

NOTICES

Christingle! This afternoon at 4pm. Don't miss it!

The **parish Christmas card** is available at the back of both churches. Please take a batch and distribute – ideally within the next week, if possible; your help is greatly appreciated.

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.

The Christmas Fayre - 14th December between 2-5pm in the Church and Parish Centre, is fast approaching. We are still looking for offers of help on the day and donations particularly donations of cakes, soft teddies and toys, Bric-a-Brac and Jazzy Jars. Leave all donations at the back of the North Aisle by the Tower Room door. Please see the flyer at the back of church for details, or just come along and enjoy the festivities. Please tell your family and friends and we look forward to seeing you there! Thank you for your support!

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.

Christmas Retiring Collections at St Michael's Church will support:

Christingle Service: 8th December - The Children's Society: A national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect (Registered Charity 221124)

Carol Service: 17th December - Children of Peace: Conflict resolution among children and young people in Israel and the Palestinian territories (Registered Charity Number 1112301)

Crib Service: 24th December - Keech Hospice Care: Local hospice care for children (Registered Charity Number 1035089)

Midnight /Christmas Day: 24th/ 25th December (Split 50/50)

Living Room: Addiction Support (Registered Charity Number: 1080634)

Centre 33: Homelessness Support in St Albans (Registered Charity Number: 1146438)



St Michael with St Mary

Services this Week

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

Sunday, 8th December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Wednesday, 11th December

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

Sunday, 15th December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist with Nativity
12.00 p.m.	Holy Baptism - Peter Arnold
6.00 p.m.	Lessons and Carols (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)
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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

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, we are nothing without you. As you sustain us with your mercy, receive our prayers and offerings. We ask 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
- Richard Caperon, all the recently departed, and those who mourn them
- This week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Those who participate in weeks of guided prayer*

SPECIAL SERVICES AT ST MICHAEL'S

22nd December at 4.00 p.m. - Lessons and Carols

Please join us for a traditional service of Christmas readings and carols led by the choir

Christmas Eve: 24th December

4.00 p.m. – Crib Service

Dress up as a Nativity character and relive the story of Christmas

11.00 p.m. – Midnight Mass

The first Communion of Christmas

Christmas Day: 25th December

9.30 a.m. – Parish Eucharist

SPECIAL SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, CHILDWICK GREEN

15th December at 6.00 p.m. - Lessons and Carols

Readings and congregational carols

Christmas Day: 25th December at 11.15 a.m.

Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (1662) with plenty of carols