

NOTICES

October Parish Walk - Update: On **Wednesday 25th October**, please head for the Cricketers pub in Redbourn (AL3 7ND), and just south of this on the road called West Common is a small car park where we'll meet at 11 am. We will then return to the Portland Arms for lunch at 1pm, which could be outside or in, depending on the weather. All welcome to join us for the walk and/or lunch - please let Sue know because lunch needs to be ordered in advance (suecvaughan@btinternet.com). Lifts can be arranged.

Holy Pumpkin Trail! On the **31st October** (the evening before the feast of All Hallows, or All Saints as we now say...) join the Holy Pumpkin Trail between St Michael's and The Cathedral, with planned stops along the way to 'trick or treat'. Begin with a hot chocolate in The Parish Centre between 4.30-5.15 to arrive in the Cathedral Lady Chapel where there will be crafts from 5.15. Everything will finish up with a short service in the Lady Chapel at 6pm. This looks like it might be busy, so if anyone is free to help serve hot chocolate from 4.30 please speak to Jonny!

5th November at 6.00 p.m. in St Michael's - Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for the departed. If you would like one or more loved ones remembered by name at this service, please send an email containing the Christian and Surname(s) to Georgie on Admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk with **Commemoration Service** in the title line **by 31st October** at the very latest please.

Bonfire Night on Saturday, 4th November, 4-6pm in the Paddock. The Mission and Community Committee NEEDS YOU, so can you spare an hour or so helping build the bonfire, setup the serving tables, and, during the evening help to serve the food and drink and stoke the bonfire? Is so please contact Jane Larman on janelarman@sky.com **Tickets** will be available as usual in church or can be bought on Eventbrite at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7eh3uy> - they cannot be ordered/requested through the Parish Office.

'Mark'ing Advent This Autumn's study group (9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th November at 8pm, in the vicarage) will be on the Gospel of St Mark. As we prepare for the start of the new church year and a new cycle of readings in our services, we will be delving into the riches of the earliest Gospel, learning about its key themes and thinking about how it might help us to walk the Advent path once again.

Christmas Concert: 19th 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>



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 22nd October 2023: Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

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

Wednesday

10.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 29th October 2023: Twenty-first after Trinity, Bible Sunday

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. All are welcome to stay for **refreshments** after the service in the Parish Centre. If you are new, we would love to meet you!

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; please see a steward for access.

Collect

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
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: Isaiah 45: 1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him--
and the gates shall not be closed:
I will go before you and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

Gospel acclamation

This week the **Alleluia** is sung to the 'Plainsong' chant. **Cantor:** "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening; you have the words of eternal life"
Then **ALL** repeat **Alleluia**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22: 15-22

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and

teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, accept our sacrifice as a holy exchange of gifts. By offering what you have given us may we receive the gift of yourself. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

First Holy Communion

X and x, before the last supper Jesus washed his disciples' feet and taught that following him means to serve and not to be served. Are you ready to follow the way of the Servant King in your life? **I am.**

On the cross Jesus prayed for all of us, that we be forgiven our sins. Are you ready to seek and receive his forgiveness at each Communion? **I am.**

In Holy Communion Jesus gives us the gift of his presence in bread and wine. Are you ready to receive this gift? **I am.**

Let us pray: Almighty God, we thank you for calling us together today to share with *X and x* in this celebration of your love, made known to us in broken bread and wine outpoured. As they receive these holy gifts may they know the depth of your love for them, receive your life, and be made members of the body of Christ. We ask this in the power of the Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: **Amen.**

Please remember in your prayers:

- Aria, Evie, and Jamie who are to receive Holy Communion for the first time
- All preparing for baptism and confirmation
- Ourselves, that we might grow in faith, hope, and love.
- those who are **ill**, including: Jo Barnes, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including Barbara Wardle whose funeral took place on 17th October at West Herts Crematorium, Garston
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *all who visit places of worship during the day*