

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 3rd October 2021 Harvest Festival



8am Holy Communion for Harvest, in Church 10am Service of the Word for Harvest, in Church & Zoom

Come and enjoy refreshments in (or outside) the WCC after the 10am service.

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 for the 10am service.

2. Join Zoom on your computer

When signed in you can 'Join a Meeting' (ID: 846 662 9590 / Passcode: 834900).

3. Join with Audio Zoom via phone a) Call 0131 460 1196

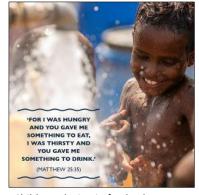
b) Enter Meeting ID followed by #, then enter Meeting Passcode followed by # You will be muted automatically when you join the 'meeting' (service).

Collect for Harvest

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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.

A Gospel reading for Harvest, Matthew 6. 35-33

Jesus said, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or



Children playing in fresh, clean water Photo: Chris Hoskins/Tearfund

about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

A Psalm for Harvest, Psalm 126

Refrain: The Lord has indeed done great things for us.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy. [R]

Then said they among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'

The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced. [R]

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, as the river beds of the desert.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them. *[R]*

Lord, as you send rain and flowers even to the wilderness, renew us by your Holy Spirit, help us to sow good seed in time of adversity and to live to rejoice in your good harvest of all creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Come and share our short session for children and young people during our Sunday 10am service EVERY WEEK!

We invite children, with their adults, to come into the Lady Chapel during part of the service, and share in a short Godly Play (a visual storytelling of scriptures, with wondering questions for all ages to share together). There will be a display in the Lady Chapel most weeks, if you'd like to find out more! This week we'll be sharing a story of harvest.

You might also like to explore the links on our Children & Young People page. There's a printable sheet which offers a prayer/activities that will help young people get to know the person of Jesus. This week's is based on today's Gospel reading.

Parish Register for September

We remember in our prayers the family of Bobby Warren, whose ashes were interred in our Garden of Remembrance last month.

We welcome Florence Burt and Liv Langston into the fellowship of faith following their Baptism in September.



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The church is open each day, from early morning to mid afternoon.

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

Prayers for our Community in Church, Saturday 2nd October, 9:30am A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Harvest, this Sunday 3rd **October –** We'll celebrate harvest at 8am and 10am services. There will be a Red Bucket for the Bishop's Appeal, *Water is Life,* bringing clean, safe water to communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, bringing with it transformation to daily lives and hope for the future. Life in the DRC is tough. With a history of civil war, widespread poverty and a cycle of conflict and displacement, communities struggle every day. Also, more than 70 per cent of the DRC population use unsafe drinking water and so daily encounter the devastatingly high risk of cholera, a preventable disease.

We are also requesting non-perishable food gifts for Bishop's Stortford Food Bank.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 6th October, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church and **via Derwyn's Zoom (ID 846 662 9590, Passcode 834900)**. You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 6th October, 11 for 11:15am – We're delighted to be offering a new style of worship for babies/toddlers and their parents / carers. Join us for refreshments, fellowship and a little chance for the children to play before the service too!

Saying Goodbye Service, Chelmsford Cathedral, 9th October at 2pm – A baby loss remembrance and support service, part of nationwide events.

An opportunity to sing with other local church choirs at a Festival Evensong – East Herts Church Choirs Association have their next Festival Evensong (with rehearsal in the afternoon) at Hatfield Broad Oak on Sunday 17th October, with preparatory rehearsal on the morning of Saturday 9th October here at St Michael's. See <u>EHCCA website</u> for details. Singers and members of the congregation who have missed the part choral evensong has played in our worship are warmly invited to join together for this special service.

Commemoration All Souls' Service, 10am, Sunday 31st October – All are welcome to this reflective service, with readings, choral music, prayers and lighting of candles.

TLC Club launches, Tuesday 2nd November, 2-4:30pm – A monthly event on the first Tuesday of the month for anyone who wishes to attend. The idea is for members of our community to be able to join in with tea and talk and perhaps opportunities such as making greetings cards, small flower arrangements, board games ... and then we hope that later each afternoon we will welcome families after school for a short while, to share in reading/play and enjoy a biscuit/cake/fruit snack.

Organ Recital with Richard Carr, Saturday 20th November – Proceeds to the Bells Appeal. More details soon!

Salisbury Flower Festival 10-12th May 2022 – There is a folder in the Publicity Area for people to register interest. Please do so soon so that we can make a definite booking! Any questions, please contact Rosemary Thomson.

CSG Red Bucket Appeal for emergencies in Haiti and Afghanistan – The total raised was £792.95 (including gift aid) and we have donated £400 to each of the emergencies, through World Vision Emergency Fund, supporting families with the food, sanitation and shelter they need to stay safe. Thank you to the congregation for their generosity.

Were you inspired by the singing from our Choir last Sunday? We'd love more people of all ages to join us! If you're interested in singing with the Choir more regularly, please do contact the Parish Office to find out more.

Director of Music applications invited – We seek to employ a church musician who can help us all move forward in our worshipping and musical life. An exciting and creative opportunity awaits, as we look to remember and reclaim precious traditions, and also apply new lessons learnt in the recent testing times. The Prospectus for the role, Application Form, and further documentation are on our website here. It's available to all to share, publicise or mention as may be helpful. Thank you, Derwyn.

Considering schools for your little ones? Come join our St Michaels' School Family! We offer all day provision in Nursery. Do look at our <u>school website</u> and follow the link for the virtual tour to find out more about our wonderful school and our 'Outstanding' (OFSTED 2019) Early Years.

Would you like to receive news and information from St Michael's electronically? May we invite new or newer worshippers to think about completing a Welcome Card, and submitting your email on it if you wish.

Autumn/Winter church opening – The Church will be locked at 3:30pm Monday - Thursday. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays may be a little later to accommodate visitors.

A BIG THANK YOU for everything that made Sunday 26th September special. Thank you to everyone who came to worship that day, and particularly to all who made it their moment to return to in-person worship. It was great to pray and sing with you all. Thank you to everyone who read scriptures, sang and made music, and led prayers, to help us all mark our Patronal Festival so joyfully and faithfully. Thank you for the buzzing gathering, the friendly fellowship and the welcome food and drink afterwards in the WCC. Thank you to all those who planned, organised, baked, brewed, poured, served and spoke – and the dedicated folk who cleaned up afterwards. And thank you for marking my 25/26/27 years of service with such kind words, verbal and written, very generous gifts, and grace-filled conversation on the day. THANK YOU, and for everything, THANKS BE TO GOD! **Derwyn**.

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.

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