

NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office is **closed** for Christmas for general and hall booking enquiries for an extended period until **9.00 a.m.** on **Monday, 8th January 2024**. However, the clergy are still working so for all pastoral parish business please contact Jonny on vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk or Fr John on johnlbannister@gmail.com

Christmas Retiring Collections at St Michael's Church will support:

Carol Service: 17th December

Children of Peace: Conflict resolution among children and young people in Israel and the Palestinian territories (Registered Charity Number 1112301)

Crib Service: 24th December

Keech Hospice Care: Local hospice care for children (Registered Charity Number 1035089)

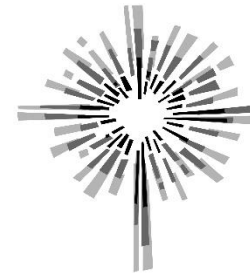
Midnight /Christmas Day: 24th/ 25th December (Split 50/50)

Living Room: Addiction Support (Registered Charity Number: 1080634)

Centre 33: Homelessness Support in St Albans (Registered Charity Number: 1146438)

St Michael's Tots (previously Tiny Tots) is going to restart in January in the same Tuesday morning slot (9.30-11am). We're having a **spring clean** of all the toys and equipment on the **9th January**, with the **grand re-launch on the 16th**. If you would like to help by joining the coffee rota for this on even an occasional basis, send Jonny an email, on vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk. Do also please spread the word about our restart and pray that it serves well as a resource and support for the very young people of this parish and their carers.

Sacrament and sustenance! Each Wednesday at 10.30 we continue to celebrate a mid-week Eucharist. This now has a hymn, a homily and is followed by tea, coffee, biscuits and lots of chat. If you don't already, do come and join us!



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 24th December: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist
11.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist <i>Fosse House</i>
4.00 p.m.	Crib Service - <i>dress up as a Nativity character and relive the story of Christmas</i>
6.00 p.m.	Evensong (St Mary's) <i>N.B no service next week</i>
11.00 p.m.	Midnight Mass

Monday, 25th December: Christmas Day

9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist - <i>a service of carols and Communion</i>
11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion - <i>from the Book of Common Prayer (1662), and carols</i>

Wednesday, 27th December *Feast of St John*

10.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
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Sunday, 31st December: First Sunday of Christmas

New Year's Eve

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist

Please Note: There will be NO service at St Mary's tonight

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

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Welcome to our worship this morning. Junior Church does not meet in the school holiday, but 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 we prepare with joy  
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,  
embrace the earth with your glory  
and be for us a living hope  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will

make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

### 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: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, may the gift we offer in faith and love be a continual sacrifice in your honour and truly become our eucharist and our salvation. Amen.

### Please remember in your prayers:

- the Holy Land, and all who live there today
- the Bishop of St Albans
- those who are **ill**, including: 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 Jo Barnes, Suzanne Cavanagh, Richard Hoddy, Mark Jefferson, and those who mourn them.
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *grace to be thankful in all circumstances*