

NOTICES

Lent leaflet: A booklet detailing ways in which you might like to keep this season of prayer and self-denial and containing information of our Lent services is available from the back of church.

Lent Course: 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.

The **funeral service for the late John Facer** will take place in St Michael's on **Thursday, 29th February at 1.00 p.m.**

The **funeral service for the late Colin Roberts** will take place in St Michael's on **Monday, 4th March at 11.00 a.m.**

Wednesday Communion: 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 normally come, why not make it a habit for Lent?

Books for Gaza: For anyone seeking a non-political way to help a horrendous humanitarian situation we have had this charitable endeavour commended to us. Famous authors have signed copies of their works, which are £35, with proceeds going to help the evacuation of children <https://www.32auctions.com/booksforgaza>

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 takes place on Tuesdays in the Parish Centre from 9.30 a.m. until 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

John is installed! as County Chaplain for the Order of the Priory of St John on Thursday 29th February at the Cathedral during Evensong at 5.00 p.m. All who'd like to support him from this parish are very welcome- we'll meet in the Welcome Centre at 4.30 p.m. to be in good time to get seats.

Saturday 2nd March: St Michael's Churchyard Working Party and Church Cleaning – 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. This will be the first session of the new season; please see the list on the noticeboard outside the Parish Centre for future dates. There will be plenty to do in the churchyard after the winter break and also cleaning the church as part of our welcome for worshippers and visitors. For more information, please get in touch with Jim on 07770 324375 (churchyard) or Jane on janelarman@sky.com (cleaning).



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

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

Sunday, 25th February 2024: Second Sunday of Lent

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

Wednesday, 28th February

9.00 a.m.	St Michael's School Service
10.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
12.00 p.m.	Lent Course – Session I

Sunday, 3rd March 2024: Third Sunday of Lent

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	All-Age Parish Eucharist
6.00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist (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. Our junior church meets in the churchyard this morning and goes out after the first hymn. If you know a young person who would like to join but isn't sure what to do please speak to one of the clergy or a welcomer. Please also 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,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 17: 1-7; 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Gospel Reading: Mark 8: 31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, make us holy. May this eucharist take away our sins that we may be prepared to celebrate the resurrection. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Anthem during Communion

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,
lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past,
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in an upright heart,
before thee, now and evermore.
Amen.

Text: Lidley's Prayers, 1566

Music: Farrant 1525-1580

Please remember in your prayers:

- all who live on Batchwood Drive, Downedge, and Ladies Grove
- those whose funerals are this week, including Gordon Marsh and Eve Souch
- those who are **ill**, including: Nicola Cann, 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, Sam Green, Anthony Kirkwood, Gordon Marsh, Colin Roberts, Eve Souch and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Student faith groups*