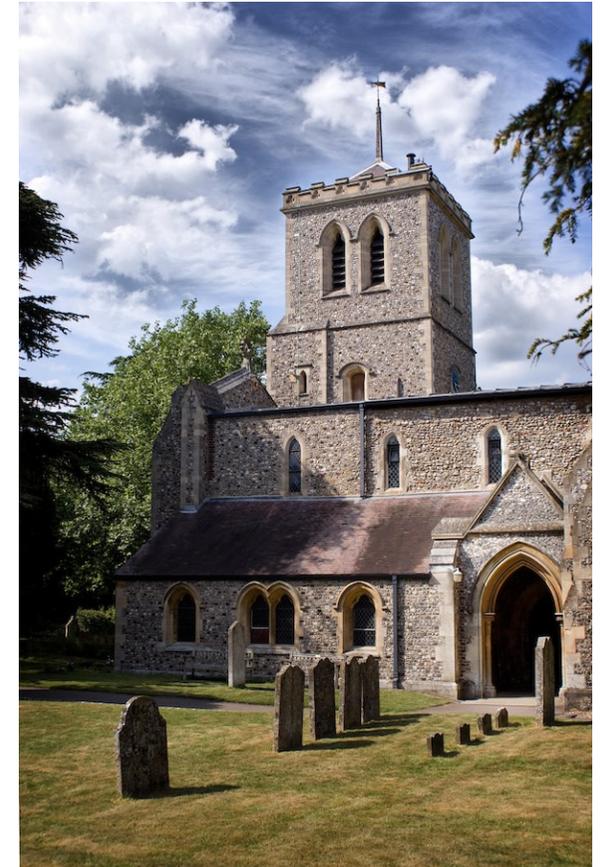




Visitors and Pilgrims Guide



St Michael's Church St Albans

7. West End

Returning to the west end, you see a window depicting three angels. In the middle is Michael, patron saint of this church. He carries the scales of justice and a sword to defend against evil.

- The organ is fixed against opposite walls. It is a fine two-manual Peter Collins instrument built in 1981. The choir sits on the benches between.
- On the south wall of the nave is what remains of the Doom, a medieval painting about heaven and judgement.

As you leave this holy place, rejoice in the example of those whose journey is ended. May we with them and the angels sing God's praises in heaven.

8. Outside

Having left St Michael's, take time to walk around the outside.

- There was once a tower where the west window now stands. The present tower was raised in the late C19th. It contains eight bells, the oldest made in 1739, the most recent in 1953.
- Can you spot the bricks among the Hertfordshire flint? Many were made in Roman times, hundreds of years before this church was built. St Alban himself may have seen these bricks.
- Did you know that St Michael's is one of four medieval churches in this city? Each has its own story but all

are linked by a shared faith, a common history, and the character of Alban. Why not visit the Cathedral, St Stephen's, and St Peter's as well?

When you return to the everyday world, how will God's love ring out in your life?

Support

St Michael's is totally dependent on voluntary giving. It costs over £2,000 a week to run. If you can, please use the Gift Aid envelopes and donations box near the entrance - or you can donate via www.justgiving.com/stmichaels-stalbans

More Information

We'd love to stay in touch. To receive our monthly email please contact kennethpadley@gmail.com or write in this box and post to the address below

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1. The Font

Christian life starts in the service of baptism at the font. During baptism, water is poured on the candidate as a sign of the washing away of our old life and our entering a new relationship with Jesus.

- 'Font' comes from the Latin for 'spring / source'.
- The font is near the main door because it is about beginnings.
- The font is octagonal, signalling that people come to Jesus from all corners of the compass.
- St Michael's font was made in the C15th.

The font is a good place to give thanks to God for making us.

2. The Nave

The main body of the church is called the nave. St Michael's is an old church and our nave dates back before the Norman conquest. The brick arches outline where some of the original C10th windows would have been.

