

NOTICES

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, 6th January 2025.** However, the clergy are still working so for all pastoral parish business please contact Jonny on vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk or Fr John on johnlbannister@gmail.com

The funeral service for the late Alan Allkins will take place on **Monday 30th December at 12.30 p.m. at West Herts crematorium.** Ginny and the family warmly invite members of the congregation to join them at the crematorium for the service.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this Week

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

Sunday, 29th 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)

Wednesday, 1st January 2025

New Year's Day
10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 5th January 2025

Epiphany

8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist
6.00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (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. 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

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Old Testament Reading: Galatians 3: 23-25; 4: 4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave

power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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:

- All who have met Christ in a Christmas service, and long to know more
- Those preparing to lead confirmation or catechistical courses
- 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: *For grace to be thankful in all circumstances*