

NOTICES

TODAY: Advent Carol Service at 4pm. Don't miss this atmospheric service when we enter more deeply, through readings and music, the holy season of Advent.

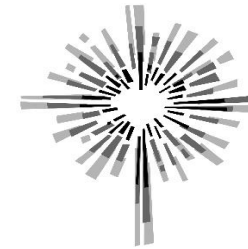
Parish Walk & Christmas Lunch, Tuesday 12th December: Walkers to meet at 11am at a venue to be decided nearer the time, while we watch the weather and try to avoid the mud. We'll be looking for holly and ivy to decorate St Michael's the following Saturday. It will be local (Batchwood/Verulamium) so we can join the Lunch Club at 12.30 at the Portland Arms for Christmas Lunch. If you're interested in coming on the walk and/or seeing the menu, please let Sue know - suecvaughan@btinternet.com

St Michael's Tots (previously Tiny Tots) is hoping to restart in January in the old Tuesday morning slot. If you could join the coffee rota for this on an occasional basis, send Jonny an email, on vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk

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!

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. 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, 3rd December 2023:

Advent Sunday

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	All-Age Parish Eucharist
4.00 p.m.	Advent Carol Service
6.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong (St Mary's)

Wednesday

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

Sunday, 10th December 2023:

Advent Sunday

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist
4.00 p.m.	Christingle Service
6.00 p.m.	Lessons and Carols (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. Today Junior Church meet in the parish centre to rehearse the nativity play - they will leave after the first hymn. 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!

Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence -- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil -- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Between the first and second readings, the choir sings verses from Psalm 80.

Hear O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep : show thyself also, thou that sittest upon the Cherubins.

Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses : stir up thy strength, and come and help us.

Turn us again, O God : show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Gospel acclamation

The choir sings alleluia once, before all repeat '**Alleluia**'. The sentence, sung by the choir is '*Prepare away for the Lord. Make God's pathway straight, and all the earth shall see the saving love of God.*

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

Gospel Reading: Mark 13: 24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Prayer Over the Gifts

Father, from all you give us we present this bread and wine. As we serve you now, accept our offering and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anthem during Communion: *The Advent Chorale (16thc. German) - "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"*

Saviour of the Gentiles, come!

Born for us the Virgin's Son;

God doth grant this wondrous birth:

Awe and wonder fill the earth.

His high chamber leaveth he,

Royal seat of purity,

God and man, in substance one,

Who a Hero's course will run.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Ourselves, that we make our hearts and world ready for Christ to come.
- His Majesty's Prison Service; their staff, inmates and chaplaincy services.
- those who are **ill**, including: Jo Barnes, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Sam Mahoney, Alison Munro, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including Suzanne Cavanagh, Joan Crook, Mark Jefferson, and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *those who run and attend after school clubs*