- 'Nave' is from the Latin for 'ship'; the roof looks like an upside-down wooden boat.
- The nave is the vessel in which God's people gather for the spiritual journey of worship.

In the nave, consider the pilgrimage of your life.

3. Lectern and Pulpit

God's word in the Bible is read from the lectern (reading desk). These readings are often explained in sermons delivered from the pulpit.

- St Michael's pulpit is a magnificent piece of Elizabethan woodwork. It may have come from Gorhambury

4. Altar

The focal point of this church is the altar, the table where Christians celebrate Communion. During Communion, bread and wine is blessed by the priest in memory of Jesus' Last Supper. Through Communion, Jesus becomes spiritually present to worshippers.

- The colour of the high altar frontals change around the year, reflecting the themes and emotions of the season.
- The east window shows the Transfiguration, an occasion when Jesus' holiness was revealed to his disciples. Through Communion, God continues to shape his followers today.

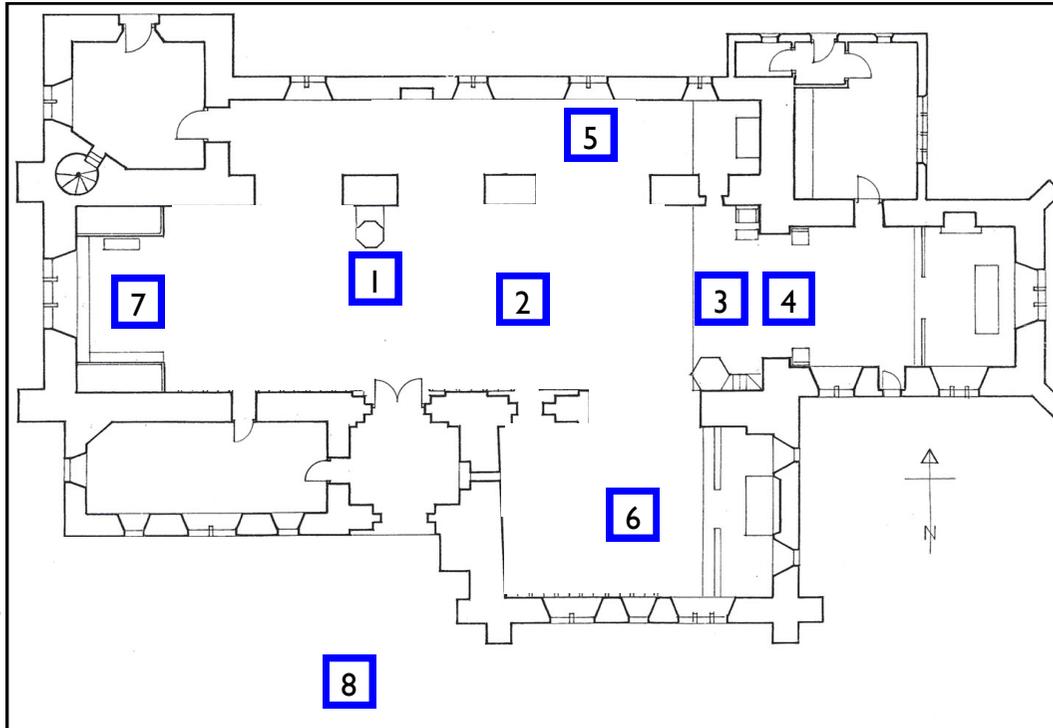
Before the altar, are you being challenged to become more like Jesus?

5+6 North Aisle & Lady Chapel

These extensions to the original church are smaller and more personal spaces. They are used for quiet midweek services.

- St Michael's contains monuments in brass and stone to many individuals. These include Francis Bacon, a C17th philosopher and statesman, and members of the local Pecock family.

In these intimate chapels, remember those who are close to you.



House, the nearby seat of the earls of Verulam.

- Note the hourglass at one side; back in the C16th sermons could last for sixty minutes or more!

At the pulpit, pray for openness to God's voice.