

NOTICES

DATE FOR DIARIES: Misson Action Planning Day 9th September 10-3pm St Mary's, Childwick. The Diocese asks that every parish have a 'Mission Action Plan' to outline how they hope to live out the Christian faith and serve their communities in a 5 year period. This parish's previous plan finished this year so it is time to renew the MAP! The structure of the day will be simple (and similar to the one you had to prepare the parish profile in vacancy)- we will pray, eat, and think together, focusing our efforts on three areas to discern what our priorities should be in this next season of our church life. Some preparatory questionnaires will be coming at the end of August, and anyone not able to attend will still be able to contribute.

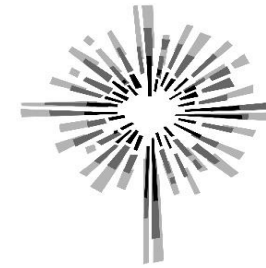
IMPORTANT: As part of our preparation to rationalize the parish email addresses in readiness for inclusion on our new website, which is currently under construction, two key email addresses have been updated, namely Jonny's and Georgie's – these are vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk and admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk respectively. Arrangements have been made to forward the old email addresses (rev.jonathan.lloyd@gmail.com and admin.stmichaels@btconnect.com) to the new, so no emails should be lost during the transition. Can you please add the new addresses to your contacts list and remove the old email addresses. Many thanks.

Bishop Alan will be opening his garden at **Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, AL3 4HD** to the public from **2.00pm – 4.00pm** every Sunday afternoon between **18th June** and **6th August**. **Entrance: £4 per person (accompanied children free)** in aid of Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust.

Parish Walk: Please meet at the Parish Centre on Wednesday, 26th July at 11am, and the walk this month will be very local. Earlier this year the mini golf course in Verulamium closed and it has now returned to its natural state. The Council has cut paths through the grass, making a lovely meadow walk, for everyone to enjoy the birdsong and butterflies! We will be back at the Portland Arms at 1pm for lunch in the pods. Please email Sue on suecvaughan@btinternet.com if you'd like to join in.

DENS, a local homeless and food poverty charity working mainly in the Dacorum district, has arranged a fundraising event, **The Jurassic Coast Trek** - the journey is from Lulworth to Studland and covers 25 miles - will take place from 20-22nd October 2023. If you would like to take part in this fundraising challenge, please visit their website www.dens.org.uk/trek for more information, or call 01442 800268.

All-Age Sunday will be moving to the 1st Sunday of each month from September. Our all-age on 3rd of September will include a **bag blessing** for everyone starting the new academic year (or starting anything new at all!) Bring your school bags, work bags, rucksacks or handbags to be blessed and made ready for their work of carrying our stuff in all that is to come in the year ahead!



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 16th July 2023: Sixth Sunday after Trinity

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

Wednesday

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

Sunday, 23rd July 2023: Seventh Sunday after Trinity

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

Contact Information:

Vicar: The Rev'd Jonny Lloyd: vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk
Address: St Michael's Vicarage, St Michael's Street, St Albans, AL3 4SL
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; it is good to be together. In term time there is Children's Church for those in school years Reception to Year 6, which meets alongside the 9.30am service. Please ask a Steward for more information and directions. The **children's corner** in the North Aisle contains themed-worksheets, books and toys. 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 steward 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!

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55: 10-13 (OT p.624 in the Pew Bibles)

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

New Testament Reading: Romans 8: 1-11 (NT p.145 in the Pew Bibles)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 (NT p.13 in the Pew Bibles)

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Please remember in your prayers:

- anyone moving into our parish this week.
- those starting their holidays, and those who aren't able to have a holiday
- those who are **ill**, including: Nicola Cann, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Edna Hames, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, JoAnne Laws, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Paul Wiggett
- The recently departed, including: Jenifer Blackden, Jo Frost, Shirley Rogerson, Ann Roxburgh, and those who mourn.