

NOTICES

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.

First Communion preparation is taking place after the 9.30 on **1st, 8th and 15th October**. Each session will run from 10.45-11.45, with first Communions on the **22nd October** at the 9.30. This is aimed at children aged roughly 7-11. Please email Jonny to sign up.

Biblical Costumes! Children's church are looking to build a stock of costumes for acting out some of the stories of our faith during their worship. If you have any old togas, tea towels, etc. that would fit the bill please let Pauline, Jo or Jonny know. Thanks! P.S. historical accuracy is **low** on our list of priorities.

Men's night will take place at the Six Bells this coming **Thursday, 14th September** from 8:30pm as usual.

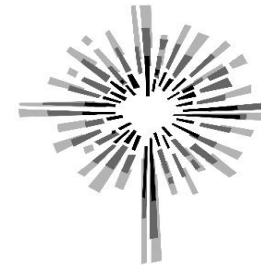
The **bellringers** are opening the tower for tours on **Sunday, 17th September from 2pm until 5pm**. If you are interested in finding out more about the bells or about learning to ring, do come along! You will have the chance to see the bells and the clock mechanism, and there will be a short bell ringing demonstration. Tours will last about an hour.

The sun shone for our picnic in the garden of St Mary's, Childwickbury, and a great time was had by all 23 picnickers! Sorry to say there will be no walk/lunch in September due to holiday absences. The next one will be towards the end of October - details will follow.

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

Kingsbury Barn: Jill Gleeson formerly Head of Ceramics at Haberdashers, is having an exhibition, 10-5, of her work today. All are most welcome to attend (in Kingsbury Manor, enter behind the Waffle House).

St Albans District Council is consulting on the future of Hatfield Road cemetery and other local cemeteries. They are asking for views on how far these could become environmentally friendly amenities for the local community, offering a peaceful oasis and insights into local history (while still being respectful as places of burial). They are keen to get local views and get as wide a response as possible by 23rd October. Details and questionnaires have been published at: Have Your Say Today - St Albans Cemeteries 2023 - Commonplace <https://stalbanscemeteries2023.commonplace.is>



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 10th September 2023: Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Wednesday

9.00 a.m.	St Michael's School Service
10.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 17th September 2023: Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist
3.00 p.m.	Animal Service (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)
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Welcome to our worship this morning; it is good to be together. Children's Church meets in the Parish Centre and go out together after the first hymn. In church 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

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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: Ezekiel 33: 7-11 (OT p.731 in the Pew Bibles)

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

New Testament: Romans 13: 8-end (NT p.150)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18: 15-20 (NT p.18)

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Prayer Over The Gifts

Lord, let this offering to the glory of your name purify us and bring us closer to eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Ongoing thinking as a parish about our Mission Action Plan 2023-2028
- Anyone struggling to ask for forgiveness
- Those recently married in our parish:
Colin Toms and Lesley Curtis, 29th August;
Naomi Childs and Seb Wesson, 31st August;
Finlay Sheriff and Jane Lindop, 2nd September;
Sarah Burke and David Cole, 8th September.
- 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 Rosemary Herklots and Susan Holliday.
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Those who act as 'soul friends' and their supervisors*