

NOTICES

Ladies' Night - We are very excited that the **Rev'd Jos Perris**, longtime school chaplain and now assistant priest in the Langley team ministry is coming to talk to us on **Wednesday 2nd April at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre**, about Transforming the Challenges of Lent to a time of Hope. There will be drinks and nibbles and, guided by Jos, it will be a great opportunity to delve a bit deeper into what Lent means to us. Please email emily.clare.lloyd@gmail.com if you would like to come. As always, if you or someone would like to be added to our email list, please let Emily know.

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. You are encouraged to join the Roll because this gives you voting rights at parish meetings and it helps keep our pastoral contacts up to date. **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.

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's needs you. 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.



ST MICHAEL WITH ST MARY

Services this Week

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

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)

Wednesday, 26th 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 4 of the Lent Course in the Parish Centre

Sunday, 30th March 2025

Mothering Sunday

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism of Florence and Harry Sizer
- 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.parishofstmichaels.org.uk

Welcome to our worship this morning. Our Junior Church (for primary aged worshippers) goes out for their worship in the parish centre during the first hymn. Please gather by the font ready to take the candles and go! 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. Please do come and say hello.

Collect

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Gradual Psalm: verses 1-6 from Psalm 63

Gospel Reading: Luke 13: 1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who

were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

Musical reflection after the sermon

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 a perfect heart before thee, now and evermore.

from John Bull - Holy meditations (1568)

Anthem during Communion

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks :
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God :
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night :

while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

Psalm 42:1-3

Music by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, by the grace of this sacrifice may we who ask forgiveness be ready to forgive one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Those with the power to bring peace to any situation. A prayer for peace: Almighty God, your son Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace: convert the hearts of all people to work for the cause of peace, and begin with me. Amen.
- 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, and all the recently departed, and those who mourn them.
- This week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Those who lead Emmaus and Alpha Courses*