

NOTICES

Parish Walk: The first walk of the year will be in Wheathamstead on **Wednesday, 1st May, meeting at 11.30 a.m.** (a change from the usual time to accommodate people coming from St Michael's 10.30 a.m. service - it's a 15 minute drive). We will meet at the Marford Memorial Hall car park, AL4 8AY (turn left off Marford Road into Brocket View, car park on right) for a two-mile walk led by Kathryn Mathews, and dogs are welcome. Lunch will be at the Portland Arms, meeting at 1.00 p.m. Please let Sue know via email on suecvaughan@btinternet.com if you'd like to walk, or join the group for lunch.

Saturday 4th May: St Michael's Churchyard Working Party and Church Cleaning – 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. If you can spare some time to help either in the churchyard or in the church, it would be very much appreciated. For more information, please get in touch with Jim on 07770 324375 (churchyard) or Jane on janelarman@sky.com (cleaning).

Men's night will be taking place on **Thursday, 9th May**; please join us from **8:30pm** at **the Six Bells**.

In support of Christian Aid week, there will be a cake sale in the Parish Centre after the 9.30 a.m. service on **Sunday, 19th May**. Can you bake (or buy) a cake or make some small cakes, muffins or the such-like to help raise funds for Christian Aid? If you are making cakes, please label them if they contain nuts or other items to which people may be allergic. If possible, please bring your cakes to the vicarage from Thursday 16th May onwards or even on the day itself. Thank you.

Christian Aid week runs from 12th – 18th May, and several events in support have been planned as shown below:

Saturday 11th May at 7.30 p.m. - there will be a concert entitled **Variety: A Concert for Christian Aid**, at **Marshalswick Baptist Free Church**. Everyone is welcome to come along for an evening of diverse musical entertainment. There will be a retiring collection for the work of Christian Aid.

Sunday 12th May at 6.30 p.m. - there will be an ecumenical service at **St Stephen's Church**; Rev'd Becky Leach will preach. Coffee will be served from 6 p.m.

Saturday 18th May: 10 a.m. until 1.30 pm; lunch served from 12 p.m. – 1.00 p.m. - there will be a market at **St Mary's Church, Marshalswick** – see the poster on the church noticeboard for more information.

Sunday, 19th May, between 11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. as part of the National Garden Scheme and in aid of charity, John and Sarah Worth will open their gardens at Beesonend House, Beesonend Lane, nr Harpenden. All are welcome.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this Week

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

Sunday, 28th April 2024: Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Wednesday, 1st May

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

Sunday, 5th May 2024: Sixth Sunday of Easter

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 service this morning. Junior church meets today in the Parish Centre; all are very welcome to join for worship and fun. If you are new and would like to know where this is, please ask a member of the clergy or one of the welcomers on the door. Please feel free to use 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

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

New Testament Reading: Acts 8: 26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Between the readings, the choir sing from Psalm 22

My praise is of thee in the great congregation : my vows will I perform in the sight of them that fear him.

The poor shall eat, and be satisfied; they that seek after the Lord shall praise him : your heart shall live for ever.

All the ends of the world shall remember themselves, and be turned unto the Lord : and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before him.

For the kingdom is the Lords : and he is the Governor among the people.

All such as be fat upon earth : have eaten, and worshipped. All they that go down into the dust shall kneel before him : and no man hath quickened his own soul.

My seed shall serve him : they shall be counted unto the Lord for a generation.

Gospel Reading: John 15: 1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord God, by this holy exchange of gifts you share with us your divine life. Grant that everything we do may be directed by the knowledge of your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Felicity Rose Pritchard, baptised today at St Michael's
- the Pastoral and Worship committee
- all who give generously to support the ministry and mission of our Parish
- everyone who has worked to prepare our APCM documents
- those who are ill, including; Ben Collins, Anne Fletcher, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Joanne Laws, Sam Mahoney, Alison Munro, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including Nicola Cann and Pat Stroud, and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *All who work as Street Evangelists*