

# NOTICES

**Next Sunday: Advent Carol Service at 4pm.** Don't miss this atmospheric service when we reflect, through readings and music, on the holy and mysterious season of Advent.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December: St Michael's Churchyard Working Party and Church Cleaning – 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.** This is the last working party of the year, and it would be greatly appreciated if you can spare some time to help to tidy the churchyard before the winter. For more information, please get in touch with Jim on 07770 324375 (churchyard) or Jane on janelarman@sky.com (cleaning).

The next **Parish Walk** will be on the **morning of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**, followed by Christmas Lunch at the Portland Arms. Details of the walk will follow – during which we'll be looking for greenery to decorate the church. If you're interested in seeing the menu for Christmas Lunch, please let Sue know - [suecvaughan@btinternet.com](mailto:suecvaughan@btinternet.com)

**St Michael's Tots** (previously Tiny Tots) is hoping to restart in January in the old Tuesday morning slot. If you could join the coffee rota for this on an occasional basis, send Jonny an email, on [vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk](mailto:vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk)

**Coffee break!** After each Wednesday 10.30 Eucharist we are now having tea, coffee, biscuits and lots of chat. If you don't already, do come and join us!

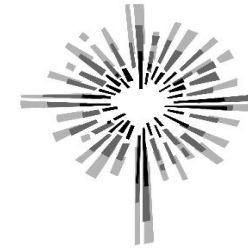
**Youth Talk**, one of the charities we support at Christmas, has launched a fundraising raffle for two tickets to 'Home Alone in Concert' at the Royal Albert Hall for the performance on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. For more information, and to participate in the raffle, please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/home-alone-at-the-royal-albert-hall-affle>

**Christmas Concert:** 19<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm. Join Kate Lindeman for an evening of Christmas classics, beautiful arias, pop-opera favourites and a glass or two of mulled wine. Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-albans-christmas-concert-st-michaels-tickets-704537700227?aff=oddtcreator>

**Ladies' Night:** We would like to start arranging these outings again, so the men don't have all the fun. If you would be interested in becoming coordinator for this, please speak to Val or email her on [chiesa@btinternet.com](mailto:chiesa@btinternet.com)

**Update: Ginny** would like to thank everyone who bought Quince jelly with the sum of **£165** being raised in support of WaterHarvest. Ginny has received an acknowledgment from the charity in respect of the donation.

**Sunday morning Toddlers' Praise** Thank you to everyone who has offered to help with restarting this group for our youngest worshippers. It would be great if as many of us as possible please could meet **TODAY** after the 9.30 a.m. service to plan the session structure and sort a few safeguarding bits. If you can't make it, please let Jonny know and we'll catch up another time. Thanks again for your support of this important ministry.



*St Michael with St Mary*

## Services this week

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

### Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023: Christ the King

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, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023: Advent Sunday

8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9.30 a.m. All-Age Parish Eucharist  
4.00 p.m. Advent Carol Service  
6.00 p.m. Choral Evensong (St Mary's)

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### Contact Information:

Vicar: The Rev'd Jonny Lloyd: [vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk)

Welcome to our worship this morning; it is good to be together. Today Junior Church meet in the parish centre to rehearse the nativity play - they will leave after the first hymn. The children's corner contains themed-worksheets, books and toys if you'd like to keep little people busy- but there is no obligation to use it! 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

God the Father,  
help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
and to follow in his service,  
whose kingdom has no end;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, one glory.

### Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

### Between the first and second readings, the choir sing from Psalm 95 (Venite)

O come let us sing unto the Lord;: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God; and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth; and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it; and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

### Gospel acclamation

The choir sings alleluia once, before all repeat '**Alleluia**'. The sentence, sung by the choir is 'Thou, O Christ, art the King of Glory: thou art the eternal Son of the Father'

Then **ALL** repeat **Alleluia**

### Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

### Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, we offer you the sacrifice by which your Son reconciles humanity. May it bring unity and peace to the world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Anthem during Communion: O Thou the central orb of righteous love

*Words: H.R. Bramley*

*Music Charles Wood 1866-1926*

### Please remember in your prayers:

- All who mourn the loss of relationships
- All called to positions of leadership, that they might live the example of Christ the servant king.
- those who are **ill**, including: Jo Barnes, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Sam Mahoney, Alison Munro, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including Suzanne Cavanagh, Joan Crook, Mark Jefferson, and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *those who run and attend after school clubs*