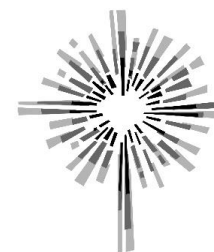


NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office re-opens tomorrow at **9.00 a.m.** on **Monday, 8th January 2024** for general enquires and **any** emails received over the Christmas period will be dealt with by **Georgie** in the order they were received. **Danielle** will return to the office on **Tuesday, 9th January** and will handle any enquiries received from the on-line hall booking system, or via email, in the order they were received.

St Michael's Tots (previously Tiny Tots) is going to restart in January in the same Tuesday morning slot (9.30-11am). We're having a **spring clean** of all the toys and equipment on the **9th January**, with the **grand re-launch on the 16th**. If you would like to help by joining the coffee rota for this on even an occasional basis, send Jonny an email, on vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk. Do also please spread the word about our restart and pray that it serves well as a resource and support for the very young people of this parish and their carers.

Sacrament and sustenance! Each Wednesday at 10.30 we continue to celebrate a mid-week Eucharist. This now has a hymn, a homily and is followed by tea, coffee, biscuits and lots of chat. If you don't already, do come and join us!



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 7th January 2024: Epiphany

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9.30 a.m. All-Age Parish Eucharist
- 6.00 p.m. Epiphany Carols - led by the choir (St Mary's)
Celebrate the Feast of Epiphany with traditional readings and music

Wednesday, 8th January

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

Sunday, 14th January 2024: Second Sunday of Epiphany

- 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. Junior Church does not meet in the school holiday, but 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

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was

to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, accept the gifts of your Church, not gold, frankincense and myrrh, but the sacrifice and food they symbolise: Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- all who are called to positions of leadership
- all who are far from home
- those who are **ill**, including; 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 Jo Barnes, Suzanne Cavanagh, Richard Hoddy and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *all who follow a Rule of Life*