

NOTICES

Lent leaflet: A booklet detailing ways in which you might like to keep this season of prayer and self-denial and containing information of our Lent services is available from the back of church.

Lent Course: Our 5-part Lent course this year is called 'Finding a Voice' and is structured around the Oscar-winning film, The King's Speech. **Sessions will take place at 12.00 p.m. after our midweek Eucharist and coffee on Wednesdays, beginning on 28th February.** To register interest and order a course book (£5.99) please contact Jonny on vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk. If there is demand for an evening group that could be added for a Monday or Wednesday night. Keep Shrove Tuesday free this week for a viewing of the film in the parish centre at 8pm. Refreshments will be available!

There will be a **Service of Thanksgiving for Eve Souch** in St Michael's on **Monday, 19th February at 2.00 p.m.** followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. All are welcome to attend.

The **funeral service for the late John Facer** will take place in St Michael's on **Thursday, 29th February at 1.00 p.m.**

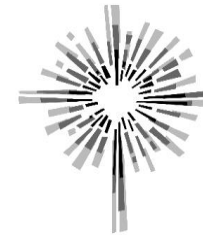
Wednesday Communion: Each Wednesday at 10.30 we continue to celebrate a mid-week Eucharist. This now has a hymn, a homily and is followed by tea, coffee, biscuits and lots of chat. If you don't normally come, why not make it a habit for Lent?

Books for Gaza: For anyone seeking a non-political way to help a horrendous humanitarian situation we have had this charitable endeavour commended to us. Famous authors have signed copies of their works, which are £35, with proceeds going to help the evacuation of children <https://www.32auctions.com/booksforgaza>

Women's Group: We're very excited to have our first date in the diary for the women's group – **8pm, Tuesday 27th February, The Six Bells.** Please let Emily know on emily.clare.lloyd@gmail.com if you would like to come so we have an idea of numbers. If you have any thoughts on future events for the women's group, please let Emily know!

St Michael's Tots (previously Tiny Tots) is on a half-term break but will restart next week.

John is installed! as County Chaplain for the Order of the Priory of St John on Thursday 29th Feb at the Cathedral during Evensong at 5.00 p.m. All who'd like to support him from this parish are very welcome- we'll meet in the Welcome Centre at 4.30 p.m. to be in good time to get seats.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 18th February 2024: First Sunday of Lent

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

Wednesday, 21st February

10.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
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Sunday, 25th February 2024: Second Sunday of Lent

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 service this morning. Our junior church meets in the churchyard this morning and goes out after the first hymn. If you know a young person who would like to join but isn't sure what to do please speak to one of the clergy or a welcomer. Please also feel free to use the children's corner in the north aisle and the Tower Room if you need privacy (e.g. nappy change) which has a 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

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Gradual from the Lent Prose

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory;
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings;
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated;
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children;
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, make us worthy to bring you these gifts. May this sacrifice help to change our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Anthem during Communion

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.

from Psalm 51

Music: S S Wesley 1810-1876

Please remember in your prayers:

- all who live on Batchwood Drive, Downedge, and Ladies Grove
- those whose funerals are this week, including Gordon Marsh and Eve Souch
- 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, Sam Green, Anthony Kirkwood, Gordon Marsh, Eve Souch and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *The Diocesan Cursillo Group*