

NOTICES

Creaky Tower Team: Jonny is pulling together anyone interested in thinking about ways to raise funds for our tower works. This is not a committee and there will not be legions of meetings! More about gathering ideas and examples of things that have worked elsewhere and could be good for us and working out how to put them together semi-strategically. Let him know if you're keen. Thanks!

The next **Parish Walk** and lunch will be on, **Thursday, 8th August** (picnic at Childwickbury) and **Thursday, 26th September**. Please watch this space for more information about these walks which will start at 11am - everyone is welcome to join in.

The Bishop of St Albans is opening his garden at Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HS on **Sundays** from **9th June** until **11th August between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.** Entrance is £5 per person (children free) and dogs on leads are welcome. Please note that there are no toilet facilities available. All money raised is donated to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

The **funeral service for the late Christopher Rolfe** will take place in St Michael's on **Wednesday, 24th July at 2.30 p.m.**

Music Group If you play an instrument, of any standard, and would like to support our all-age services accompanying some bits of the service going forward, please let Jonny or Colin know.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this Week

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

Sunday, 14th July 2024: Seventh Sunday after Trinity

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

Wednesday, 17th July

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

Sunday, 21st July 2024: Eighth Sunday after Trinity

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

Contact Information:

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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 for the last time before the summer break; 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

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading: Amos 7: 7-15

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said, 'See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.'

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.' 'And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.' Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

Between the readings the choir sings from Psalm 85

I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me: for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints, that they turn not again.

For his salvation is nigh them that fear him: that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together: righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall flourish out of the earth: and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.

Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness: and our land shall give her increase.

Righteousness shall go before him: and he shall direct his going in the way.

Gospel Reading: Mark 6: 14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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.

Today's Anthem

Give us the wings of faith to rise
Within the veil, and see
The saints above, how great their joys,
How bright their glories be.

We ask them whence their victory came,
They, with one united breath,
Ascribe the conquest to the Lamb,
Their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,
His zeal inspired their breast,
And, following their incarnate God,
They reached their promised rest.

Words – Isaac Watts Music – Ernest Bullock

Please remember in your prayers:

- Townsend C of E School
- Our PCC and all starting a new term of office in service to our parish
- The Prayer Book Society
- those who are ill, including: Ben Collins, Anne Fletcher, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Joanne Laws, Sam Mahoney, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including Lynne Crade, Alison Munro, Chris Rolfe and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *All those going on pilgrimage*