

NOTICES

DATE FOR DIARIES: Mission Action Planning Day 9th September 10-3pm St Mary's, Childwick.

Parish Picnic: Many thanks to Kathryn Mathews for leading our sunny walk through the former golf course in Verulamium, down to the river and then up to the Portland Arms, where they continue to welcome us with very good lunches. On **Wednesday, 30th August**, a 'bring and share' picnic in the garden at St Mary's, Childwickbury, has been planned. Please meet at midday at St Mary's and bring a fold-up chair with you if you can. Tea and coffee will be provided. If you would like to go to the picnic and so that car sharing can be organised, please let Sue know on suecvaughan@btinternet.com

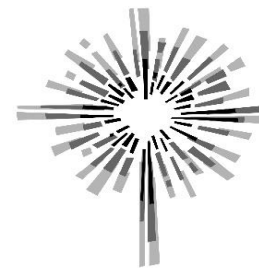
Bag Blessing! Our next all-age service on **3rd September** will include a **bag blessing** for everyone starting the new academic year (or starting anything new at all!) Bring your school bags, work bags, rucksacks or handbags to be blessed and made ready for their work of carrying our stuff in all that is to come in the year ahead!

The **Animal Service** will take place at **St Mary's on Sunday, 17th September at 3.00 p.m.** The ever-popular parish Animal Service will be held outside St Mary's Childwick, AL3 6JJ; a simple half-hour service to thank God for creation and to pray for animal welfare. If you have a pet that you would like to be blessed, please bring it with you. If your pet is nervous around people, please bring a photo and we can pray with that instead. Please keep all dogs on leads.

Centre 33 are looking for new people to join their teams of volunteers who provide hot meals to those in need, homeless or socially deprived in the St Albans area. To find out more, please visit www.Centre33.org/volunteering or ask them a question on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Centre33StAlbans

Rennie Grove Peace Hospice are looking for St. Albans' residents to help with supporting the Hospice's Compassionate Cafés in the local area. The Hospice already has these Cafés in other areas and are keen to roll them out in St. Albans. For more information, please visit <https://renniedgrovepeace.org/about-us/news/volunteers-needed-for-st-albans-compassionate-cafes/>

The diocese is looking to recruit a **Programme Manager** to define, monitor and deliver the diocesan vision and strategy for Growing Younger and More Diverse – the role is offered as a fixed term, 3-year contract. The person will need experience in project planning, managing and monitoring, as well as a proven track record of writing and delivering successful complex funding bids. If you are interested, a full job pack is available on <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/vacancies/diocesan-programme-manager/> The closing date for applications is 13th September.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 27th August 2023: Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

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

Wednesday	
10.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 3rd September 2023: Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	All-Age Parish Eucharist
6.00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist (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. 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!

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 51: 1-6 (OT p.620 in the Pew Bibles)

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;

for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

New Testament Reading: Romans 12: 1-8 (NT p.149 in the Pew Bibles)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16: 13-20 (NT p.17 in the Pew Bibles)

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Prayer Over The Gifts

Lord, receive our offering, and may this sacrifice of praise purify us in mind and heart and make us always eager to serve you. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Maggie Dodd and the Anna Chaplaincy of St Albans
- 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
- those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Susan Holliday.
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Those who choose to have their marriage in Church.*