



Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 17th January 2021 Second Sunday of Epiphany



8am Holy Communion, in Church

10am Service of the Word for the New Year, 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** 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-call or communicate with one another.

A Psalm for The Second Sunday of Epiphany, Psalm 139

Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;

you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You mark out my journeys and my resting place and are acquainted with all my ways. **[R]**

For there is not a word on my tongue, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You encompass me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, so high that I cannot attain it. **[R]**

Where can I go then from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand shall lead me, your right hand hold me fast. **[R]**

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me and the light around me turn to night,'

Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day;

darkness and light to you are both alike. **[R]**

Creator God,

may every breath we take be for your glory,

may every footstep show you as our way,

that, trusting in your presence in this world,

we may, beyond this life, still be with you

where you are alive and reign

for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect for The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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 The Second Sunday of Epiphany, John 1. 43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

An anthem for today

Last year on this day our Choir sang 'The Spirit of the Lord' (Elgar), at our 6pm Choral Evensong service. You might like to listen to [this version](#) by The Cambridge Singers, Conductor - John Rutter, Organ – Andrew Lucas.

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, 'The Story of Philip and Nathanael', also from today's Gospel. 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.



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From Monday 18th January the church will be open for personal prayer from 12noon to 1pm every day.

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

In this time of Lockdown and during these shorter days our sessions might be an extra occasion for our church's light to shine in the darkness.

With thanks to the volunteers who have offered to serve as stewards and manage social distancing and infection control measures whenever the church is open.

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@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.

Singing in Services – Due to changes in government guidance this week, we cannot invite a scratch choir to sing together anymore. Would anyone be willing to offer ministry either as a lone Cantor, and/or, conceivably, as a member of a very small bubbled singing group of 2-3 people? Please contact the Parish Office.

DIY Christingle 2021 – More details next week but we are planning to make Christingles (in church or at home) during our 10am worship (in person and on Zoom) on **Sunday 7th February**. There is no need to make a special trip to the shops: all that is needed is a large round fruit, some small sweets or dried fruit and red ribbon/paper/cloth. However, you might not have cocktail sticks or small candles so we will carefully prepare individual sets of those, laid out on a table in Church from next Sunday 24th January, to collect if you come in to **worship** or **for private prayer**.

Foodbank Appeal – This winter, the Foodbank is expecting a rise in demand. Please see [our website](#) for items requested.

Charities Support Group Christmas Quiz – Thanks to Lynn Graseman for putting together such a varied Christmas quiz of choral, popular music and films. The winner was Maggie Jarman (and family) with a brilliant 68/72. The total of advent donations and quiz entry fees was £540. Thanks to all who donated / entered.

'Tearing up the Year' – David Arkell has written a new poem relating to the pandemic, one which looks forward as well as back. [Click here to read it in full.](#)

Street Pastors update – Please see [our website](#) for the very first newsletter from Bishop's Stortford & Sawbridgeworth Street Pastors.

Prayers for our Community via Zoom, 9:30am, Saturday 16th January – A half hour session of informal prayer, via Zoom: Meeting ID 458 034 0358, Password 435609. All welcome.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th-25th January – There are a number of opportunities to share in ecumenical prayer and worship this coming week:

- Derek will be hosting a prayer session via Zoom each weekday (18th-22nd and 25th January) from 12noon - 12:30pm.

Meeting ID: 927 480 8728, Password: 889123.

- Churches Together in Hertfordshire are holding a short zoom service of prayer on Monday 18th January at 7:30pm, led by Bishop Paul McAleenan (Meeting ID: 854 7616 4857, Password: 850163). The order of service is available [here](#).

- See our Facebook (@stmikesbs) or Instagram (stmichaelschurch_stortford) pages for a daily prayer from different churches and denominations in Hertfordshire.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 20th January, 10am – In church and via Derwyn's Zoom. You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page. (Meeting ID 846 662 9590, Password 834900).

Bridge Youth Alpha via Zoom, Sunday 24th January, 7:30-9pm – A new fortnightly Youth Alpha series. If the last year has been a struggle for you with your faith, or if you'd just like to reconnect with Jesus, do try this course. Contact Al Evans at bridgeyouthchurch@gmail.com

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.

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: stmichaelsbsvicar@gmail.com		Email: church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk		
Website: www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk				

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021

Join others from across Hertfordshire in prayer. All are welcome.

With: Rev. Dr David Chapman and Bishop Paul McAleenan

PRAYING for you, praying for everyone.

#candleofhope

Join the Zoom Meeting ID: 854 7616 4857 Password: 850163 For more information visit www.chearts.org.uk