

NOTICES

Contact Information:

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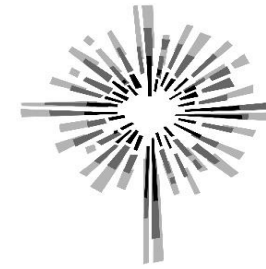
DATE FOR DIARIES: Misson Action Planning Day 9th September 10-3pm St Mary's, Childwick. The Diocese asks that every parish have a 'Mission Action Plan' to outline how they hope to live out the Christian faith and serve their communities in a 5 year period. This parish's previous plan finished this year so it is time to renew the MAP! The structure of the day will be simple (and similar to the one you had to prepare the parish profile in vacancy)- we will pray, eat, and think together, focusing our efforts on three areas to discern what our priorities should be in this next season of our church life. Some preparatory questionnaires will be coming at the end of August, and anyone not able to attend will still be able to contribute.

Bishop Alan will be opening his garden at **Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, AL3 4HD** to the public from **2.00pm – 4.00pm** every Sunday afternoon between **18th June** and **6th August**. **Entrance: £4 per person (accompanied children free)** in aid of Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust.

Parish Walk: Please meet at the Parish Centre on **Wednesday, 26th July at 11am**, and the walk this month will be very local. Earlier this year the mini golf course in Verulamium closed and it has now returned to its natural state. The Council has cut paths through the grass, making a lovely meadow walk, for everyone to enjoy the birdsong and butterflies! We will be back at the Portland Arms at 1pm for lunch in the pods. Please email Sue on suecvaughan@btinternet.com if you'd like to join in.

DENS, a local homeless and food poverty charity working mainly in the Dacorum district, has arranged a fundraising event, **The Jurassic Coast Trek** - the journey is from Lulworth to Studland and covers 25 miles - will take place from 20-22nd October 2023. If you would like to take part in this fundraising challenge, please visit their website www.dens.org.uk/trek for more information, or call 01442 800268.

All-Age Sunday will be moving to the 1st Sunday of each month from September. Our all-age on 3rd of September will include a **bag blessing** for everyone starting the new academic year (or starting anything new at all!) Bring your school bags, work bags, rucksacks or handbags to be blessed and made ready for their work of carrying our stuff in all that is to come in the year ahead!



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

All services take place at St Michael's unless otherwise stated

Sunday, 23rd July 2023: Seventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist
6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

Wednesday

10.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 30th July 2023: Eighth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist
6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

Welcome to our worship this morning; it is good to be together. The **children's corner** in the North Aisle contains themed-worksheets, books and toys. If you need 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. All are welcome to stay for **refreshments** after the service in the Parish Centre. If you are new, we would love to meet you!

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 44: 6-8 (OT p.613 in the Pew Bibles)

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Between the first and second readings we sing Responsorial Psalm 139 vv1-11 (Response to be sung by the choir, and then by all):



O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Response (all)

For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.

Response (all)

Where can I go then from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

Response (all)

If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand hold me fast.

Response (all)

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me
and the light around me turn to night,'
Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.

Response (all)

New Testament Reading: Romans 8: 12-25 (NT p.146 in the Pew Bibles)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 (NT p.13 in the Pew Bibles)

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Please remember in your prayers:

- anyone moving out of our parish this week.
- those who are changing jobs or retiring.
- those who are ill, including: Nicola Cann, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Edna Hames, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, JoAnne Laws, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Paul Wiggett
- The recently departed, including: Jenifer Blackden, Jo Frost, and those who mourn.