

NOTICES

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop during which you will be shown how to create a traditional, moss-based wreath ready to be decorated using seasonal greenery gathered from the grounds of Gorhambury, and a selection of dried fruits, seed-heads and ribbons. No experience is necessary, but it is recommended that you bring gardening gloves with you. The workshops take place in the Garden Hall at Gorhambury House between 10am and 12.00pm on both Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December. Tickets are £50 per person which includes all materials, tuition and refreshments, and can be booked by contacting Olivia Berry on office@grimstontrust.co.uk

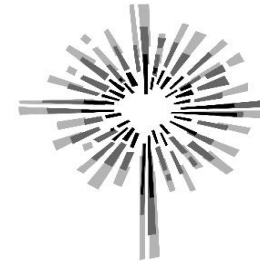
The next **Parish Walk** will be on the **morning of Tuesday 12th December**, followed by Christmas Lunch at the Portland Arms. Details of the walk will follow – during which we'll be looking for greenery to decorate the church. If you're interested in seeing the menu for Christmas Lunch, please let Sue know - suecvaughan@btinternet.com

Coffee break! After each Wednesday 10.30 Eucharist we are now having tea, coffee, biscuits and lots of chat. If you don't already, do come and join us!

Youth Talk, one of the charities we support at Christmas, has launched a fundraising raffle for two tickets to 'Home Alone in Concert' at the Royal Albert Hall for the performance on 3rd December. For more information, and to participate in the raffle, please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/home-alone-at-the-royal-albert-hall-raffle>

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>

Ladies' Night: We would like to start arranging these outings again, so the men don't have all the fun. If you would be interested in becoming coordinator for this, please speak to Val or email her on chiesa@btinternet.com



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 12th November 2023:

Remembrance Sunday

- 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, 19th November 2023:

Second Sunday before Advent

- 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 on Remembrance Sunday. Junior Church meets today in the parish centre - they will leave for their worship after the act of remembrance, The *children's corner* contains themed-worksheets, books and toys if you'd like to keep little people busy- but there is no obligation to use it! 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!

Act of Remembrance

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping; those who have died for their country in conflict; Those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure, and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

The names of those who died in the world wars from this parish are read, before the silence is kept. At the end of the 2 minute's silence, the Last Post is played.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn; At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them. **All: We will remember them.**

Collect

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading: Amos 5: 18-24

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord:

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

Between the first and second readings Psalm 121 is sung

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills :

from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh even from the Lord :

who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved :

and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel :

shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper :

the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;

So that the sun shall not burn thee by day :

neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil :

yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in :

from this time forth for evermore.

Gospel acclamation

The choir sings alleluia once, before all repeat '**Alleluia**'. The sentence, sung by the choir is 'Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it'.

Then **ALL** repeat **Alleluia**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, may this holy offering bring us your blessing and accomplish within us its promise of salvation. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anthem during Communion

So they gave their bodies to the commonwealth, and received praise that will never die, and a home in the minds of men. Their story lives on without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other men's lives. *Words: Pericles (495-429BC) Music: Peter Aston 1938-2013*

Please remember in your prayers:

- All who live with the ongoing cost of war
- His Majesty's Armed Forces
- those who are **ill**, including: Jo Barnes, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Alison Munro, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including Joan Crook and Beryl Askham, whose funeral took place on 8th November, and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *all who benefit from all forms of Charitable Giving*