

# NOTICES

**Stewards/Welcomer Training** We are having a refresher training session for all stewards/welcomers on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00 a.m.** This is a hugely important ministry for our church community, so please do also come if you would like to become a welcomer on Sundays.

**Holy Pumpkin Trail** This was hugely successful last year and drew hundreds to join in our safe 'trick or treating trail' between St Michael's and the Abbey, finishing with crafts and a short service giving thanks to God for the gift of the saints, the 'Hallows' who share God's light in the world. We hope to offer this again on the **31<sup>st</sup> October between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m.**, so if you are able to volunteer to be a 'treat station' please Jonny know.

**Knitted Nativity:** would you like to knit a Mary, shepherd, king or a couple of sheep? (Other main characters already spoken for!) Please let Sue V know if you'd like to join our happy group - [suecvaughan@btinternet.com](mailto:suecvaughan@btinternet.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> November at 6.00 p.m. in St Michael's - Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for the departed.** If you would like one or more loved ones remembered by name at this service, please send an email containing the Christian and Surname(s) to Georgie on [Admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk](mailto:Admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk) with **Commemoration Service** in the title line **by 31<sup>st</sup> October** at the very latest please.

**SUNDAY PARISH EUCHARIST INTERCESSORS.** There will be a training and refresher session on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 10am in St Michael's** for all involved with leading intercessions Anyone else who is interested in leading intercessions is also invited to attend.

**Free Girls' Netball & Basketball workshop.** On **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October between 4.00 and 6.00 p.m.** all girls in years 5 & 6 are welcome to an open session run by **St Columba's College**. If you are interested, please take a poster from the back of church or use the QR code to sign up.

**Bishop of St Albans 'Harvest Appeal'** Donations this morning are being taken for the Bishop's charity of choice this year, the Leprosy Mission in Sri Lanka. Please give generously, so the fruit of our harvests can be the support of the most vulnerable. <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/bishop-of-st-albans-harvest-appeal-2024/>

**Diocesan Synod lay representative** This parish is part of St Albans Diocese, governed by the Bishop with guidance from a Synod (meeting) of laity and clergy from across the diocese, which is the place all matters of finance, leadership, and mission are debated and decided. Our deanery has 3 vacancies for lay members, so please, if you are keen to make sure the voices of the people of this parish and deanery are heard, consider standing for membership. It meets 3 times a year, one of these is online, and membership is normally for 4 years.



St Michael with St Mary

## Services this Week

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

### Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024

#### Harvest Festival

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

### Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October

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

### Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024

#### Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

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

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#### Contact Information:

Vicar: The Rev'd Jonny Lloyd: [vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk](mailto:vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk)  
Parish Office: Georgie Ray: [admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk)

Welcome to our all-age parish worship this morning celebrating the gifts of the harvest. All are welcome to stay for refreshments after the service in the Parish Centre. If you are new, we would love to meet you!

Toilets are available in the Parish Centre at the east end of the churchyard; please see a steward for access.

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.

### **Collect**

Creator God,  
you made the goodness of the land,  
the riches of the sea  
and the rhythm of the seasons;  
as we thank you for the harvest,  
may we cherish and respect  
this planet and its peoples,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Old Testament Reading: Joel 2: 21-27**

Do not fear, O soil;  
be glad and rejoice,  
for the Lord has done great things!  
Do not fear, you animals of the field,  
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;  
the tree bears its fruit,  
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad  
and rejoice in the Lord your God;  
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,  
he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the later rain, as before.  
The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
and praise the name of the Lord your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put

to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.  
And my people shall never again  
be put to shame.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 6: 25-33**

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

### **Prayer Over the Gifts**

As the grain once scattered in the fields, and the grapes once dispersed on the hillsides, are now reunited on this altar in bread and wine, so may your Church, Lord, soon be gathered together from the four corners of the earth to feast in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Please remember in your prayers:**

- Ross and Connie Payton, married at St Michael's on 26<sup>th</sup> September
- All who work in agriculture
- All working for the cause of peace, especially in places of danger and division
- In the parish: all who live in Jerome Drive, Rowlatt Drive, Windridge Close
- those who are ill, including: Ben Collins, Pam Dickens, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Joanne Laws, Sam Mahoney, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Cora Marie Varshney
- Anne Fletcher, Susan Tobin, and all the recently departed and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Church Choirs, Organists and Musicians*