



Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 6th December 2020 Second Sunday of Advent



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 The Second Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A Psalm for The Second Sunday of Advent, Psalm 85

Refrain: Show us your mercy, O Lord.

Lord, you were gracious to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the offence of your people and covered all their sins.

You laid aside all your fury and turned from your wrathful indignation. **[R]**

Restore us again, O God our Saviour, and let your anger cease from us.

Will you be displeased with us for ever?

Will you stretch out your wrath from one generation to another?

Will you not give us life again, that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. **[R]**

I will listen to what the Lord God will say,

for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not again to folly.

Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. **[R]**

Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

Truth shall spring up from the earth and righteousness look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed give all that is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him and direct his steps in the way. **[R]**

Gospel for The Second Sunday of Advent, Mark 1. 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

An anthem for today

Last year on this day our Choir sang 'O thou, the central orb' (Charles Wood). You might like to listen to [this version](#) by the Choir of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge:

O thou the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine; thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

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, 'Prepare the way of the Lord', also from Mark 1. 1-8. 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 now, with lots of brilliant resources, including some from our Diocese of St Albans at thehopeofchristmas.co.uk.**

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.



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The Travelling Crib – There are still lots of spaces so please sign up, to share the anticipation of Christ's birth and fellowship with other families, young and old. Simply download the pictures of our Crib figures, share in two 10 minute Zoom sessions, then display the pictures 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 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.

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. 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 The Children's Society by clicking on the link.

CSG Christmas Quiz and Advent Appeal – Why not enter this fabulous quiz and raise money for charities at the same time? The quiz and information on ways to donate are on our [website](#). Last date for entries is the 24th December.

Would soloists/groups of up to 6 like to sing Christmas hymns and carols? There is an opportunity on **Christmas Eve between 3-4pm**. Please can those wishing to (all ages welcome), email the Office with a carol suggestion or two, so that we can coordinate.

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, bring them with you.

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.

The church is open for Personal Prayer
11am-1pm Monday to Friday, 10-11am Saturday, 10:45-11:30am Sunday
AND 4-5pm every day.

Bridge Zoom Worship, Sunday 6th December, 5:30-6:30pm – If you'd like to join in via Zoom, please contact Al Evans at bridgeyouthchurch@gmail.com

Holy Communion on Wednesday – Derek will be presiding at Holy Communion in church on Wednesday 9th December, and the service will also be broadcast by Zoom for those unable to attend in person. **Meeting ID 927 480 8728, Password 889123.** You can also dial in by phone as per instructions on previous page.

Prayers for our Community, 9:30am, Saturday 5th December – We will meet in church this Saturday, for a half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Private Prayer times – The church will be open 11am-1pm Monday to Friday, 10-11am Saturday, 10:45-11:30am Sunday AND 4-5pm every day. 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. 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.

Zoom prayer with June on Mondays – June is holding a support chat and prayer room each week. If you're interested in joining, do call her for more details (771756).

Christmas Services – Christmas plan are coming together, including a 10am Christmas Sequence on Sunday 20th December and Open Church on Christmas Eve. More details will be on the [Advent and Christmas page](#) on our website from the beginning of next week!

Parish Register for November

We remember in our prayers the family of Stephen Hails, whose funeral took place this last month.

We also remember Denise Smyter whose ashes were interred in our Garden of Remembrance and Mary Ho whose ashes were interred in Bishop's Stortford Cemetery.

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

