



Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 13th December 2020 Third 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 Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

A Psalm for The Third Sunday of Advent, Psalm 126

Refrain: The Lord has indeed done great things for us.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy. **[R]**

Then said they among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'

The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced. **[R]**

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, as the river beds of the desert.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy. **[R]**

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, will come back with shouts of joy,

bearing their sheaves with them. **[R]**

Lord, as you send rain and flowers even to the wilderness,

renew us by your Holy Spirit, help us to sow good seed in time of adversity

and to live to rejoice in your good harvest of all creation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel for The Third Sunday of Advent, John 1. 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

An anthem for today

Last year on this day our Choir sang 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence (arr. Cleobury). You might like to listen to [this version](#) by the Choir of Kings College, Cambridge.

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 John.

- You might also like to share in this week's Godly Story, 'Are you the Messiah?', also from John 1. It's a fantastic visual version of the scriptures, with wondering questions for families to talk about together. Find the video on YouTube [here](#).

Do have a look and explore the links on our [Children and Young People](#) page: 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.

This week, we've added a BRILLIANT video of the Nativity, planned, created and voiced with Minecraft by two of our young church family, Eric & Cecilia Calheiros: it's well worth a watch!!

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 church is open for Personal Prayer

11am-1pm Monday to Friday, 10-11am Saturday, 10:45-11:30am Sunday
AND 4-5pm every day.

An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection

The Travelling Crib – There are still some spaces so please sign up, **whether young or not so young(!)** to share the anticipation of Christ's birth and fellowship with other families. 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! To sign up, please contact sarahrussell1711@gmail.com.

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. **Do have a look at the greetings 'inside the card' on the Advent and Christmas page of our website** (click on the card on the website page to see them) and you *might* wish to donate your saving to 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.

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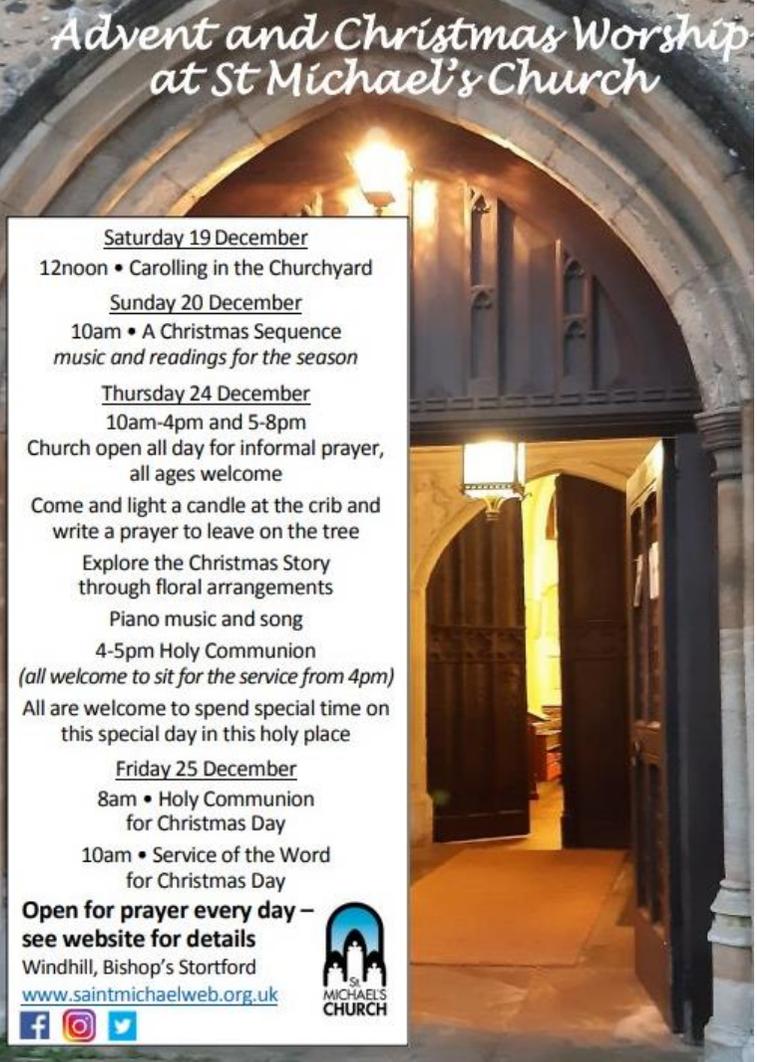
Bridge 'Connect', Sunday 13th December, 7:30-9pm – If you'd like to join in via Zoom, please contact Al Evans at bridgeyouthchurch@gmail.com

Holy Communion, Wednesday 16th December, 10am – In church and via Zoom (846 662 9590, Password 834900). You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page.

Prayers for our Community, 9:30am, Saturday 19th December
A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

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

More details of services are on the [Advent and Christmas](#) page on our website.



Advent and Christmas Worship at St Michael's Church

Saturday 19 December
12noon • Carolling in the Churchyard

Sunday 20 December
10am • A Christmas Sequence
music and readings for the season

Thursday 24 December
10am-4pm and 5-8pm
Church open all day for informal prayer, all ages welcome
Come and light a candle at the crib and write a prayer to leave on the tree
Explore the Christmas Story through floral arrangements
Piano music and song
4-5pm Holy Communion
(all welcome to sit for the service from 4pm)
All are welcome to spend special time on this special day in this holy place

Friday 25 December
8am • Holy Communion for Christmas Day
10am • Service of the Word for Christmas Day

Open for prayer every day – see website for details
Windhill, Bishop's Stortford
www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk

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
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