

NOTICES

Stewardship Sunday: Last week we kept a Sunday of thanksgiving for the generosity of all who give to the parish and asked that we all consider each year our ability to start giving regularly to the church or increase what we give currently. Thank you to everyone who has responded with such generosity to this call; it is hugely important and will safeguard the mission and heritage of our churches in the years to come.

Parish Walk: The first walk of the year will be in Wheathamstead on **Wednesday, 1st May, meeting at 11.30 a.m.** (a change from the usual time to accommodate people coming from St Michael's 10.30 a.m. service - it's a 15 minute drive). We will meet at the Marford Memorial Hall car park, AL4 8AY (turn left off Marford Road into Brocket View, car park on right) for a two-mile walk led by Kathryn Mathews, and dogs are welcome. Details of a pub lunch will follow. Please let Sue know via email on suecvaughan@btinternet.com if you'd like to walk or join the group for lunch.

In support of Christian Aid week, there will be a cake sale in the Parish Centre after the 9.30 a.m. service on **Sunday, 19th May.** Can you bake (or buy) a cake or make some small cakes, muffins or the such-like to help raise funds for Christian Aid? If you are making cakes, please label them if they contain nuts or other items to which people may be allergic. If possible, please bring your cakes to the vicarage from Thursday 16th May onwards or even on the day itself. Thank you.

Christian Aid week runs from 12th – 18th May, and several events in support have been planned as shown below:

Saturday 11th May at 7.30 p.m. - there will be a concert entitled **Variety: A Concert for Christian Aid,** at **Marshswick Baptist Free Church.** Everyone is welcome to come along for an evening of diverse musical entertainment. There will be a retiring collection for the work of Christian Aid.

Sunday 12th May at 6.30 p.m. - there will be an ecumenical service at **St Stephen's Church;** Rev'd Becky Leach will preach. Coffee will be served from 6 p.m.

Saturday 18th May: 10 a.m. until 1.30 pm; lunch served from 12 p.m. – 1.00 p.m. - there will be a market at **St Mary's Church, Marshswick** – see the poster on the church noticeboard for more information.

Friends of St Michael's: Thank you to all supported the Abbey Theatre's production of Elgar and Alice on Thursday to raise funds for the Friends, especially in aid of our tower fund; it was a great production and wonderful evening.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this Week

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

Sunday, 21st April 2024: Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Wednesday, 24th April

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

Sunday, 28th April 2024: Fifth Sunday of Easter

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
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Parish Office: Georgie Ray: admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk
(9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)
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Welcome to our service this morning. Junior church meets today in the churchyard; all are very welcome to join for worship and fun. If you are new and would like to know where this is, please ask a member of the clergy or one of the welcomers on the door. Please feel free to use 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

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

New Testament Reading: Acts 4: 5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Between the readings, the choir sing from Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul:
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Gospel Reading: John 10: 11-18

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, restore us by these mysteries. May the continuing work of our Redeemer bring us eternal joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem during Communion

Worthy is the Lamb, that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by his blood, to receive power, riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing, for ever and ever. Amen.

G.F Handel – from The Messiah

Please remember in your prayers:

- the Mission and Community committee
- all who give to support the ministry and mission of our Parish
- everyone preparing reports for the APCM, that they may be given perseverance and strength!
- those who are ill, including: Ben Collins, Anne Fletcher, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Joanne Laws, Sam Mahoney, Alison Munro, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including Nicola Cann and Pat Stroud, and those who mourn them
- for Colin Roberts, whose ashes will be interred today, and his family.
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *All who teach in Sunday Schools.*