



Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 4th October 2020 Harvest and St Francis' Day



8am Said Holy Communion, Service in Church

10am Service of the Word, Service in Church & broadcast by [Zoom](#)

You are welcome to share in our worship in the following ways:

- 1. Come to Church** All are welcome! Remember to bring your order of service.
- 2. Join with Zoom on your computer**
When you are signed in you can 'Join a Meeting'.
Meeting ID **846 662 9590**, (Password **834900**).
- 3. Join with Audio Zoom via phone**
 - a) Call **0131 460 1196**
 - b) Enter Meeting ID: **846 662 9590** followed by #
 - c) You may be asked to enter Participant ID: press #
 - d) Enter Meeting Password: **834900** followed by #

You will be muted automatically when you join the 'meeting' (service).

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.

Collect for Harvest

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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. Amen.

An anthem for Harvest

Last year, our Choir sang *Greene's 'Thou Visitest the Earth'* at our 11:15am Sung Eucharist service. You might like to listen to [this version](#) from New College Choir, Oxford.

It's been great to see families returning to our services, and in these times when it's not feasible for the Junior Church to meet we've created a few children's resources for families to share together –

- There's a [printable sheet on our website](#) which offers a prayer and activities that will help young people get to know the person of Jesus. This week's is based on the Gospel reading from Matthew 21. 33-43. You might like to print the sheet and bring it to the service with some colouring pencils/crayons.
- You might also like to share in this week's Harvest Festival Godly Story (a fantastic visual version of the scriptures in age appropriate language). It's from Deuteronomy 8. 7-18, with wondering questions for families to talk about together. Find the video on YouTube [here](#).
- Finally, we have a few wipe-clean books in the children's seating on the green carpet in church if you'd like to use them.

Psalm for Harvest Festival, Psalm 65 *Refrain: Be joyful in God, all the earth.*

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid. To you shall all flesh come to confess their sins; when our misdeeds prevail against us, you will purge them away. Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there. We shall be satisfied with the blessings of your house, even of your holy temple. **[R]**

With wonders you will answer us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. In your strength you set fast the mountains and are girded about with might. **[R]**

You still the raging of the seas, the roaring of their waves and the clamour of the peoples. Those who dwell at the ends of the earth tremble at your marvels; the gates of the morning and evening sing your praise. **[R]**

You visit the earth and water it; you make it very plenteous. The river of God is full of water; you prepare grain for your people, for so you provide for the earth. You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase. **[R]**

You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty. May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness and the hills be girded with joy. May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep and the valleys stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing. **[R]**

Gospel for St Francis of Assisi, Luke 12. 22-34

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'



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The church is open for Personal Prayer

11am-1pm Monday to Friday, 10-11am Saturday, 10:45-11:30am Sunday

Harvest

Sunday, 4th October

Today we will celebrate harvest at 8am and 10am services

There will be a Red Bucket for the Bishop's Appeal, *Creating a Buzz in Nepal*. Since the devastating earthquakes in 2015, Nepalese people are growing to appreciate the value of beekeeping. Bees help to maintain the fragile biodiversity, as pollinators, to enhance crop production and a good income can be generated from sales of honey.



We are also requesting food gifts for Bishop's Stortford Food Bank. It's going to be a little different this year. We are asking people to leave their items in a box in the North Porch as they arrive. The boxes will be taken to the Food Bank a few days later. [Please see our website for recommended donations.](#) Please may we encourage those present on Zoom to take their food items to one of the supermarkets that have one of the Food Bank donation boxes.

Thank you in advance for your support.

NHS Test and Trace App – Anyone who downloads the new NHS Covid-19 app onto their phone can scan the code when they arrive at Church, and the app on their phone then remembers that they have visited the Church (data deleted after 21 days). You might prefer this option, or to complete the paper form (or do neither).

Participation at services in church and via Zoom – It is good to be developing a kind of 'hybrid' church in this period while some of us are able to gather in the building and others are worshipping at home. It's good too to share the leading of our services between a range of voices. If anyone else would like to volunteer to participate in services – reading, praying, etc., do please let us know. This can be in person in church, or, for 10am services, via Zoom, if you cannot yet be with us in the building. **We would also value more stewards: for the Personal Prayer sessions, for 10am on Wednesdays and for 10am on Sundays.** Thank you for considering. Derwyn.

The Food Bank are looking to appoint a new Coordinator to lead their team of volunteers as they plan to meet the challenge of helping those in crisis during this difficult time. The job description and application form (to be completed online) can be found on their website at <https://www.bishopsstortfordfoodbank.com/>

Holy Communion on Wednesdays – Derwyn will be presiding at Holy Communion in church on **Wednesday 7th October**, and the service will also be broadcast by Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Meeting ID 846 662 9590, Password 834900. You can also dial in by phone as per instructions on previous page.

Prayers for our Community, 9:30am, Saturday 10th October – We meet in Church each Saturday for a half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

APCM, Sunday 25th October at 11am in Church – The agenda and further documents are on our website [here](#). Please note we also plan to broadcast the APCM by Zoom, details are on the agenda.

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: diane.pettitt@hotmail.com / 461845. Requests are strictly confidential to the Prayer Chain, who will simply pray as asked and a request won't lead to further contact or action. If a request to the Prayer Chain would help, don't hesitate to make it.

St Michael's School needs a new school governor – At present all meetings take place virtually and the usual programme of governor visits to school has been paused but governors still have an important role to play in these challenging times for children's education. If you are interested in supporting our local church school and would like to find out more about this voluntary role, please contact the Parish Office.

Knitting for refugees and others in need – Does anyone know of local or UK needs for garments (aged 0-7)? Also, if anyone wishes to help me in knitting I can offer some balls of wool and easy patterns too. Many thanks, Rosemary (758389).

Activities in Church. If you need to carry out any activities in Church, please co-ordinate this with the Parish Office and make arrangements with a keyholder (such as a Warden) to access the Church at a suitable time. Please arrange any such activities to take place outside the times when the Church is open for private prayer.

Parish Register for September

We congratulate and offer our best wishes to Rhys and Rachael Stockbridge who were married on 5th September.

We also remember Pam Leggett whose ashes were interred in our Garden of Remembrance on 19th September.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar)	653867	Churchwarden: Rosemary Thomson	758389
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)	652173	Deputy Churchwardens:	
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)	771756	Terry Pigram, Peter Rixson, Roger Sudbury	
Rob Klincke (Reader)	833523	Parish Office	01279 654416
Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbsvicar@gmail.com		Email: church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk	

Website: www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk

