

NOTICES

Saturday 7th October: St Michael's Churchyard Working Party and Church Cleaning – 9.30 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 Jim on 07770 324375 (churchyard) or Jane on janelarman@sky.com (cleaning).

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

World Homeless Week, which runs from **8th – 15th 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

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.

Christmas Concert: 19 December, 7.30pm. Join Kate Lindeman for an evening of Christmas classics, beautiful arias, pop-opera favourites and a glass or two of mulled wine. Tickets £16-20, all profits split between Motor Neurone Disease Association and St Michael's Church. Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-albans-christmas-concert-st-michaels-tickets-704537700227?aff=oddtcreator>

The next **Parish Walk** will be at 11am on Wednesday 25th October, followed by lunch at the Portland Arms. Details to follow.

Evensong for St Michael on the 30th is to be postponed

Driving volunteers needed to support people getting to church and at other times. If you are able to offer some help, however regularly, please chat to the Vicar or Sue Vaughan.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 24th 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)

Wednesday

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

Sunday, 1st October 2023: Harvest Festival

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. Junior Church meets in the Parish Centre today; they go out after the first hymn and return during the peace. 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

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; 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 28: 10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

Gradual Psalm: 91: 1-11 (sung by the choir)

Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most High: shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my strong hold: my God, in him will I trust.

For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter: and from the noisome pestilence. He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers: his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night: nor for the arrow that flieth by day; For the pestilence that walketh in darkness: nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day.

A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand: but it shall not come nigh thee.

Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold: and see the reward of the ungodly.

For thou, Lord, art my hope: thou hast set thine house of defence very high. There shall no evil happen unto thee: neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways.

Gospel Acclamation:

The **Alleluia** this week is set to Plainchant. The choir sings it once, and all repeat. The sentence follows: "In the presence of the Angels, will I praise thee, O Lord my God" then all sing again: **Alleluia**

Gospel Reading: John 1: 47-51

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Prayer Over The Gifts

Lord, by the ministry of your angels let our sacrifice of praise come before you. May it be pleasing to you and helpful to our salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem after Communion

Alleluia! What are these that are arrayed in white robes?

and whence come they? These are they which come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Alleluia! Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in His temple: They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them unto living fountains of waters: And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 7:13-17

Music: John Stainer 1840-1931

Please remember in your prayers:

- Church musicians
- The recently bereaved and those involved in funeral ministry in this parish
- those who are **ill**, including: Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, JoAnne Laws, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including Edna Hames and Richard Morton (funeral 5th October in St Michael's, 2.15pm)
- Audrey Page whose ashes are to be interred today
- Peter Rogers and Amy Gibbons, to be married in St Michael's on the 30th Sept
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *all who lead and attend youth clubs*