

NOTICES

Drainage and tower works. The eagle-eyed among you will have spotted that the tower has now been scaffolded and that work on digging the new drains has begun. The tower works will begin shortly, and everything should be completed by Easter. Costs for both repair projects come in at over £100K, plus additional fees and surveys of various sorts, taking the total up to £150K or thereabouts. Although we are able to meet the costs, we need to continue fundraising so that we do not deplete our funds too much for the future. Watch this space!

St Michael's needs you! I hope you're all aware by now that we need to elect new wardens and a treasurer at the APCM in May. These are interesting and fulfilling roles as part of the team of paid and volunteer staff who support Jonny to keep the parish running, so please don't assume you haven't the time or skills needed. Instead, talk to Val, Mark or Nigel to find out more about what's involved.

It's a while 'til Lent but... do put the **Parish Lent group** in your diaries. Starting on **Ash Wednesday (5th March)** and for the 4 Wednesdays following we will meet at **11.30 a.m. in the Parish Centre**, finishing with soup for lunch at 1pm. Course info tbc.

The **Thinking Lunches** at Marlborough Road Methodist Church will be restarting on **6th February at 12.30 p.m.** with Geoff Sutton, Associate Director of STEP talking about "What Youth Need" – how to make a positive difference to young people.

Georgina Kosenovic, former worshipper at St Michael's is running the Watford Half-Marathon in support of Rennie Grove Peace Hospice. To sponsor her efforts please follow this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/georgina-kosanovic-1735674261132>

Friends of St Michael's Church: As you may know the Friends was founded as a charity in 1980 with the objective of raising funds to maintain and repair the fabric of this historic church. 100% of the money raised through the Friends goes directly to pay for maintenance and fabric of the building, and this year the focus is on the repair of the clock tower roof.

Annual membership of the Friends of St Michael's costs £10 per person, £20 for a family, or £100 for individual lifetime membership. If you would like to join, please complete a membership form, which can be found at the back of the church, and email it to either the Membership Secretary, Charles Naylor, on thesallylunn@me.com or to the Treasurer, Graham Meager, on grahammeager@hotmail.co.uk.

We have recently been contacted by **The Vineyard Church VersoCare (FEED)** to update their 'shopping list' for goods to help re-stock their warehouse, and a copy of their latest list is at the back of both churches. If you can help, please place your donations in the FEED box. **Thank you for supporting this initiative.**



St Michael with St Mary

Services this Week

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

Sunday, 2nd February 2025

Candlemas

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| 8.00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 9.30 a.m. | All-Age Parish Eucharist |
| 6.00 p.m. | Candlemas Lessons and Carols with choir (St Mary's) |

Wednesday, 5th February 2025

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

Sunday, 9th February 2025

Fourth Sunday before Lent

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

Contact Information:

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| 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. We worship together as all ages on the first Sunday of each month, so there is no Junior Church today. 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 welcomer 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

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 1: 1-4

The Lord Almighty answers, "I will send my messenger to prepare the way for me. Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger you long to see will come and proclaim my covenant."

But who will be able to endure the day when he comes? Who will be able to survive when he appears? He will be like strong soap, like a fire that refines metal. He will come to judge like one who refines and purifies silver. As a metalworker refines silver and gold, so the Lord's messenger will purify the priests, so that they will bring to the Lord the right kind of offerings. Then the offerings which the people of Judah and Jerusalem bring to the Lord will be pleasing to him, as they used to be in the past.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'
And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, accept the gifts of your Church, not gold, frankincense and myrrh, but the sacrifice and food they symbolise: Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- For care homes in the parish
- For Maggie Dodd and the Anna Chaplaincy network in St Albans
- Churches of other denominations in St Albans, that we may witness together to the light of Christ.
- 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
- Gill Chapman, Jeff Nelson, and all the recently departed, and those who mourn them
- This week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Church Missions*