



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

Sunday, 6th February 2022 – Candlemas

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. All Age Communion with Christingle-making
(St Michael's)
- 6.00 p.m. Holy Communion (St Mary's)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer (by Zoom - code via kennethpadley@gmail.com)

Wednesday

- 9.00 a.m. School Service (St Michael's)
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)

Sunday, 13th February 2022

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

Contacts

Key information is available on www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk or via the Parish Office:
01727 835037 (9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

Resources for today's 9.30am service

The **children's corner** in the North Aisle contains themed-worksheets, books and toys. Parents please remain responsible for your children in this space. If your child needs time-out or 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.

Please stay for **refreshments** after the service in the Parish Centre.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

The time came for Mary and Joseph to do the things the Law of Moses taught about being made pure. They brought Jesus to Jerusalem so that they could present him to the Lord. It is written in the law of the Lord: "When a mother's first baby is a boy, he shall be called 'special for the Lord.'" The law of the Lord also says that people must give a sacrifice: "You must sacrifice two doves or two young pigeons." So Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem to do this.

A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. He was a good man who was devoted to God. He was waiting for the time when God would come to help Israel. The Holy Spirit was with him. The Holy Spirit told him that he would not die before he saw the Messiah from the Lord. The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple. So he was there when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to do what the Jewish law said they must do. Simeon took the baby in his arms and thanked God:

"Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant, die in peace as you said.

I have seen with my own eyes how you will save your people.

Now all people can see your plan.

He is a light to show your way to the other nations.

And he will bring honour to your people Israel."

Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what Simeon said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, "Many Jews will fall and many will rise because of this boy. He will be a sign from God that some will not accept. So the secret thoughts of many will be made known. And the things that happen will be painful for you—like a sword cutting through your heart."

Anna, a prophetess, was there at the Temple. She was now very old. She had lived with her husband seven years before he died and left her alone. She was now 84 years old. Anna was always at the Temple; she never left. She worshiped God by fasting and praying day and night. Anna was there when Joseph and Mary came to the Temple. She praised God and talked about Jesus to all those who were waiting for God to free Jerusalem.

Joseph and Mary finished doing all the things that the law of the Lord commanded. Then they went home to Nazareth, their own town in Galilee. The little boy Jesus was developing into a mature young man, full of wisdom. God was blessing him.

Luke 2.22-40 [Easy-to-Read Version]

Resources for today's 9.30am service

During Communion the choir will sing

In the stillness of a church
Where candles glow,
In the softness of a fall
Of fresh white snow,
In the brightness of the stars
That shine at night,
In the calmness of a pool
Of healing light,

In the clearness of a choir
That softly sings,
In the oneness of a hush
Of angels' wings,
In the mildness of a night
By stable bare,
In the quietness of a lull
Near cradle fair,

There's a patience as we wait
For a new morn,
In the presence of a child
Who has been born.

Words – Katrina Shepherd

Music – Sally Beamish

Please remember in your prayers

- those who are **ill**, including: Peter Bell, Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Debbie Greenwood, Michaels Hogben, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Janice Western, Paul Wiggett, Barbara Woodward
- for **healing and wholeness**: Peter Loyd

Notices

St Albans Deanery Synod has organized an open presentation and discussion about **youth welfare and spirituality** as we emerge from the pandemic. With Christian Cole, Youth Missioner for the Diocese of St Albans, and David Barker, CEO of Youth Talk. **Tuesday 8th February at 7.30 p.m. at St Saviour's** (ALI 4DF).

John Bannister is local convener for the **World Community of Christian Meditation**. He is organising a Day of Gathering for any interested in learning more about this form of prayer. **10am – 3.30pm on Wednesday 16th February at St Mary's Childwick**. Spaces are limited so booking is required - please contact John on 07788 562488 or johnlbannister@gmail.com

Like many churches, St Michael's and St Mary's will keep the **season of Lent** as a time of reflection and repentance. This year we are encouraging you to dig deeper into the things of God through **The Little Book of Lent** (ed. Arthur Howells), a compilation of readings for each day of the season written by famous twentieth- and twenty-first-century Christians. We will be exploring these passages in **Lent Groups**. There will be:

- an **evening group running on Zoom**, five Tuesdays from March 8th to April 5th, 8–9.30pm. Zoom code to be circulated nearer the time. If you would like to go on the notification list for this code, please contact kennethpadley@gmail.com Separate and in addition to this, if anyone has a full Zoom package Kenneth would be grateful if you could let him know.
- a **daytime group running in the Parish Centre**, five Wednesdays from March 9th to April 6th. The group will start at 11.15am but you may wish to begin this morning at the 10.30am Holy Communion in church, and/or conclude with a simple soup and roll lunch at 12.15am. Expressions of interest in the daytime group please to bronwenparr@hotmail.com – especially if you would like to stay for lunch afterwards.

Each group will use the same material so participants are welcome and encouraged to work between the two groups if this suits their busy schedules. We are asking that participants buy their own copy of *The Little Book of Lent*, mindful that some parishioners may already have copies from when we last used this resource in 2016.

The Mission & Community Committee write: 'We are planning to resume the **monthly Wednesday walking groups** after Easter. Led by Kathryn Mathews, the first walk will be on **Wednesday, 20th April**. Ann Dean has kindly agreed to give us a guided tour of the Roman Theatre at Gorham-bury. Walkers to meet at 11am at the Six Bells, returning there at around 12.30 for lunch. As always, all are welcome to come on the tour or to join us for lunch. We particularly hope that members of the former Lunch Club will join us. More information nearer the time.