

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 5th December 2021 Second Sunday of Advent



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

Come and enjoy fellowship and 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 #

Collect for The Second Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A Canticle for today: Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) Refrain: You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of your servant David.

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant. [R]

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. **[R]** And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins. [R] In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace. [R]

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen. [R]

A Gospel reading for today, Luke 3. 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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

We invite children of all ages, with their adults, to come into the Lady Chapel during part of the service, and share in A Godly Play (a short visual storytelling of scriptures, with wondering questions, for all ages to share together, then various age related activities). There will be a display in the Lady Chapel most weeks, if you'd like to find out more!

Throughout Advent we'll be exploring different aspects of the Christmas Story, through stories, crafts, puzzles ... and even some role play for those that want!



We're making our own Nativity Scenes in Godly Play, with a new character's story every week.

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

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.



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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.

Travelling Crib, throughout Advent – Our travelling crib is making its way around the parish during Advent. Hosting the figures for a night is a wonderful chance to share with children the anticipation of Christ's birth and fellowship with other families as the crib is passed on ... and a moment of stillness in an otherwise busy Advent. **Do chat to Katharine Stanley if you'd like to know more and to sign up for a night, we've still got a couple of places to fill!**

Charities Support Group Advent Red Bucket appeal – "We want to encourage donations to help the homeless locally this winter. Red Buckets will be in church during Advent (more details of how to donate electronically here). We'll donate the money to the Holy Trinity Night Shelter. Dave and Jocelyn who run the shelter have also requested prayers for the opening of the shelter this winter; please pray for all the volunteers and helpers, guests, trustees, and all those who work at East Herts Rough Sleeper Unit."

TLC Club this Tuesday 7th December, 2-4:30pm – Our first monthly gathering took place recently and was huge fun! It's an opportunity for anyone who wishes to attend to be able to join in with tea and talk, read the paper, play board games ... and then later in the afternoon we welcome families after school for a short while, to share in reading/play and enjoy a biscuit/cake/fruit snack. Do come along ... tell your friends too!

Holy Communion, Wednesday 8th December, 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 8th **December, 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!

Prayers for our Community in Church, Saturday 11th December, 9:30am A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

DIGITAL GIVING TO ST MICHAEL'S – ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND.

While fewer people carry cash, and our donations in the collection plates and offertory box remain much smaller than before the pandemic, the costs of running our parish remain. Please consider using our digital giving facility to support St Michael's. To give by phone: text **STMIC** (then a number from 2 to 20, e.g. STMIC7 or STMIC15) to **70085**. The most efficient way to give is by Standing Order direct from your bank account: please see the Giving Sunday envelopes from our most recent Stewardship renewal, in the Welcome Area. Thank you for considering your giving to St Michael's at this season.

Company at Christmas 2021 – Due to COVID-19, 'Company at Christmas' will once again be delivering food and gifts to our guests who might otherwise be alone at Christmas. We hope that in 2022 we will be able to return to an in-person event. This year there are THREE main ways you can help: Could you be a Delivery Driver? Could you be a Shopper? Could you be a Goody Bag Packer? Details are available on our website and if interested, please email companyatchristmas@gmail.com or contact Jenny Klincke (833523) or Margaret Fox (658638).

Giant Christmas Card in aid of The Children's Society – Once again our Giant Christmas Card will give everyone the chance to send Christmas greetings to their St Michael's friends and, instead of incurring postal charges, making a donation to The Children's Society. The card is on display in the Publicity Area on Sundays and Wednesdays. Very many thanks for your support.

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

A request for refreshment helpers – It's great to see so many people sharing fellowship at coffee times again! Would you be willing to join the coffee rota to help occasionally on either Sundays or Wednesdays? If interested, please contact Claire Conquest on 07944 431873.

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.

Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar – Details on our <u>website</u> or on posters in the Publicity Area in church and, if you like, you could collect your items and bring them along when you come into church.

Parish Register for November

We welcome Leo Fey into the fellowship of faith following his Baptism in November. We celebrate the Confirmation of Alfie Robins last week by the Bishop of Hertford. We remember in our prayers the family of Peter White, whose funeral took place this last month.

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)
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)
Rob Klincke (Reader)

899261 Churchwarden: Rosemary Thomson 652173 Deputy Churchwardens:

652173 Deputy Churchwardens: 771756 C Conquest, G Johnson, T Pigram, P Rixson

Rob Klincke (Reader) 833523 Parish Office 01279 654416 State of the Charles of th



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