

NOTICES

Jonny will be taking a break for the next three weeks, returning on Monday, 19th August. For any pastoral needs during this time, please contact our Assistant Priest, John Bannister, on johnlbannister@gmail.com. The office will be open as usual during this period for other enquiries.

Creaky Tower Team: Thanks so much to everyone who has offered to join the team. We'll have our first chat in September, date TBC. Anyone else that would like to join please feel free to at any time!

Parish Picnic and Walk: For our next walk on **Thursday 8th August**, led by Kathryn Mathews, we plan to **meet at 11 a.m.** at Toulmin Drive Recreation Ground (AL3 6DZ) and walk through Batch Wood to St Mary's Church, Childwickbury for a picnic lunch in the church garden, arriving around midday. Due to varying dietary requirements, we suggest everyone brings a sandwich for themselves and something sweet to share. Please also bring a chair for the picnic (the picnics and chairs will be driven from the Recreation Ground to St Mary's). Coffee and tea will be available at St Mary's and the Schoolroom is booked in case of rain. Please let Sue know if you're planning to come (suecvaughan@btinternet.com) - all welcome to join us for the walk or for the picnic, where there will be live jazz from our favourite musicians, John and Dave.

Date for your diary – the Parish Walk after this will take place on **Thursday, 26th September**. Please watch this space for more information.

The Bishop of St Albans is opening his garden at Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HS on **Sundays** from **9th June** until **11th August between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.** Entrance is £5 per person (children free) and dogs on leads are welcome. Please note that there are no toilet facilities available. All money raised is donated to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

Bag Blessing 1st September – Our next all-age service will be on 1st September with the annual blessing of bags for the new school and work year. Bring a friend and bring a bag! This will be followed by the junior church picnic in the vicarage; please let Jonny know if you're planning to come.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this Week

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

Sunday, 4th August 2024: Tenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Wednesday, 7th August

10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
10.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 11th August 2024: Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

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 is on its summer break, and restarts on the 1st September with the Bag Blessing service and Junior Church picnic in the vicarage garden after church.

In the meantime, 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

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 16: 2-4; 9-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.'

Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining."' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God."''

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.'

Gospel Reading: John 6: 24-35

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, look with love on our service. Accept the gifts we bring and help us grow in Christian love. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- All who are travelling; for safe journeys and homecomings
- In the parish: all who live in Meautys, Akeman Close, Icknield Close, Flavian Close
- those who are ill, including: Ben Collins, Pam Dickens, Anne Fletcher, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Joanne Laws, Sam Mahoney, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including, Terry Beaumont, John Mayne and Chris Rolfe and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Gratitude for the fruits of the Spirit*