

## NOTICES

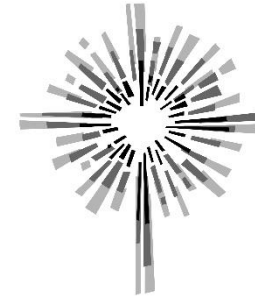
The **Feast of the Ascension**, one of the great celebrations of the Church year, will be marked with Parish Communion in St Michael's at **8.00 p.m. on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May**.

**From the Mission & Community Committee:** The next walk and lunch will be on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May**. Led by Kathryn Mathews, we will meet at 11.00 a.m. at the Six Bells for a walk round Verulamium, returning there at around 12.30 p.m. for lunch. A shorter walk will be on offer. All welcome to walk or to join for lunch - please email [suecvaughan@btinternet.com](mailto:suecvaughan@btinternet.com) to register your interest.

As part of the National Garden Scheme and in aid of charity, John and Sarah Worth will open their gardens at Beesonend House, Beesonend Lane, nr Harpenden between 11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May. All are welcome.

### **Vicar Vacancy: key dates**

- **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May** – The Padleys will be saying **farewell** during the 9.30am service in St Michael's.
- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Informal Vacancy Meeting**, 7.30pm, St Michael's church. This is your chance to meet with Bishop Michael and Archdeacon Jane and together to discern aspirations for the next Vicar. **Please prioritise this meeting.** It is especially important that the full breadth of both churches and the wider community is involved in this conversation.
- **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Kenneth installed as Canon Treasurer** at Salisbury, 4.30pm.
  - There are still a few places on the coach. If you want to book a seat, please contact Yolissa on [yolissa.palmer@gmail.com](mailto:yolissa.palmer@gmail.com) **by 29<sup>th</sup> May at the very latest**.
  - For any wishing to attend virtually, Salisbury Cathedral livestreams services from [www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/worship-and-music/services/livestreams/](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/worship-and-music/services/livestreams/) **Please Note:** the service will **only** be available in real-time; it will not be recorded to view at a later time.
  - If you decide to travel by car, please let Kenneth know because the cathedral would appreciate numbers for refreshments: [kennethpadley@gmail.com](mailto:kennethpadley@gmail.com)



*St Michael with St Mary*

### **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022: Sixth Sunday of Easter**

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)
- 10.15 a.m. **Annual Church Meetings** (St Michael's)
- 6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

### **Wednesday**

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

### **Thursday: Feast of the Ascension**

- 8.00 p.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)

### **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022: Sunday after Ascension**

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion and farewell to Kenneth, Anna and Alex (St Michael's)
- 6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

### **Contacts**

Key information is available on [www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk](http://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)

**Children's Church** for those in school years Reception to Year 6 meets alongside the 9.30am service during term time. Please ask a Steward for more information and directions.

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.

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### **Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (OT p. 735 in the Pew Bibles)**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD:

I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

### **Gospel Reading: John 5:1-9 (NT p.104 in the Pew Bibles)**

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

### ***During Communion the choir will sing***

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

*Music: David Ogden*

*Words attributed to Saint Teresa of Avila*

### **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 Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Paul Wiggett
- those who mourn the deaths of Pam Lindeman, Peter Loyd, Bronwen Parr, Janice Western