



Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 29th November 2020 First Sunday of 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 First Sunday of Advent, Psalm 80. 1-8, 18-20

Refrain:

Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock;

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,

before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation. **[R]**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears; you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **[R]**

Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,

the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

And so will we not go back from you; give us life, and we shall call upon your name. **[R]**

*Faithful shepherd of your people,
as we look for the light of your countenance,
restore in us the image of your glory
and graft us into the risen life of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Collect for The First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Gospel for The First Sunday of Advent, Mark 13. 24-end

'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

An anthem for today

You might like to listen to and join in with the Taize prayer [Wait for the Lord: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near; Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart!](#)

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 Mark.
 - You might also like to share in this week's Godly Story, 'Stay awake in your heart', also from Mark 13. 24-37. It's a fantastic visual version of the scriptures, with wondering questions for families to talk about together. Find the video on YouTube [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. We've introduced an Advent theme this week, with lots of resources, including some from our Diocese of St Albans at [thehopeofchristmas.co.uk](#) .**



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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).

The Travelling Crib – This year we are planning a virtual journey around the parish! **Please join in with this special opportunity to share the anticipation of Christ's birth and fellowship with other families, young and old.** It's just two 10 minute Zoom sessions. There will be special pictures of our Crib figures to download, then why not display them in your window for all to see and send us a picture! At Christmas we'll share a visual representation of the Crib's journey. To sign up, please contact Sarah Copley (sarahrussell1711@gmail.com). Katharine will host the Zoom sessions and the login details will only be available to those who sign up to share in the Crib's journey.

Participation at Advent services, in Church and via Zoom from 2nd December – 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.

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.

Cards for Good Causes – Unfortunately, there will be not be a Cards for Good Causes stall in the URC Church in Bishop's Stortford this year. Charity cards and gifts can be bought from the website <https://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk/>

The Bells Appeal needs your nomination! – Ecclesiastical will be donating a total of £120,000 to 120 charities over 12 days in December and we'd love to be one of them. £1,000 will bring us closer to our target of £280,000 to refurbish the historic bells at our Church, to help safeguard a long tradition of church bells ringing out to call worshippers to church for future generations. Do see the [Bells page](#) on our website for more details.

Congregation E-Christmas Card – This year, although we can't have our usual Giant Card on display, we offer the opportunity to send Christmas greetings to friends via our website and still contribute to The Children's Society if you'd like. Instead of sending individual good wishes, email your greeting to alanandpat@lineone.net. Each week you'll be able to see everyone's greetings 'inside the card' on the website and you might wish to donate your saving to the Society by clicking on the accompanying link.

Zoom prayer with June on Mondays – June is holding a support chat and prayer room each week. If you're interested in joining, please call her for more details (771756). Everything shared in the session is totally confidential, naturally.

The church is open for Personal Prayer 11am-1pm and 4-5pm, Monday to Sunday

Holy Communion on Wednesday – Derwyn will be presiding at Holy Communion in church on Wednesday 2nd December, 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 28th November – We will meet via Zoom (Roger's Meeting ID: 458 034 0358, Password: 435609) this Saturday, for a half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Private Prayer additional times – Please note that we have extended our church opening times for individual prayer during this period of lockdown. The church will be open each day between 11am-1pm and 4-5pm. We are extremely grateful to all our steward volunteers for enabling these sessions. 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. And in this time of Lockdown and during these shorter days our 4-5pm session might be an extra opportunity for our church's light to shine in the darkness. Please contact the Office if you're interested in stewarding for any prayer 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? Details are available on our website and if interested, please email companyatchristmas@gmail.com or contact Jenny Klincke (833523) or Margaret Fox (658638). 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.

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.

PCC Update – Please note that draft minutes from the APCM held on 25th October are available on the website [here](#), plus the results of the elections for PCC roles.

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

