



Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 24th January 2021 Third 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 Third Sunday of Epiphany, Psalm 128

Refrain: How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.

Blessed are all those who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.

You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands;

it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be. **[R]**

Your wife within your house shall be like a fruitful vine;

your children round your table, like fresh olive branches.

Thus shall the one be blest who fears the Lord. **[R]**

The Lord from out of Zion bless you,

that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity all the days of your life.

May you see your children's children, and may there be peace upon Israel. **[R]**

O Christ, our true vine,

may we your branches be ever fruitful in your service

and share your love and peace with all your children,

in the power of the Spirit and to the glory of the Father. Amen.

Collect for The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 Third Sunday of Epiphany, John 2. 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.'

An anthem for today

Last year on this day our Choir sang 'is 'A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester' (*White*), at our 10am service. You might like to listen to [this version on our website](#), which Jonathan Newsome arranged and produced in Lockdown last year, with recordings from members of our Choir.

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 Wedding at Cana', 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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**The church is 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.

Keeping in touch. With so much disruption to church worship and activities over the past 11 months now, it has been hard to keep as connected as a community as we would like. We've tried, through general email and website messages, hard-copy delivery to those not online, plus phone calls, personal emails, letters and even Zoom-chats, to offer ways of staying in touch. Thanks to all the very many people who have played a part in that, and for all the informal reaching-out that has been going on so that we can support one another. Above all let's keep one another in our regular prayers. But if you feel you have 'slipped the net' and missed having contact with anyone from church for a while, do let the Parish Office know by phone, letter or email. A member of the ministry team will be happy to be in touch, to talk and listen, as we try to stay connected and help one another, while pandemic and lock down persist. Thank you.

Singing in Services – Due to recent changes in government guidance, we sadly 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 small, household/bubbled singing group? Please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

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

Online cookery courses from 9th February – One of the charities that we support, Freedom From Torture, are running 2 hour courses with a Sri Lankan chef and survivor of torture, to help raise funds and awareness. For more information see our [website](#) or go direct to the [Eventbrite booking page](#). Tickets going fast!

Prayers for our Community via Zoom, 9:30am, Saturday 23rd January – A half hour session of informal prayer, via Zoom: Meeting ID 458 034 0358, Password 435609. All welcome.

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

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th-25th January – See our Facebook (@stmikesbs) or Instagram (stmichaelschurch_stortford) pages for a daily prayer from different churches and denominations in Hertfordshire. Also, Derek will be hosting a prayer session via Zoom on Monday 25th January from 12noon - 12:30pm, which concludes the Week of Prayer. Meeting ID: 927 480 8728, Password: 889123.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 27th 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).

DIY Christingle, Sunday 7th February at 10am – 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 Sunday 24th January, to collect if you come in to **worship** or **for private prayer**.

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).

'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.](#)

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: stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com		Email: church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk		
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