



# Newsletter and Notices

# Sundays 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and Christmas



## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December

8am Holy Communion, in Church  
10am A Christmas Sequence,  
A special service of music and readings,  
in Church & via [Zoom](#)

## Christmas Eve

*(See other page for more information  
about the events in Church today)*

9:30am Holy Communion  
10am-4pm Church open for prayer  
4:15pm Holy Communion  
[Zoom](#) for this service: 822 740 0814 / 716922)  
5-8pm Church open for prayer

## Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion  
10am Service of the Word,  
in Church & via [Zoom](#)

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December

10am Holy Communion for Christmas  
1/St John's Day,  
in Church & via [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** then #
- c) You may be asked to enter Participant ID:  
press #
- d) Enter Meeting Password: **834900** then #  
*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-  
call or communicate with one another.

### **A Prayer for Christmas:**

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.

### **Gospel for Christmas, John 1. 1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### **A hymn for St John the Evangelist**

You might like to listen to [Lord, thy word abideth](#) sung by the choir of Ely Cathedral:

Lord, thy word abideth, and our footsteps guideth;  
who its truth believeth light and joy receiveth.  
When our foes are near us, then thy word doth cheer us,  
word of consolation, message of salvation.  
When the storms are o'er us, and dark clouds before us,  
then its light directeth, and our way protecteth.  
Who can tell the pleasure, who recount the treasure  
by thy word imparted to the simple-hearted?  
Word of mercy, giving succour to the living;  
word of life, supplying comfort to the dying.  
O that we discerning its most holy learning,  
Lord, may love and fear thee, evermore be near thee!

**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](mailto: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.

### **A Psalm for The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Psalm 113**

**Refrain: From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised.**

Alleluia. Give praise, you servants of the Lord, O praise the name of the Lord.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised.  
The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens. **[R]**  
Who is like the Lord our God, that has his throne so high,  
yet humbles himself to behold the things of heaven and earth?  
He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ashes,  
To set them with princes, with the princes of his people.  
He gives the barren woman a place in the house and makes her a joyful mother of children.  
Alleluia. **[R]**

*From the rising of the sun to its setting we praise your name, O Lord;  
may your promise to raise the poor from the dust  
and turn the fortunes of the needy upside down  
be fulfilled in our time also, as it was in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



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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 –**

- 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.
- You might also like to share in a special Godly Story, from the Gospel for the day. It's a fantastic visual version of the scriptures, with wondering questions for families to talk about together. Find the videos 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. There's a Christmas theme now, with lots of brilliant resources. **Have you built your Nativity scene yet? All the instructions, designed and created by Sarah, one of our mums, and her daughter Flora, are available on the [page](#).**



**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](mailto:alanandpat@lineone.net). **Do take time 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 appeal** – Please see [our website](#) for items requested this winter.

**The church is usually open for Personal Prayer  
11am-1pm Monday to Friday, 10-11am Saturday, 10:45-11:30am Sunday  
AND 4-5pm every day (see website for holiday closure)  
*An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection***

**Holy Communion, Wednesdays at 10am** – In church and via Zoom. You can also dial in by phone, instructions on other page. (23<sup>rd</sup> December, Derwyn: 846 662 9590 / 834900. 30<sup>th</sup> December, Derek: 927 480 8728 / 889123)

**Prayers for our Community, 9:30am, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** – 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 all services and Events are available on the [Calendar](#) page on our website. Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

**Virtual Choir for Christmas** – Members of Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford have come together as a virtual choir to sing 'Joy to the World' (arranged by Paul Burrell). You might like to listen to / watch it on YouTube [here](#).

*Christmas Worship at St Michael's Church*

**Thursday 24 December**  
9:30am Holy Communion  
10am-4pm and 5-8pm  
Church open all day for informal prayer, all ages welcome:  
Come and light a candle at the crib  
Write a prayer to leave on the tree  
Explore the Christmas Story through floral arrangements  
Piano music and song  
Video Short for children (Lady Chapel)  
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

[www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk](http://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	<b>Parish Office</b>	<b>01279 654416</b>
Vicar's Email: <a href="mailto:stmichaelsbsvicar@gmail.com">stmichaelsbsvicar@gmail.com</a>		Email: <a href="mailto:church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk">church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk</a>	
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