

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.** To register interest or 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.

The funeral service for the late Colin Roberts will take place in St Michael's on **Monday, 4th March at 11.00 a.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>

St Michael's Tots takes place on Tuesdays in the Parish Centre from 9.30 a.m. until 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



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 3rd March 2024: Third Sunday of Lent

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

Wednesday, 6th March

9.00 a.m.	St Michael's School Service
10.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
12.00 p.m.	Lent Course – Session 2

Sunday, 10th March 2024: Mothering Sunday

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. This is an all-age service, in which we worship together, so junior church stays in the church building, although please feel free to use the children's corner in the north aisle or 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

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

New Testament Reading: I Corinthians 1: 18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Reading: John 2: 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, by the grace of this sacrifice may we who ask forgiveness be ready to forgive one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Anthem during Communion

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,
lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past,
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in an upright heart,
before thee, now and evermore.
Amen.

Text: Lidley's Prayers, 1566

Music: Farrant 1525-1580

Please remember in your prayers:

- all who live in Gorhambury, on Redbourn Road, and in Shafford
- those whose funerals are this week, including Colin Roberts
- Our pastoral visiting team, and those considering becoming home communion ministers
- those who are **ill**, including: Nicola Cann, 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 Donna Bennett, John Facer, Sam Green, Anthony Kirkwood, Gordon Marsh, Colin Roberts, Eve Souch and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Those who receive Holy Communion at home*