George

Please Note: The **Lent Discussion** groups will conclude on **Saturday, 1st April** with a short mini-retreat at St Mary's from 11am until lunchtime.

Next week is **Palm Sunday** and this year, **the donkey procession** will take place at **St Michael's** so please meet in the **churchyard at 9.30 a.m.** if you wish to take part.

ELECTORAL ROLL: Before for the Annual Meetings on 21st May, the parish Electoral Roll needs to be revised, and is open for revision from Friday, 31st March. **If you are already a member of the Roll, you do not need to complete a form.** However, if you are a regular worshipper aged 16 and above, and not yet on the Roll but would like to join, please complete an Electoral Roll Application Form (available from both churches) and **return it to the Parish Office at the Vicarage before 28th April.** Membership of the Electoral Roll gives you voting rights at parish meetings and helps keep our pastoral contacts up to date.

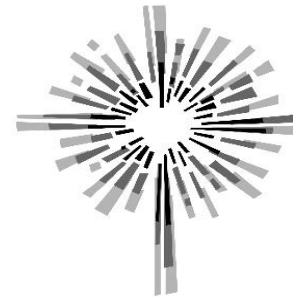
INSTITUTION AND INDUCTION SERVICE

Our new vicar, Rev'd Jonathan (aka Jonny) Lloyd will be licensed on **Thursday, 11th May at 7.30pm in St Michael's.** Formal invitations will go out to Jonny's guests, including clergy from the diocese and Abbey, in the next couple of weeks. At the same time, sheets will be placed in both of our churches for members of the congregation to sign if they wish to attend. This will allow us to compile a complete list of attendees for our stewards to use on the night, and ensure everyone can be accommodated safely.

A reception in the churchyard after the service is being planned by Mission & Community. Further details of how you can help or support them before, or on the night will be in the pew sheet in the next few weeks. We want to get the church and churchyard in the best order we can, so look out for more details on how you can help if you have some time available in the lead up to the day.

Val & Mark

Saturday 1st April: St Michael's Churchyard Working Party and Church Cleaning – **9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.** If you can spare some time to help, it would be greatly appreciated. For more information, please get in touch with Jim on 07770 324375 (churchyard) or Jane on janelarman@sky.com (cleaning).



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

Sunday, 26th March 2023:

Passion Sunday

- 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, 2nd April 2023:

Palm Sunday

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Donkey procession at St Michael's followed by All-Age Service (St Michael's)
President: Rev'd John Bannister
- 6.00 p.m. Holy Communion (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: Ezekiel 37: 1-14 (OT p.735 in the Pew Bibles)

Between the first and second readings the choir sings Psalm 130

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord :

Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well :

the voice of my complaint.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss :

O Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee :

therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him :

in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord :

before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy :

and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel :

from all his sins.

New Testament Reading: Romans 8: 6-11 (NT p.145 in the Pew Bibles)

Gospel Reading: John 11: 1-45 (NT p.97 in the Pew Bibles)

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has

fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

During Communion the choir sings:

"And didst thou travel light, dear Lord"

Words - Geoffrey Dearmer 1893-1996; see Hymn 103

Music - Richard Shephard 1949-2021