

# NOTICES

**Christmas Lunch, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** Regretfully we've called off the walk due to the adverse weather forecast and with Verulamium flooded in parts and very muddy. We'd be grateful for donations of holly and ivy to **decorate St Michael's from 9.30 a.m. on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December.** We are expecting to be a party of over 20 for lunch at 12.30 p.m. at the Portland Arms. Welcome to join us if you're quick! Please email Sue for the menu - [suecvaughan@btinternet.com](mailto:suecvaughan@btinternet.com)

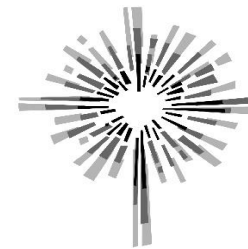
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 9.30 a.m. Kathryn Mathews** would be very grateful for any help in **decorating St Michael's** in preparation for Christmas. If you have any evergreen foliage, especially with berries on it, and can spare some time to help, please bring it along with you. **ALSO**, if you could stay to help with church cleaning, **Jane Larman** and her team would be very grateful.

**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](mailto: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:** 19<sup>th</sup> 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>

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Parish Office will be **closed** for Christmas for general and hall booking enquiries for an extended period **from 12.00 p.m. on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** until **9.00 a.m. on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**



*St Michael with St Mary*

## Services this week

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

### Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023: Second Sunday of Advent

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism
4.00 p.m.	Christingle Service
6.00 p.m.	Lessons and Carols (St Mary's)

### Wednesday

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

### Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023: Third Sunday of Advent

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

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### Contact Information:

Vicar:	The Rev'd Jonny Lloyd: <a href="mailto:vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk">vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk</a>
Address:	St Michael's Vicarage, St Michael's Street, St Albans, AL3 4SL
Parish Office:	Georgie Ray: <a href="mailto:admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk">admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk</a> (9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)
Telephone:	01727 835037 Website: <a href="http://www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk">www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk</a>

Welcome to our worship this morning and a particular welcome to the family and friends of Miles Griffin who will be baptized during this morning's service. 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,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.

### **Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 1-8**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

### **Prayer Over the Gifts**

Lord, we are nothing without you. As you sustain us with your mercy, receive our prayers and offerings. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **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 to be baptized, including Miles Griffin
- 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: *Christian Unions and other groups in schools*