

# NOTICES

The **Animal Service** will take place at **St Mary's 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. All welcome, sentient or not...

The **bellringers** are opening the tower for tours **from 2pm until 5pm.** You will have the chance to see the bells and the clock mechanism, and there will be a short bell ringing demonstration. Tours will last about an hour.

**Come and Sing!** On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept we're having a special 'come and sing' evensong for St Michael's day. We will rehearse in church at 3.00, have a celebratory tea at 4.00ish and sing Evensong at 5.30. It'll be great fun and great music- tell all your friends! If you're planning to join the choir please let Colin know so he can print enough music (colin@hamlingmail.com).

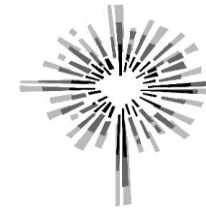
**First Communion** preparation is taking place after the 9.30 on **1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October.** Each session will run from 10.45-11.45, with first Communions on the **22<sup>nd</sup> October** at the 9.30. This is aimed at children aged roughly 7-11. Please email Jonny to sign up.

**World Homeless Week**, which runs from **8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October**, is a time to reflect on the plight of those affected by homelessness and poverty. Church Homeless Trust is a small charity that supports thousands of homeless individuals throughout England by providing grants, tailored to the specific needs of the person in question, and have helped countless people to get back on their feet. To find out more about this charity, please visit their website at [www.churchhomelesstrust.org.uk](http://www.churchhomelesstrust.org.uk)

**St Albans District Council** is consulting on the future of Hatfield Road cemetery and other local cemeteries. Details and questionnaires have been published at: <https://stalbanscemeteries2023.commonplace.is>

**Biblical Costumes!** Children's church are looking to build a stock of costumes for acting out some of the stories of our faith during their worship. If you have any old togas, tea towels, etc. that would fit the bill please let Pauline, Jo or Jonny know. Thanks! P.S. historical accuracy is **low** on our list of priorities.

**Welcome to the new Choral Scholars:** Gabriella, Benedict, Grace, Skylar and Alisha join Alex as choral scholars from today. It's wonderful to have you all with us; we look forward to getting to know you all and to sharing in the great gifts you will bring to our worship in the year ahead.



*St Michael with St Mary*

## Services this week

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

### Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023: Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist  
3.00 p.m. Animal Service (St Mary's)

### Wednesday

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

### Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023: St Michael & All Angels

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

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### Contact Information:

Vicar: The Rev'd Jonny Lloyd: [vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk)

Welcome to our worship this morning; it is good to be together. Today is our first meeting of 'Churchyard Church' for our young people. We'll go out together after the first hymn for worship in the great outdoors, returning in time for the Eucharist. Parents of younger children are very welcome to come out too. In church 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**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through 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. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50: 15-21 (OT p.45)**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

### **Gradual Psalm (sung by the choir) verses from Ps. 103:**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy : long-suffering and of great goodness.

He will not always be chiding : neither keepeth he his anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins : nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.

For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth : so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.

Look how wide also the east is from the west : so far hath he set our sins from us.

Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children : even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear him.

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

The **Alleluia** this week is set to Plainchant. The choir sings it once, then all join in a second time.

The choir sings the sentence: "Righteous are you O Lord, and true is thy judgment; deal with thy servant according unto thy merciful kindness". And all sing again: **Alleluia**

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 18: 21-35 (NT p.19 in the Pew Bibles)**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

### **Prayer Over The Gifts**

Lord, accept the gifts of your Church. May this eucharist help us grow in holiness and faith. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

### **Anthem after Communion**

Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord

And cast not off thy servant in thy displeasure;

For we confess our sins unto thee and hide not our unrighteousness

For thy mercy's sake deliver us from all our sins. *Richard Farrant 1535 - 1580*

### **Please remember in your prayers:**

- Shops in the parish, and all who work in them
- Anyone recently unemployed
- those who are **ill**, including: Nicola Cann, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, JoAnne Laws, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Paul Wiggett
- the recently departed, including Edna Hames, Rosemary Herklots, and Susan Holliday
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *all who lead and attend Youth Clubs*