

Newsletter and Notices

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 The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Psalm 107 *Refrain: Give thanks to the Lord for his goodness.*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, for his steadfast love endures for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say this, those he redeemed from the hand of the enemy, And gathered out of the lands from the east and from the west,

from the north and from the south. [R]

Some went astray in desert wastes and found no path to a city to dwell in.

Hungry and thirsty, their soul was fainting within them.

So they cried to the Lord in their trouble and he delivered them from their distress. **[R]** He set their feet on the right way till they came to a city to dwell in.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his goodness

and the wonders he does for his children.

For he satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry soul with good. [R]

O living Christ, rescue us from foolish passion and still the storms of our self-will; and, as you are our anchor in this life, so bring us to the haven you have prepared for us; for your mercy's sake. Amen.

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: <u>diane.pettitt@hotmail.com</u> / 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.

Sunday 14th March 2021 Fourth Sunday of Lent • Mothering Sunday



Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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 Mothering Sunday, John 19. 25-27

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Gospel for The Fourth Sunday of Lent, John 3. 14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

An anthem for today

On this day last year, the Choir were due to sing *For the beauty of the earth* (Rutter). You might like to listen to the anthem via <u>this link</u>.

Lent for Young People – Whilst it's not practical for our families to meet, do explore the links on our <u>Children and Young People</u> page: each week in Lent there are fresh and inspiring resources including prayers, games, quizzes and videos. This week there's a beautiful bookmark to colour and cut out for Mothering Sunday. Also -

• There's a <u>printable sheet on our website</u> which offers a prayer and activities that will help young people get to know the person of Jesus. This week's is based on the Gospel reading from John 3.

• You might also like to share in this week's Godly Story, 'The Story of Baby Moses', from Exodus 1.8 - 2. 10. It's a fantastic visual version of the scriptures, with wondering questions for families to share together. The video's on YouTube <u>here.</u>



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Mothering Sunday flowers – Our young families have been working hard producing wonderful pictures to make our church door bloom as a symbol of love and life this Mothering Sunday! There are also individual flowers and prayer cards. The flowers and cards will be outside the North Porch door on Sunday 14th March. **Please take one for a lady who might be heartened by seeing it on her doorstep.**

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'd 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've '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.

The Charities Support Group Lent Red Bucket Appeal – We'll split the money between Mary's Meals, who we always support through our Lent Lunches, and The Church Army. To find out more about the charities and how to donate, please see our website's <u>CSG</u> page. Red Buckets will also be in church at our services. Donations for The Bible Course resource can be made to Mary's Meals via the same link.

Families Minister Working Group – "Whilst our youngsters have been able to take part in some church activities during the Covid crisis, including some excellent online material, we have all keenly felt their absence in church over these past few months. A year is an awfully long time in the life of a child, and with that in mind a group of us (on behalf of the PCC) have been looking at what face to face activities involving children and their families we might be able to start - as soon as this can be done safely. An essential element in this 'recovery' phase will involve reactivating the recruitment process for a Families Minister at St Michael's (which we had to pause last year) as soon as it is possible to do so. If you have an interest in this area of our work and would like to join the group dealing with this, or have any other suggestions or comments about children's worship, please email me at <u>bill.macdonald@hotmail.co.uk</u>. Many thanks. Bill".

Information on the Families Minister post as advertised last year is available <u>here</u>.

Palm Crosses – This year we would like to offer the opportunity to make a palm cross as a spiritual exercise. Towards the end of next week there will be palm fronds in the north porch available for collection when you come into church for worship or prayer. <u>Click on this YouTube link for a helpful tutorial on making palm crosses.</u>

Sunday 14th March 2021 Fourth Sunday of Lent • Mothering Sunday



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 is played on Tuesdays 11-11:30am and on Fridays 12-12.30pm.

'Roadmap' letter – If you've not seen a copy of Derwyn's most recent letter, it's available on the website <u>here</u>.

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

Holy Communion, Wednesday 17th March, 10am – On Wednesday we will have a service of Holy Communion, in church and via Derwyn's Zoom. You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page. (ID 846 662 9590, Passcode 834900).

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, throughout Lent. Alternatively, you might like to use it online as a small group. The leaflet and a psalm are on the <u>Lent page</u>.
 We also offer the opportunity to share in a ten minute Zoom prayer from church.
 - at 12noon on Tuesdays until 30th March (ID 846 662 9590, Passcode 834900). The order, 'Prayer During the Day', is on the <u>Lent page</u>.

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).

Riding Lights Theatre Company presents a Lockdown Passion Play – Filmed remotely in lockdown, Breaking Day by Les Ellison is an innovative passion play for Easter 2021, immersing us with stark intimacy in decisions that led to crucifixion. **Available to stream 19th March-15th April.** Tickets £10 per household and can be purchased from the Riding Lights website: www.ridinglights.org/breaking-day

Continue to look on the <u>Lent page</u> for details of Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter services as they are fixed and developed in the coming days.

More details of all services and events are available on the <u>Calendar</u> 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: <u>church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk</u>			
Website: www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk			