

NOTICES

Dates for your diary

Thursday, 1st May, meeting at 11.00 a.m. The **first Parish Walk** of the year will be a flat walk of approximately two miles in **Rothamsted Park**, and we're planning to have lunch at the Research Centre Café. Directions and details to follow.

Saturday, 10th May – Quiz Night: 7.30 p.m. for an 8.00 p.m. start at the Memorial Hall, Branch Road, AL3 4SS. An ideal opportunity to get a team together to test your knowledge. The cost is **£10 per person** and teams are **a maximum of 8 people** per table. Proceeds from the evening will be donated to the **Creaky Tower Fund**. Watch this space for further details.

Wednesday, 2nd July – the annual St Michael's Folk Night event from 7.00 p.m. St Michael's bellringers will signal the start of the event, and we will once again welcome the SwanVesta Social Club to the churchyard. Delicious food and beer will be available. Proceeds from the evening will be donated to the **Creaky Tower Fund**. Watch this space for further details.

The Full Revision of our **Electoral Roll** runs until **27th April**. Electoral Roll application forms are now available at both churches so please take one if you wish to be included on the new Roll. Please **either** put your completed form through the office letterbox **or, if you wish**, scan your signed form and send a copy (pdf preferred, please) to **Georgie** on admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk with **ER FORM** as the title.

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.

Friends of St Michael's The theatre company OVO have kindly agreed to offer their support by donating some of the ticket proceeds from a performance of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Roman Theatre on 1st July to the Friends. In order to activate the donation, you will need to enter **FOSMRTF25** in the promotional code field during the checkout process when making the booking and OVO will give the Friends of St Michael's £10 for each ticket sold. This is the link to the website: <https://tinyurl.com/5h74794b>



ST MICHAEL WITH ST MARY

Services for Holy Week

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

Sunday, 13th April 2025 - Palm Sunday

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist with Procession from Lower School
- 6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

Monday, 14th April to Wednesday, 16th April 2025

- 10.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Lady Chapel
- 8.00 p.m. Compline with address

Please note: Compline on Tuesday evening will take place at St Mary's

The theme for this week's addresses is

'Holy Failures – thank God it's not just me'

Maundy Thursday - 17th April 2025

- 8.00 p.m. Holy Eucharist of Maundy Thursday

Good Friday - 18th April 2025

- 12.00 p.m. Young People's Service – followed by making the Easter Garden and hot cross buns in the Parish Centre
- 2.00 p.m. Liturgy of Good Friday

Holy Saturday - 19th April 2025

- 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 9.15 a.m. Decorating St Michael's for Easter (please bring white or yellow flowers and/or spring foliage)

Sunday, 20th April 2025 - Easter Day

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9.30 a.m. Festal Easter Eucharist followed by the Easter Egg hunt in St Michael's churchyard
- 11.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist from the Book of Common Prayer (St Mary's)

Welcome to our service this morning on Palm Sunday. As we enter into this holiest week of the church year, do look at what is on offer in this parish and join as much as you can. If you are new, we would love to meet you – please do stay for coffee after the service in the Parish Centre.

At Lower School:

Introduction

The president introduces the service.

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

We hold up palms and branches while this prayer is said

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah
to suffer and to die;
bless these palms, that they may be for us signs of his victory,
and grant that we who bear them in his name
may ever hail him as our King,
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

All Amen.

Gospel of the Palms: Luke 19:28-40

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke

All: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole

multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

The Procession

*All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

1 Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and blessed one:

2 The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal men and all things
created make reply:

3 The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went:
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present:

4 To thee before thy passion
they sang their hymns of praise:
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise:

5 Thou didst accept their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King:

6 Thy sorrow and thy triumph
grant us, O Christ, to share,
that to the holy city
together we may fare:

7 For homage may we bring thee
our victory o'er the foe,
that in the Conqueror's triumph
this strain may ever flow:

Words: Theodulph of Orleans, tr. J M Neale

Tune: St Theodulph

In Church the service continues with the Collect:

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory. **Amen**

Gospel Reading: The Passion according to St Mark (see printed script)

Music during the reading of the Passion is by Desmond Ratcliffe

Anthem during Communion

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.

Love is strong as death.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Who, his own self, bear our sins in his own Body on the tree,

that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.

Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,

holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Song of Solomon 8:7, St John 15, 1 Peter 2, 1 Corinthians 6; Romans 12

Music by John Ireland (1879-1962)

Prayer Over the Gifts

Lord, may the suffering and death of Jesus, your only Son, make us pleasing to you.

Alone we can do nothing, but may this perfect sacrifice win us your mercy and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Ourselves for a good keeping of Holy Week
- For all persecuted for their faith
- All feeling a sense of call to ordination as deacon or priest in the church.
- Those who are ill, including: Ben Collins, Jacqui Follett, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Sam Mahoney, John Polhill, Cora Marie Varshney
- All the recently departed, and those who mourn them.
- This week the diocese asks us to pray for: *All who offer support to those who are housebound*