

NOTICES

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 a soup 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.

St Michael's Tots takes place on Tuesdays in the Parish Centre from 9.30 a.m. until 11.00 a.m. If you would like to help by joining the coffee rota for this on even an occasional basis, please send Jonny an email, on vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk

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, 26th January 2025

Third Sunday of Epiphany

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

Wednesday, 29th January 2025

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

Sunday, 2nd February 2025

Candlemas

8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m. All-Age 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. Our young people go out during 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. 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

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

New Testament Reading: I Corinthians 12: 13-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Between the first and second readings Psalm 19 is sung

The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
One day telleth another: and one night certifieth another.
There is neither speech nor language: but their voices are heard among them.

Their sound is gone out into all lands: and their words into the ends of the world.

In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun: which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course.

It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven, and runneth about unto the end of it again: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever: the judgements of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey, and the honey-comb.

Moreover, by them is thy servant taught: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Who can tell how oft he offendeth : O cleanse thou me from my secret faults.

Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over me: so shall I be undefiled, and innocent from the great offence.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart; be always acceptable in thy sight,

O Lord : my strength, and my redeemer.

Gospel Reading: Luke 4: 14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Today's Anthem

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which sees, yours are the feet with which he walks, yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Words from Teresa of Ávila Music: David Ogden

Please remember in your prayers:

- For colleagues
- For teachers and all who develop and encourage the skills of others
- Churches of other denominations in St Albans, that we may witness together to the risen 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 and all the recently departed, and those who mourn them
- This week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Bible Study Groups*