



Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 15th November 2020 Second Sunday before Advent



8am Morning Prayer, Broadcast by [Zoom](#)

10am Service of the Word, Broadcast by [Zoom](#)

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

1. Join with Zoom on your computer

When you are signed in you can 'Join a Meeting'.

Meeting ID **846 662 9590**, (Password **834900**).

2. 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.

A Psalm for The Second Sunday before Advent, Psalm 90

Refrain: O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were formed, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust and say: 'Turn back, O children of earth.'

For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, which passes like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away like a dream; they fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered. **[R]**

For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.

You have set our misdeeds before you and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

When you are angry, all our days are gone; our years come to an end like a sigh.

The days of our life are three score years and ten,

or if our strength endures, even four score;

yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow, for they soon pass away and we are gone.

Who regards the power of your wrath and your indignation like those who fear you?

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. **[R]**

Collect for The Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Gospel for The Second Sunday before Advent, Matthew 25.14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

An anthem for today

You might like to listen to Walford Davies' [God be in my head](#), sung by the Choir of Trinity College Cambridge:

God be in my head, and in my understanding;

God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

God be in my heart, and in my thinking;

God be at mine end, and at my departing.



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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 on Sundays –

- 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 today's Gospel reading from Matthew.
- You might also like to share in this week's Godly Story, 'The story of the talents', also from Matthew 25. 14-30. It's a fantastic visual version of the scriptures in age appropriate language, with wondering questions for families to talk about together. The video's [here](#). **We've made some changes to our [Children and Young People](#) page on our website too! Do have a look and explore the links: there are lots of fun things including craft activity templates, quizzes and a video made by our Youth Group.**

NHS Test and Trace App – Anyone who downloads the NHS Covid-19 app onto their phone can scan the code when they arrive at Church for prayer, 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 via Zoom – It's good 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. Thank you for considering. Derwyn.

Personal Prayer session help required – Would you be interested in joining our team of stewards to help with an additional prayer time **we'd like to offer between 4-5pm?** In this time of Lockdown and during these shorter days this might be an extra opportunity for our church's light to shine in the darkness. Please contact the Parish Office if interested.

Activities in Church. If you need to carry out any currently permissible 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 prayer.

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.

PCC Update – Draft minutes from the APCM held on 25th October are available [here](#).

Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar – In the run-up to Christmas, the Foodbank is expecting a rise in demand. Would you be interested in joining their initiative, possibly as part of your Advent reflection? [Details on our website](#) but, if you like, you could collect your items at home and, when you come into the church for private prayer, bring them along with you.



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The church is open for Personal Prayer 11am-1pm Monday to Sunday

Holy Communion on Wednesday 18th November – Derek has kindly offered to lead a Holy Communion service via Zoom on Wednesday. Meeting ID 927 480 8728, Password 889123). We hope to enable the dial in by phone facility too, as per instructions on the previous page.

Prayers for our Community, 9:30am, Saturdays in November – We will meet via Zoom (Roger's Meeting ID: 458 034 0358, Password: 435609) each Saturday in November for a half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Private Prayer Times – Please note that we have slightly extended our church opening times for individual prayer during this period of lockdown. The church will be open each day between 11am and 1pm. We are extremely grateful to our stewards for enabling this session. Please do publicise this amongst those you know: there must be many people who would value an opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection in these times.

A very different Company at Christmas 2020 – This year we are unable to host an event but there are ways you can help! Could you be a Christmas Day driver with goody bags / ready meals? Could you be a pre-Christmas shopper? Could you be a goody bag packer? Details are available on our website and if interested, please email companyatchristmas@gmail.com or contact Jenny Klincke (833523) or Margaret Fox (658638). Volunteers will largely need to be car drivers and *preferably* able to Zoom! As well as considering whether you can volunteer, can you recommend to Jenny any potential new guests who should be contacted, i.e. those that would otherwise be alone at home on Christmas Day. In addition, Jenny is compiling a small booklet of Christmas poems, readings, meditations and carols. If you have something dear to you that you would like to share with our guests, please send it to her at jennyklincke@gmail.com.

Salvation Army appeal – “We are striving to provide families who are finding things difficult, in Bishop's Stortford and across East Herts, with toys and food to enjoy on Christmas day.” Items may be taken to the Bishop's Stortford Independent offices. **More details on our [website](#), plus ways of offering monetary donations, if you'd prefer.**

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| 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: stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com | | Email: church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk | |

Website: www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk

