

NOTICES

Next Sunday: Advent Carol Service at 4.00p.m. Don't miss this atmospheric service when we reflect, through readings and music, on the holy and mysterious season of Advent. If you would like to read for this service, please sign up at the back of church on your way out this morning.

What is Advent? Tuesday 10th December, 7.30-9.30pm we will have a parish study evening in the Vicarage exploring the history of this season and its themes. All welcome; a variety of refreshments will be provided. Please let Jonny know if you intend to come.

Christmas Fayre! On **14th December, 2-5pm**, we will be holding a Parish Christmas Fayre in the Church and Parish Centre in aid of the Tower Fund, and we need your help please. We are looking for helpers on the day to man a stall and serve drinks, plus donations of cakes, bottles (of any kind), raffle prizes, stocking fillers, jars of sweets etc. Please see the flyer at the back of both churches for more details. If you can help on the day or provide a contribution of goods to be sold, please speak to any member of your Mission and Community committee or get in touch with Steph on 07788 580519. Thank you!

Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church: Fleetville Harmony - an a capella choir - will be singing a selection of popular, festive songs and hymns. Refreshments will be available, and donations will be welcomed. All proceeds to charity.

Saturday 7th December: St Michael's Churchyard Working Party and Church Cleaning – 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. This is the last working party of the year, and it would be greatly appreciated if you can spare some time to help to tidy the churchyard before the winter.

Christmas Lunch: Many thanks to Kathryn Mathews for leading the recent walk around Gadebridge Park; some of us were discovering the delights of Old Hemel High Street for the first time. Depending on the weather, we may have a **walk in Verulamium at 11.15a.m.**, before the Christmas Lunch at 12.30p.m. on **Wednesday 11th December** at the **Inn on the Park**. This won't be a big Christmas dinner as in previous years, but the menu will include festive fare such as turkey and cranberry baguettes and mince pies. We plan to dress up the function room to be cosy and Christmassy with surprises and lots of fun! Please let Sue V know if you'd like to come - suecvaughan@btinternet.com

FEED is asking for donations of **Christmas gifts** – new not used - for children aged 1-16. If you are able to donate a Christmas gift, please put it into the FEED box. Thank you for your support.

Mince Pie tasting 7.30 p.m. Friday 29th November, Parish Centre. Which mince pie supplier a parish uses is a crucial question each year, one that takes thought, deliberation, and a thorough quality-control process. To that end there will be a mince pie tasting on 29th November, with a little Christmas quiz between rounds, to decide 2024's taste-test champion. Simply email the vicar if you want to come and he will add you to the list. It's b.y.o.b. and there'll be a donations-pot on the night.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this Week

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

Sunday, 24th November 2024

Christ the King

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

Wednesday, 27th November

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

Sunday, 1st December 2024

Advent Sunday

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist
4.00 p.m.	Advent Carol Service
6.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong (St Mary's)

Contact Information:

Vicar:	The Rev'd Jonny Lloyd: vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk
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. Our young people go out after the first hymn for junior church, in which they are rehearsing for the parish nativity play in the 9.30am service on 15th December. For those who prefer to stay in the service, 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.

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 welcomer for access.

Collect

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

Old Testament Reading: Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14

As I watched, thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne;
his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.
A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousand served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened.
As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.
To him was given dominion and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Between the first and second readings Psalm 93 is sung

The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel:
the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength.
He hath made the round world so sure:
that it cannot be moved.
Ever since the world began hath thy seat been prepared:
thou art from everlasting.
The floods are risen, O Lord, the floods have lift up their voice:
the floods lift up their waves.
The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage horribly:
but yet the Lord, who dwelleth on high, is mightier.

Thy testimonies, O Lord, are very sure:
holiness becometh thine house for ever.

Gospel Reading: John 18: 33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

Today's Anthem

O thou the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most high, eternal light
Of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine;
Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.
Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,
In fellowship with thee, transforming day
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Music – Charles Wood 1866-1926

Words – H.R. Bramley

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, we offer you the sacrifice by which your Son reconciles humanity. May it bring unity and peace to the world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Everyone working for and planning the parish Christmas Fayre on the 14th December
- All in fuel poverty this winter, and for the charities that support them
- Those who are ill, including: Ben Collins, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Sam Mahoney, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Cora Marie Varshney
- Joanne Laws, Agnes Walsh and all the recently departed. Also, Thomas and Jean Bishop, to be buried at St Michael's this Sunday.
- This week the diocese asks us to pray for: *For parents teaching their children to pray*