

NOTICES

Ladies Group meets on **Wednesday, 15th January, at 7.30 p.m.** in the Portland Arms. As ever, all are invited for a chance to enjoy each other's company and support a much-loved local hostelry.

IMPORTANT: Affinity Water have just informed us that they will be working **outside St Michael's Church on Sunday, 19th January between 8.00 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.** They will be setting up traffic lights to make it safe for the team who will be working on-site so please be aware that there may be some disruption and delays.

The service for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will be held at the newly refurbished Greenwood United Reformed Church in Chiswell Green on **Sunday, 19th January at 4.00 p.m.** All welcome.

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.

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.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this Week

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

Sunday, 12th January 2025

First Sunday of Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)

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

Wednesday, 15th January 2025

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

Sunday, 19th January 2025

Second Sunday of Epiphany

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
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 their services in the Parish Centre - there are groups for ages 0-5 and 5-12. If you would like to know more please do speak to a welcomer or one of the clergy.

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!

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.

Collect

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

New Testament Reading: Acts 8: 14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Between the first and second readings Psalm 29 is sung

Bring unto the Lord, O ye mighty, bring young rams unto the Lord : ascribe unto the Lord worship and strength.

Give the Lord the honour due unto his Name : worship the Lord with holy worship.

It is the Lord that commandeth the waters : it is the glorious God that maketh the thunder.

It is the Lord that ruleth the sea; the voice of the Lord is mighty in operation : the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedar-trees : yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Libanus.

He maketh them also to skip like a calf : Libanus also, and Sirion, like a young unicorn.

The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness: yea, the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Cades.

The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to bring forth young, and discovereth the thick bushes : in his temple doth every man speak of his honour.

The Lord sitteth above the water-flood : and the Lord remaineth a King for ever.

The Lord shall give strength unto his people : the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Today's Anthem

A babe is born I wys, [wys = know of a certainty]

This world to joy and bliss,
His joy shall never fade and miss,
And Jesus is his name.

On Christmas Day at morn,
This little child was born
To save us all that were forlorn,
And Jesus is his name.

And on Ascension Day,
To heav'n he took his way,
There to abide for aye and aye,
And Jesus is his name.

Music - F. Bainton Words from an old Manuscript in Westminster Abbey library

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, we celebrate the revelation of Christ your Son who takes away the sins of the world. Accept our gifts and let them become one with his sacrifice, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- All who are being prepared for their own baptisms
- All godparents
- That in this season of Epiphany we might see more clearly into the depths of God's love for us
- 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: *Churches that are open all day for prayer*