



### 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 Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### A Canticle for today: 'A song of deliverance', Isaiah 12. 2-6

#### Refrain: All the earth, shout and sing for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One.

'Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid;

'For the Lord God is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.' [R]

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

On that day you will say, 'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;

'Make known his deeds among the nations, proclaim that his name is exalted. [R]

'Sing God's praises, who has triumphed gloriously; let this be known in all the world.

'Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.' [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. 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

### 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. Here's how we're doing so far!

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



**The church is open each day, from early morning to mid afternoon.**  
*An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection.*

**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.”

**Holy Communion, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> December, 9:30am** A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

**Would you be interested in reading at our services in the coming weeks?** We would love to have some volunteers for **19<sup>th</sup> December** (10am and 6pm), **Christmas Eve** (3:30pm and 11pm) and **Christmas Day** (10 am). Do contact the Parish Office if you'd be interested.

**St Stephen's Day service, 26<sup>th</sup> December** – Many will be engaged with travel, hosting, family etc., but this is just to say there will be a simple 9am said Holy Communion for any who wish to keep St Stephen's Day on 26<sup>th</sup> December. It will be our only service for that day.

**Giant Christmas Card in aid of The Children's Society** – 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. Thank you 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.

### 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.

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.



*Special Advent and Christmas Services at St Michael's Church*

Sunday 19 December  
6pm Candlelit Choral Carol Service

Wednesday 22 December  
10am Holy Communion

Friday 24 December  
10am-3pm Church open for prayer, all ages welcome:  
Come and see the Christmas Crib  
Write a prayer to leave on the tree  
Explore the Christmas Story through floral displays  
Children's activities (Lady Chapel)  
3:30pm Crib Service for all  
*Children welcome to dress as a character from the Nativity*

11pm Choral Midnight Mass

Saturday 25 December  
8am Holy Communion for Christmas Day  
10am Christmas Service

Sunday 26 December  
9am Said Holy Communion

Open for prayer every day  
Windhill, Bishop's Stortford  
[www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk)

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter icons

QR code: Scan code for website



**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 Sundays or Wednesdays? Please contact Claire Conquest on 07944 431873.

**Calendars for Company at Christmas** – Company at Christmas is not a 'live event' this year but we'll support isolated members of our community by delivering a meal and gifts on Christmas Day. For many, this might be their only visit from someone on that day. One gift is a 2022 Calendar with images from this region. Photographs by Paul Burrell and Lloyd Winters (photographer for The Roundhouse and Alexandra Palace). We have a few available at the back of the church. If you'd like one (and will not receive

one through Company at Christmas!), please take one and give a minimum donation of £5 to support C@C. You can do this via a bank transfer to Company at Christmas with the reference 'Calendar' to: Sort Code 20-36-98, Account Number 60144851

**Safeguarding Policy and Action Plan** – The PCC has recently approved a revised version to update the original documents produced in 2017. They can be seen [here](#).

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar)	899261	Churchwarden: Rosemary Thomson	758389
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)	652173	Deputy Churchwardens:	
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)	771756	C Conquest, G Johnson, T Pigram, P Rixson	
Rob Klincke (Reader)	833523	<b>Parish Office</b>	<b>01279 654416</b>
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