

NOTICES

DATE FOR DIARIES: Misson Action Planning Day 9th September 10-3pm St Mary's, Childwick.

Parish Picnic: Many thanks to Kathryn Mathews for leading our sunny walk through the former golf course in Verulamium, down to the river and then up to the Portland Arms, where they continue to welcome us with very good lunches. On **Wednesday, 30th August**, a 'bring and share' picnic in the garden at St Mary's, Childwickbury, has been planned. Please meet at midday at St Mary's and bring a fold-up chair with you if you can. Tea and coffee will be provided. If you would like to go to the picnic and so that car sharing can be organised, please let Sue know on suecvaughan@btinternet.com

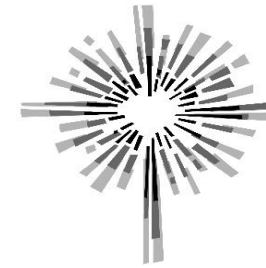
Bag Blessing! Our next all-age service on **3rd September** will include a **bag blessing** for everyone starting the new academic year (or starting anything new at all!) Bring your school bags, work bags, rucksacks or handbags to be blessed and made ready for their work of carrying our stuff in all that is to come in the year ahead!

The **Animal Service** will take place at **St Mary's on Sunday, 17th September at 3.00 p.m.** The ever-popular parish Animal Service will be held outside St Mary's Childwick, AL3 6JJ. A simple half-hour service to thank God for creation and to pray for animal welfare. If you have a pet that you would like to be blessed, please bring it with you. If your pet is nervous around people, please bring a photo and we can pray with that instead. Please keep all dogs on leads.

Centre 33 are looking for new people to join their teams of volunteers who provide hot meals to those in need, homeless or socially deprived in the St Albans area. To find out more, please visit www.Centre33.org/volunteering or ask them a question on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Centre33StAlbans

Rennie Grove Peace Hospice are looking for St. Albans' residents to help with supporting the Hospice's Compassionate Cafés in the local area. The Hospice already has these Cafés in other areas and are keen to roll them out in St. Albans. For more information, please visit <https://renniegrovepeace.org/about-us/news/volunteers-needed-for-st-albans-compassionate-cafes/>

The diocese is looking to recruit a **Programme Manager** to define, monitor and deliver the diocesan vision and strategy for Growing Younger and More Diverse – the role is offered as a fixed term, 3-year contract. The person will need experience in project planning, managing and monitoring, as well as a proven track record of writing and delivering successful complex funding bids. If you are interested, a full job pack is available on <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/vacancies/diocesan-programme-manager/>



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 20th August 2023: Eleventh 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, 27th August 2023: Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

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

Contact Information:

Vicar: The Rev'd Jonny Lloyd: vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk
Address: St Michael's Vicarage, St Michael's Street, St Albans, AL3 4SL
Parish Office: Georgie Ray: admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk
(9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)
Telephone: 01727 835037
Website: www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk

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!

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity; mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8 (OT p.624 in the Pew Bibles)

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.
And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant--
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

New Testament Reading: Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 (NT p.148 in the Pew Bibles)

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: 21-28 (NT p.16 in the Pew Bibles)

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Prayer Over The Gifts

Lord God, in this bread and wine you give us food for body and spirit. May the eucharist renew our mind and strength and bring us health of mind and body. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Maggie Dodd and the Anna Chaplaincy of St Albans
- 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 Wigggett
- those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Susan Holliday.
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Those who attend Julian and other Contemplative Prayer groups.*