

# NOTICES

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

**Carol Service: 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Children of Peace:** Conflict resolution among children and young people in Israel and the Palestinian territories (Registered Charity Number 1112301)

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

## Midnight /Christmas Day: 24<sup>th</sup>/ 25<sup>th</sup> December (Split 50/50)

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

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

## TONIGHT at 4.00 p.m. - Lessons and Carols

Please join us for a traditional service of Christmas readings and carols led by the choir. This is shaping up to be a beautiful service- don't miss it!

**Thank you** to all our amazing helpers, stall holders, Elves & especially to Santa for making the St Michael's Christmas Fayre a great success! We raised in the region of £2000 in aid of the creaky tower fund. It was a great opportunity for our St Michael's community to be together, have a bounce (for the under 11's) & enjoy a glass of mulled wine. The raffle will be drawn this evening after the Carol Service, so if you haven't bought any tickets yet there is still time; they are on sale as you leave this morning. Our thanks to all for supporting this creaky tower fund raiser!

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Parish Office is **closed** for Christmas for general and hall booking enquiries from **11.00 a.m.** on **Christmas Eve** until **9.00 a.m.** on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.** However, the clergy are still working so for all pastoral parish business please contact Jonny on [vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk](mailto:vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk) or Fr John on [johnlbannister@gmail.com](mailto:johnlbannister@gmail.com)



St Michael with St Mary

## Services this Week

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

### Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024: Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

### Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024: Christmas Eve

11.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist at Fosse House
4.00 p.m.	Crib Service - dress up (if you want!) as a Nativity character and relive the story of Christmas
11.00 p.m.	Midnight Mass

### Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024: Christmas Day

9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist
11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion (St Mary's)

### Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024: First Sunday of Christmas

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](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 worship this morning. Junior Church does not meet in the school holiday, but 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**

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 for Sunday: Micah 5: 2-5a**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.  
If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil,  
we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

### **Gospel Reading for Sunday: Luke 1: 39-45**

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 for Sunday**

Lord, may the power of the Spirit, which sanctified Mary the mother of your Son,  
make holy the gifts we place upon this altar. Grant this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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

- The emergency services
- Those who work in emergency medicine
- Those who are ill, including: Ben Collins, Jacqui Follett, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Sam Mahoney, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Cora Marie Varshney, Cecily Whitehead, Nat Young
- Alan Allkins, Debbie Greenwood, all the recently departed, and those who mourn them
- This week the diocese asks us to pray for: *All Church Schools*