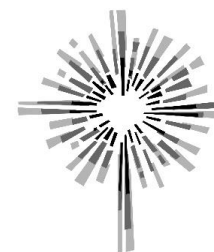


NOTICES

St Michael's Tots (previously Tiny Tots) has restarted on Tuesdays in the Parish Centre from 9.30-11.00 a.m. If you would like to help by joining the coffee rota for this on even an occasional basis, please 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!

Burns Night Thanks to all who came and celebrated 'the immortal memory' of Robbie Burns on Friday in the Memorial Hall. It was a lot of fun, and I never knew the parish contained so many expert dancers! We'll let you know how much was raised for the tower in due course.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 28th January 2024: Candlemas

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

Wednesday, 31st January

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

Sunday, 4th February 2024: Second Sunday before Lent

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	All-Age Parish Eucharist
6.00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist (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. This season of the church's year is called Epiphany, from the Greek word for 'unveiling'. It is a season in which our bible readings progressively unveil more about who Jesus is, before we turn our attention to Lent. Junior Church meets today for young people aged 5 and up in the parish centre; they go out after the first hymn to their worship. For anyone not heading out please also feel free to use the children's corner in the north aisle, and the Tower Room is available if you need privacy (e.g. nappy change) and which 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

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3: 1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Between the readings, the choir sings the Nunc Dimittis for the Gradual; music by Charles Wood

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Gospel acclamation

The choir sings alleluia once, before all repeat '**Alleluia**'. The sentence, sung by the choir is '*This child is the light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of you people Israel*'. Then **ALL** repeat **Alleluia**

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord,

'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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.

Anthem during Communion

Holy is the True Light, and passing wonderful,
lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict,
from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour,
wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore.
Alleluia!

Music: William Harris Words from the Salisbury Diurnal

Please remember in your prayers:

- the continued growth of St Michael's Tots
- all who live on the Verulam Estate
- those who are **ill**, including: Ben Collins, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Daphne Hodges, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Joanne Laws, Sam Mahoney, Alison Munro, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including John Facer, Richard Hoddy, Sam Green, Gordon Marsh, Eve Souch and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Bible Study Groups*