

NOTICES

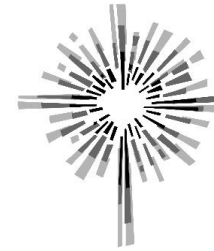
Lent Course: A brochure with resources for keeping a Holy Lent and advertising our Lenten services will be published next week. Our 5-part Lent course this year is called 'Finding a Voice' and is structured around the Oscar-winning film, The King's Speech. **Sessions will take place at 12.00 p.m. after our midweek Eucharist and coffee on Wednesdays, beginning on 28th February.** To register interest and order a course book (£5.99) please contact Jonny on vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk. If there is demand for an evening group that could be added for a Monday or Wednesday night. Keep the night of Shrove Tuesday free for a parish viewing of the film on 13th February with a chance to buy popcorn and refreshment at the 'Last Chance Saloon' (so called because the Vicar is giving booze up for Lent!)

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!

Bishop's Garden: The Bishop of St Albans will be opening his garden at Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HS on four Sundays in February and March (18th and 25th February, 3rd and 10th March) between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. on each date. Entrance is £5 per person (children free) and dogs on leads are welcome. Footwear suitable for the time of year is advised. All money raised is donated to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

Women's Group: We're very excited to have our first date in the diary for the women's group – 8pm, Tuesday 27th February, The Six Bells. Please let Emily know on emily.clare.lloyd@gmail.com if you would like to come so we have an idea of numbers. If you have any thoughts on future events for the women's group, please let Emily know!

St Michael's Tots (previously Tiny Tots) has restarted on Tuesdays in the Parish Centre from 9.30-11.00 a.m. If you would like to help by joining the coffee rota for this on even an occasional basis, please 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.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 4th February 2024: Second Sunday before Lent

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	All-Age Parish Eucharist
6.00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist (St Mary's)

Wednesday, 7th February

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

Sunday, 11th February 2024: Sunday Next before Lent

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 service this morning for our all-age Eucharist. Children's groups don't meet today as we're all together, but please feel free to use the children's corner in the north aisle and the Tower Room if you need privacy (e.g. nappy change) which has a 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,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31

Like a person, wisdom calls out to you.

Understanding raises her voice.

"I, wisdom, was with God when he began his work.

This was before he made anything else long ago.

I was appointed in the very beginning,
even before the world began.

I began before there were oceans.

There were no springs overflowing with water.

I began before the hills were there.

The mountains had not even been put in place.

God still had not made the earth or fields.

He had not even made the first dust of the earth.

I was there when God put the skies in place,

when he stretched the horizon over the oceans.

I was there when he made the clouds above.

I was there when he put the fountains in the oceans.

I was there when he ordered the sea

not to go beyond the borders he had set for it.

I was there when he laid the earth's foundation.

I was like a child by his side.

I was happy every day

and enjoyed being in his presence.

I enjoyed the whole world.

And I was happy with all its people.

Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not

overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, as we make this offering, may our worship in Spirit and truth bring us salvation. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Anthem during Communion

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,

Holy wisdom, love most bright;

Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring

Soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,

With the fire of life impassioned,

Striving still to truth unknown,

Soaring, dying round Thy throne.

JS Bach 1685-1750

Please remember in your prayers:

- Alan, Bishop of St Albans, and the success of his surgery.
- all who live on the Batchwood Estate
- those who are **ill**, including: Ben Collins, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Daphne Hodges, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Joanne Laws, Sam Mahoney, Alison Munro, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including John Facer, Richard Hoddy, Sam Green, Gordon Marsh, Eve Souch and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Church Missions*