

NOTICES

Harvey and Grace Massan, two of St Michael's youngest members, have decided to do a fundraising run for our creaky, leaky, tower. We want to say a big thank you from all of us at St Michael's, and to congratulate them on hitting their target of £1000! For details of their run and how to support them see <http://tiny.cc/2bv900l>

St Michael's needs you. I hope you're all aware by now that we need to elect new wardens and a treasurer at the APCM in May. These are interesting and fulfilling roles as part of the team of paid and volunteer staff who support Jonny to keep the parish running, so please don't assume you haven't the time or skills needed. Instead, talk to Val, Mark, or Nigel to find out more about what's involved.

Every six years, each parish in the Church of England must start their Electoral Roll from scratch meaning that **2025** sees a **Full Revision** of our Electoral Roll. **All members of St Michael's and St Mary's must apply for the new Roll to retain their voting rights!** The revision starts on **30th March** and ends on **27th April** and the Electoral Roll forms will be available at both churches from **30th March** onwards.

A Thanksgiving Service for the Life of the late Gill Chapman, who was one of our organists at St Mary's, will be held on **Thursday, 20th March at 2.00 p.m. at St Mary's Church, Hemel Hempstead Road, Redbourn, AL3 7NL** For catering purposes, if you are going to the service, could you please let **Brian** (Gill's husband) know on chapmanredbourn@gmx.com Donations in memory of Gill can be made at the service or online to Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care (renniedgrovepeace.org/donate)

St Albans Chamber Opera (SACO) are giving performances of Cavalliera Rusticana and Gianni Schicchi at the Abbey Theatre from Sunday 23 to Saturday 29 March. The trustees of SACO have kindly agreed to donate the proceeds from the sale of programmes at the performance on Tuesday 25 March to the St Michael's 'creaky tower' fund. It would be great if you are able to come to support the performance on Tuesday 25th - (St Michael's own Charles Naylor is singing Gianni Schicchi) <https://www.abbeytheatre.org.uk/whats-on/opera-double-bill/>

Keeping Britain Tidy Litter Pick: Your Mission & Community Committee are organising a community litter pick on **Saturday, 29th March between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.** Litter picking equipment and a bin bag will be provided. If you can help, please meet at the **Parish Centre from 10.30 a.m. onwards**. Refreshments will be provided.

The St Albans International Organ Festival will take place in July this year, including two concerts at St Michael's. Twenty young organists from all over the world take part in the Interpretation and Improvisation Competitions and stay in local households. Supporting a competitor can be a fun and rewarding experience and in grateful thanks, the IOF Board offers benefits including complimentary tickets and invitations to receptions. If you're able to offer B&B for any length of time from 2nd -20th July, Sue Vaughan would love to hear from you - suecvaughan@btinternet.com or 01727 811443.



ST MICHAEL WITH ST MARY

Services this Week

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

Sunday, 16th March 2025

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, 19th March 2025

9.00 a.m.	St Michael's School Service
10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
10.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist followed by session 3 of the Lent Course in the Parish Centre

Sunday, 23rd March 2025

Third Sunday of 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
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 worship this morning. Our Junior Church (for primary aged children) goes out for their worship in the parish centre during the first hymn. The children's corner also 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 welcomer 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 15: 1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Gradual Psalm verses from Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear :
the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh
they stumbled and fell.
Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid :
and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.
One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require :

even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle :

yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.

And now shall he lift up mine head :

above mine enemies round about me.

Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness :

I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord.

Gospel Reading: Luke 13: 31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

Anthem during Communion

Pray that Jerusalem may have peace and felicity;
Let them that love thee and thy peace have still prosperity.
Therefore I wish that peace may still within thy walls remain;
And ever may thy palaces prosperity retain.
Now for my friends' and brethren's sakes, peace be to thee, I'll say;
And for the house of God our Lord, I'll seek thy good alway.

**Music by C.V. Stanford 1852-1924; melody from Playford's Psalms (1671)
Words form the Scottish Psalter (1650)**

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.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Ourselves, good preparation for the holy season of Lent, and the spirit of discipline to help with whatever we choose to relinquish over its 40 days.
- Anyone considering serving the church as a warden or treasurer.
- Those who are ill, including: Ben Collins, Jacqui Follett, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Sam Mahoney, John Polhill, Cora Marie Varshney
- Gill Chapman, Brenda Helwig, Stella Sexton, David Slobom, and all the recently departed, and those who mourn them.
- This week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Those who support the homeless*