

NOTICES

Thank you to all those who signed up to provide food for the **reception** following the **Induction Service on 11th May**. If you did not sign up but wish to make or buy something or give some money towards the cost of food for the evening event, please speak to, or contact, Val (chiesa@btinternet.com), Sue Vaughan (suecvaughan@btinternet.com) or Jane Larman (janelarman@sky.com) by **Monday, 8th May at the very latest**.

As part of the **Coronation Weekend** celebrations, your Mission & Community Committee are holding a litter pick on **Monday, 8th May from 2pm-4pm**, in response to King Charles' request for Coronation Monday to be a Community Day! Everyone is welcome to participate across the Parish. We will be at the Parish Centre during the above time, where refreshments will be on offer to all supporters. If you are unable to meet up during that time but still intend to participate, send your photos of your team to Steph on stephanie.rainbow@me.com. We would love to see support across the village and City. What you will need: gloves, high vis jacket, hand sanitiser, black bag, and, if you have it a litter picker & hoop. Let's help keep our beautiful City litter free!

The funeral service for the late Peter Limebear will be held in St Michael's at **2.00 p.m.** on **Friday, 19th May**. All are welcome to attend.

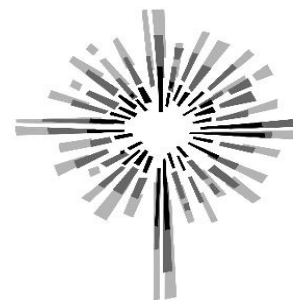
Wednesday, 10th May: St Michael's Church Cleaning – 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (if you can spare some time to help, it would be greatly appreciated. For more information, please get in touch with Jane on janelarman@sky.com

Electoral Roll: The Roll is now closed, and new names cannot be added until **after** the Annual Church Meetings on **21st May**, and the **new Roll** is now on display for review in both churches.

Sunday, 21st May: The **Annual Parish Meetings** will be held at 10.15am in St Michael's church immediately after the 9.30am service. Important elections are made at these meetings – Churchwardens, PCC members, and Deanery Synod members. Nomination forms for these posts can be found in both churches.

An art exhibition - **Threads through Creation** - is on show at St Albans Cathedral, from 3rd May until 11th June. It consists of twelve huge silk panels re-imagining the story of creation from Genesis and took textile artist Jacqui Parkinson three years and eight million stitches to complete. Admission is free but donations are welcome.

Celebrating 60 years of the IOF: The St Albans International Organ Festival will take place from 3rd to 15th July, attracting young organists (under 33) from all over the world, who are accommodated in local households. Supporting a competitor can be a rewarding experience and in grateful thanks the IOF Board offers a range of benefits including invitations to events and complimentary tickets to concerts. If you can offer B&B from 28th June to 16th July, please contact Angela Dixon administrator@organfestival.com or on (01727) 844765.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 7th May: Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion <i>President: Rev'd John Bannister</i>
6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion (St Mary's) <i>President: Rev'd Martin Banister</i>

Wednesday

9.00 a.m.	School Service
10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Sunday, 14th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
9.30 a.m.	All-Age Communion
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)

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.

For the Old Testament Reading: Acts 7: 55-60 (NT p.116 in the Pew Bibles)

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 2: 2-10 (NT p.216 in the Pew Bibles)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very head of the corner',

and

'A stone that makes them stumble,

and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,

but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,

but now you have received mercy.

Gospel Reading: John 14: 1-14 (NT p.101 in the Pew Bibles)

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Please remember in your prayers

- those who are ill, including: Nicola Cann, Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Rev'd Ruth Goatly, Debbie Greenwood, Edna Hames, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, JoAnne Laws, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Paul Wiggett
- those who mourn the death of Sandra Dove, Peter Limebear and Sue Thompson