



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

Sunday, 20th March 2022: Third Sunday of Lent

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. **Parish Communion
with Baptism and Confirmation**
led by Bishop Stephen Venner St Michael's)
- 6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

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

Tuesday

8–9.30 p.m. Evening Lent Group
(by Zoom - code via Mark Pedroz on wincheslodge@gmail.com)

Wednesday

- 9.00 a.m. School Service (St Michael's)
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 11.15 a.m. Daytime Lent Group (Parish Centre)

Sunday, 27th March 2022: Mothering Sunday

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. All-Age 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 services on Sunday 20th March

Old Testament Reading:

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55: 1-9

New Testament Reading:

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not

Resources for services on Sunday 20th March

fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

Gospel Reading:

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

Luke 13: 1-9

Please remember in your prayers

- those who are **ill**, including: Peter Bell, Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Debbie Greenwood, Edna Hames, Michael Hogben, Helen Huson, Rachael Hyman, Ingrid Kluckova, Wendy May; Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Janice Western, Paul Wiggett
- for **healing and wholeness**: Peter Loyd
- those who mourn the deaths of David Bowers

Refugees

Check the CTSA web page ctstalbans.org.uk/refugees for details on how you can help refugees. This page marshals information from the key agencies. In particular, check out about Noke Bikes: there are 120 refugees living at the Noke Hotel, Chiswell Green. They can't afford bus fares, but would love to ride bikes. We are sourcing 10 second hand bikes, hi-vis jackets, helmets and locks with keys. Can you support us by maintaining the bikes or teaching safe cycling? Or do you have spare bikes or equipment that we could use? Please contact Teresa Clarke, 01727 855026 or clarkefamily2004@yahoo.co.uk

Notices

Like many churches, St Michael's and St Mary's keeps 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 are exploring these passages in **Lent Groups**:

- an **evening group running on Zoom**, five Tuesdays from March 8th to April 5th, 8–9.30pm. Zoom code circulated on the parish email circular and is available from Mark Pedroz (wincheslodge@gmail.com)
- 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 please to bronwenparr@hotmail.com – especially if you would like to stay for lunch.

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.

UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who supported The Friends of St Michael's Church charity night at the Abbey Theatre on Thursday 24th February - net proceeds from the event are approaching £6000.

Saturday 2nd April: St Michael's Churchyard Working Party and Church Cleaning – 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. If you can spare some time to help, it would be greatly appreciated. For more information, please get in touch with Jim on 07770 324375 (churchyard) or Jane on 07973 215955 (cleaning).

Kenneth's sermon about Pilgrimage (13th March) is now available on the parish website.

With parishioners returning to more 3D activities, **Zoom Morning Prayer** will terminate at the end of March. When onsite, Kenneth will say Morning Prayer in St Michael's church at 9am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays until his departure at the end of May.

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 Gorhambury. 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.