St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 23rd October 2022 Last Sunday after Trinity, Bible Sunday



NO SERVICE AT 8am 10am Parish Communion, in Church

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the WCC after the 10am service.

Collect for The Last Sunday after Trinity

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 119, 129-136 Refrain: The opening of your word gives light

Your testimonies are wonderful: therefore my soul keeps them.

The opening of your word gives light;

it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and draw in my breath,

as I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,

as is your way with those who love your name. [R]

Order my steps by your word,

and let no wickedness have dominion over me.

Redeem me from earthly oppressors

so that I may keep your commandments.

Show the light of your countenance upon your servant

and teach me your statutes.

My eyes run down with streams of water,

because the wicked do not keep your law. [R]

Lord, you are just

and vour commandments are eternal:

teach us to love you with all our heart

and our neighbour as ourselves,

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The church is open each day, from early morning to mid afternoon.

An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection

Gospel for Bible Sunday, Luke 4. 16-24

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free.

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." 'And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town.

Come and share our short session for children and young people during our Sunday 10am service EVERY WEEK! We invite children of all ages, with their adults, to come into the Lady Chapel during part of the service, and share in A Godly Play (a short visual storytelling of scriptures, with wondering questions, stories, crafts, puzzles, and even some acting for those that want ... for all ages to share together; then various age

related activities). We've lost a few of our helpers recently and sadly we can't offer our fortnightly breakout session for older children/young people on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month; please do contact Katharine if you'd like to help. There's a display in the Lady Chapel, if you'd like to find out more! Our Children & Young People website page has loads of activities to help voung people get to know the person of Jesus.



We continue to explore the theme of 'Meeting Jesus' (and for older children, the challenge of following Jesus) in our Godly Play sessions for the next few weeks. This week we think about being thankful and find out about a woman with a gift. Luke 7. 36-50



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Holy Communion, Wednesday 26th October, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 26th October, 11 for 11:15am in the WCC – Worship for babies/toddlers and their grown-ups; with a story, singing and instruments for little ones too! Join us for refreshments, fellowship and a chance for the children to play beforehand.

Holly Fair Planning Meeting, 11:15am-12:30pm, Wednesday 26th October – Please drop into the meeting upstairs in the WCC with an offer to help with stalls for our Holly Fair on Saturday 3rd December 10am-12:30pm (even help for an hour rather than the whole time would be useful!) We'd particularly welcome people to help with some children's activities to make this a family friendly event. All profits go to local charities and those overseas including those whom we have recently welcomed in church. Please contact Val Ashwood or Claire Conquest for more information.

Ukrainian Hospitality Support, Wednesdays from 11:30am-2pm – St Michael's is providing space at the WCC for Ukrainian guests and host families to meet together, along with informal language lessons, once a week. St Joseph's Hall is open too, as extra space for teaching or play. We are offering a light lunch / refreshments for adults and children and whatever other support we can.

A Quiet Day at Albury, Thursday 27th October, 10:30am-3pm – A day of reflection and contemplation in June's home. Places are limited, please contact June on 07539 058946 to book, or for more information.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 29th October, 9:30am – All are welcome!

Fabric Working Party, Saturday 29th **October –** We would like to invite as many people as possible to join us for an Autumnal churchyard clean-up. Please meet at the back of church from 10am onwards until 12 noon, or whatever time you can spare. There will be refreshments during the morning.

'Cello Concert with Theo Tinkler, next Saturday 29th October, 7pm – Theo will be performing Bach 'Cello Suite No.1 in G major; also music by Domenico Gabrielli and Dall'Abaco. Free admission with retiring collection in aid of roof repairs. Refreshments will be served. Please do tell others and come along and support this recital.

TLC Tuesday 1st November, 2:15pm for 2:30pm, WCC – An opportunity to be able to join in with tea and talk, read the paper, play board games ... and then later in the afternoon we welcome families after school for a short while, to share in reading/play and enjoy a biscuit/cake/fruit snack. Do come along ... and tell your friends too! We'll begin with a short time of prayer just after 2:15pm before our session at 2:30pm, until about 4:30pm. This coming month, we're having a Fireworks theme!

Thanksgiving Service for Dorothy Risby, 31st October, 1pm – Clive and family invite all who knew Dorothy to the service and then afterwards to refreshments in the WCC.

Bishop's Stortford Child Contact Centre fundraising event, Saturday 5th November – Join us at the Emmaus Centre, Thorley, between 2-4pm for tea/coffee and cakes, plant sale, stalls and raffle.

Commemoration All Souls' Service, 10am, Sunday 6th November – All are welcome to this reflective service, with readings, choral music, prayers and lighting of candles.

Governors at our Church School: we have a couple of opportunities! Would you be interested or do you know somebody who might be? Would you like to join as a Governor appointed by the PCC, or perhaps as a Co-opted Governor if you have premises experience? Please speak to Val Ashwood for information.

Forthcoming Services – At a clergy meeting with the Archdeacon recently, it was decided that by necessity, we would have to temporarily reduce our offering of Holy Communion services at 8am. For the next few months, the team has planned 8am services in a similar way to August: ie. generally on the first and third Sundays of the month, (since this is when there won't be an alternative Eucharistic service available at 10am). In this coming rich season of worship and prayer, we will be celebrating many wonderful and special services: including All Saints and blessing of the Bells, All Souls Commemoration, Remembrance Sunday, our first Choral Evensong for nearly 3 years (for Christ the King), an Advent Sequence; and a service of thanksgiving for the bells, with Bishop Alan. There will be many opportunities to share worship together, for which we thank and praise God.

The Vicar has been granted a period of leave by the Diocese. Please keep him in your prayers for a speedy recuperation and continue to allow him a period of privacy with his family. In the meantime, please contact Derek or June for pastoral matters or email the Parish Office with administrative concerns.

Food Bank Plea – Increased costs of living are hitting foodbanks hard. Please consider whether you can donate food: details on our <u>website</u> and church noticeboard.

A gentle reminder from the Churchwardens to avoid parking in the churchyard at any time – including nominated clergy spaces, whilst the bells restoration work continues. This is especially important this next six weeks, with increased contractor traffic as the project concludes, and as we receive the delivery of steels and bells.

More details of all services and events are available on the <u>Calendar</u> page on our website.

Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar)
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)
Rob Klincke (Reader)

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