



Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 14th February 2021 Sunday next before Lent



8am Holy Communion, in Church

10am Service of the Word, 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**, Passcode **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 Passcode: **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 today, Psalm 116

Refrain: *Gracious is the Lord and righteous*

I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication;
because he inclined his ear to me on the day I called to him.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of me;
by grief and sorrow was I held.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion. **[R]**

The Lord watches over the simple I was brought very low and he saved me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has been gracious to you.

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. **[R]**

I believed that I should perish for I was sorely troubled;

and I said in my alarm, 'Everyone is a liar.'

How shall I repay the Lord for all the benefits he has given to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. **[R]**

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.

O Lord, I am your servant, your servant, the child of your handmaid;

you have freed me from my bonds. **[R]**

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.

Collect for The Sunday next before Lent

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Gospel for The Sunday next before Lent, Mark 9. 2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

An anthem for today

You might like to listen to ['Glorious And Powerful God'](#) (Charles Villiers Stanford), by the Choir of Magdalen College, Oxford:

Glorious and Powerful God, we understand thy dwelling is on high above the starry sky.

Thou dwellest not in stone temples made with hand;

But in the flesh hearts of the sons of men to dwell is thy delight, near hand, though out of sight.

We give of thine own hand, thy acceptance is very life and blood, to all actions good.

Whenever here or hence our supplication, from pure and with unfeigned hearts,

to thee ascends, be present with thy grace, shew us thy loving face.

O down on us full showers of mercy send; let thy love's burning beams dry up all our sin's streams.

Arise, O Lord, and come into thy rest. Both now and evermore Thy name be blest,

Founder and foundation of endless habitation.

Family Activities - 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. This week's is based on another reading from Mark.
 - You might also like to share in this week's Godly Story, 'The Transfiguration', from today's Gospel. It's a fantastic visual version of the scriptures, with wondering questions for families to share together. The video's 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, games, quizzes and videos.**



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The church is open for personal prayer from 11am to 1pm every day.

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

Piano music will be played on Tuesdays 11-11:30am and on Fridays 12-12.30pm.

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? Would anyone like to sing on a Wednesday, too? Please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

Portland Child Contact Centre – One of the charities that's associated to Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford is looking for new trustees and Saturday volunteers. See the advert on our website [Notices Page](#) for more information.

Please pray for Canon Mandy Brown, our Area Dean – as she prepares for retirement later this year, with thanksgiving for her ministry here, and for her flourishing with her family in the future.

Do you have a laptop you might wish to donate to disadvantaged schoolchildren? Here's a link to a local company: www.ITVET.co.uk/donate The link takes you to a form to fill in your details, and explains what to do with them. There's more information in a November article from the Stortford Independent [here](#).

A letter of thanks from Bishop Alan – We have been asked to share a letter of thanks with our PCC and congregation, for generosity of giving, and 'to emphasise the gratitude of the Bishop's staff to the many generous givers'. Please see the full letter from the [Notices page](#) of our website.

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Prayers for our Community via Zoom, Saturday 13th February 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer (ID 458 034 0358, Passcode 435609). All welcome.

Bridge Youth Alpha, Sunday 14th February, 7:30-9pm – If you'd like to join in via Zoom, please contact Al Evans at - bridgeyouthchurch@gmail.com

Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday 17th February, 10am – On Wednesday we will have a special service of Holy Communion, including the Lent Liturgy, in church and via Derwyn's Zoom. You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page. (Meeting ID 846 662 9590, Passcode 834900). The liturgy is available [here](#), from the Lent page of our website.

Lent resources –

- *Hope in the Wilderness*, a Lent message from the Vicar, is on our [Lent page](#).
- The Vicar has prepared a private prayer leaflet which enables individual act of penitence, at home or in church, either on Ash Wednesday or throughout Lent. Alternatively, you might like to use it online as a small group. The leaflet and a psalm are on the [Lent page](#).
- *'The Bible - A Story That Makes Sense of Life'*, was published last year and received with enthusiasm by the clergy team and others. The book links closely to an eight week course produced by the author and the Bible Society and, as of the start of 2021, this course can now be shared via Zoom. Again, the details are on the Lent page of our website. The clergy team warmly invite you to take the opportunity during Lent and beyond to engage with this course and, in a fresh way, to get the BIG picture of the Bible story as you engage with it day by day.
- We also offer the opportunity to share in a ten minute Zoom prayer from church, at 12noon on Tuesdays 23rd February - 30th March (ID 846 662 9590, Passcode 834900). The order, 'Prayer During the Day', is on the [Lent page](#).

Please note – There is no 8am Holy Communion on Sunday 21st February.

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

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