



Though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. Colossians 2.5

Zoom Worship (Meeting ID 846 662 9590, password 834900).

8am-8:30am Morning Prayer • 10am-10:30am Service of the Word

Whether or not you might like to do this, let's be aware of the prayerful communion in God's Spirit that we all share, wherever we are, whether or not we are able to talk, video-conference or communicate with one another.

I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will, I may succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart some spiritual gift to strengthen you, that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. Romans 1.9-11.

This comes with my prayers and blessing, Derwyn

On the Third Sunday of Easter in 2018 the Choir sang Matins and Evensong at St Albans Abbey.

You might like to listen to the anthems they sang: [O, for a closer walk with God \(Stanford\)](#) and [Blessed be the God and Father \(S.S. Wesley\)](#), performed by the Choir of St John's College, Cambridge.

Collect for Third Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained
by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness
and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



You might like to meditate on this picture after reading the Gospel

Psalm for Third Sunday of Easter, Psalm 116: Thanksgiving for recovery from illness

Refrain: Gracious is the Lord and righteous.

I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication;
because he inclined his ear to me on the day I called to him.
The snares of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of me;
by grief and sorrow was I held. **[R]**
Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul."
How shall I repay the Lord for all the benefits he has given to me? **[R]**
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants. **[R]**
O Lord, I am your servant, your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord. **[R]**
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the house of the Lord, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Alleluia. **[R]**

Gospel for Third Sunday of Easter, Luke 24. 13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Have no anxiety about anything, but with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. Philippians 4.6

It has been heartening to learn how many people are praying in this current testing season, and how many people are so deeply appreciative of and grateful for prayer. As another layer of the praying life of the church we have set up a simple Prayer Chain. The idea is simple: a chain of people to whom a prayer request can be made through its coordinator. The coordinator receives the request and prays accordingly before passing it on to a member of the chain who does likewise, until the prayer returns to the coordinator after a number of days being prayed for by a variety of people. If you'd like the Prayer Chain to pray for some concern which is on your heart, please make your prayer request to the coordinator, Diane Pettitt: 461845 / diane.pettitt@hotmail.com Requests are strictly confidential to the Prayer Chain, who will simply pray as asked and a request will not lead to any further contact or action Do keep praying in all the ways that connect you to Jesus. If a request to the Prayer Chain would help, don't hesitate to make it.



Children's resources –

With this week's newsletter on the website we attach a copy of 'Look'. Each week the Gospel story is explained in age appropriate language. A prayer and a variety of activities that will engage the children are included, to help each child get to know the person of Jesus.

Or perhaps try a Godly Story? They're fantastic visual versions of the scriptures. This week, the story of the road to Emmaus, with wondering questions for families to think and talk about together. Find it on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ra27yRJB8LY>

We're thinking about running an online Alpha Course via Zoom – from week beginning Monday 4th May. We're considering 7pm for about an hour but the day and time would be flexible depending on interest. If you'd like to find out more, please contact the Parish Office, with any preferences for days/times.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD FOOD BANK

HOW TO DONATE:

Put items into boxes near check-outs at Waitrose, Tesco at Lancaster Way or Sainsburys or when doing shopping.

Please don't be put off donating if the box seems full – people are being so generous; sometimes it's difficult for our van to keep up, but every item is desperately needed

Food Bank at the Methodist Church (Monday and Tuesday only, 10am-2pm)

To avoid unnecessary contact, we will leave a trolley in the doorway at the side path entrance.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

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| Long Life Fruit Juice | Tinned Meat & Fish |
| Long life Milk | Biscuits |
| Tea Bags & Coffee | Jam & Marmalade, Marmite & Honey |
| Tinned Vegetables | Beans, spaghetti and soup |
| Pasta and Pasta Sauces | Long dated cereals |
| Washing up liquid | Washing liquid or tablets (for washing machines) |
| Toiletries (shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, deodorants, shaving foam & razors, sanitary products etc) | |

Donating money: <https://www.justgiving.com/bishopstortfordfoodbank> or send a cheque or make a BACS payment direct to our bank. For further details please contact our Coordinator.

To help with food packing at the Food Bank: email bsfoodbank.coordinator@gmail.com

To help with delivery of boxes in and around town: Own transport and on a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. Please send a copy of your driving licence, colour photo of your ID card, evidence of a DBS (paper copy or digital reference number) OR a certificate from the free online Basic Safeguarding Course run by the Church of England to Canon Mandy Brown at Holy Trinity Church at ht.nightshelter@outlook.com



*With this ordinary, unconsecrated bread
I make remembrance of my last visit to Church
and I remind myself that
the bread that I received there, however long ago,
will keep me in life eternal.*

*And with this ordinary, unconsecrated wine
I remember all those who were there with me
and live in hope to see them all again.*

Zoom Worship on Wednesdays – Derek has kindly agreed to host Holy Communion at home (Meeting ID 927 480 8728, password 889123) each Wednesday whilst we are unable to worship in Church.

'The lockdown is putting relationships under great strain. The irritating habits of our husband/wife are becoming magnified towards breaking point'. If this is you, help is at hand. *The Marriage Course* is available online to guide you through these times together. Why not give it a try at htb.org/marriage? For further details contact Derek on derekhinge@gmail.com

Zoom Worship involvement – It looks like worship via Zoom may need to continue for some time. It has been good to include a variety of readers, singers, musicians and prayer leaders at the various 'gatherings' in the past few weeks. If you would like to offer some involvement, please contact the Parish Office to let us know, and we will bear you in mind as we plan future meetings, for as long as we need to

before corporate worship in church can resume. Thank you for considering. Derwyn.

April Parish Magazine – The April issue has not been produced in hard copy. Please visit the [magazine page](#) on our website to see a selection of items already submitted to the editor before the decision was taken not to publish a printed issue. The situation will be reviewed with regard to the May issue of the magazine and regular contributors will be kept up to date.

Electoral Roll – The APCM has been postponed due to the Coronavirus situation. A new date has been set as 25th October. Most of the reports are available to view on the [website](#).

Anointing and laying on of hands – At Parish Communion on **Sunday 17th May** we will offer anointing and laying on of hands for healing, **dependent on the Coronavirus situation.**

Prayers for our community – An invitation from Roger Sudbury: Would you like to join a weekly prayer session at 9:30am each Saturday? This usually takes place each Saturday in Church but for now will be via Zoom (Meeting ID: 458 034 0358, p/w 435609). All welcome!

St Michael's School will need a new school governor from September – Experience in finance, education or HR would be particularly helpful but all applications are very welcome. If you are interested in finding out more about this voluntary role, do contact the Parish Office.

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| The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar) | 653867 |
| The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) | 652173 |
| The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) | 771756 |
| Rob Klincke (Reader) | 833523 |
| Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com | |

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| Churchwarden: Rosemary Thomson | 758389 |
| Deputy Churchwardens: | |
| Terry Pigram, Peter Rixson, Roger Sudbury | |
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