



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

  

8am Holy Communion in church
10am Holy Communion in church

6pm Nine Lessons & Carols, 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent
God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; 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 today, Luke 1. 39-45
Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

A Canticle for today: *Magnificat*, Luke 1. 46-55
Refrain: My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name. [R]
He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit. [R]
Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. [R]
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy, The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever. [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]

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

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've been exploring different aspects of the Christmas Story, through stories, crafts, puzzles ... and even some role play for those that want! This week, it's the story of the shepherds.**



We're making our own Nativity Scenes in Godly Play, with a new character's story every week. Look how it's coming on!

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.

Children's Activities in the Lady Chapel at Christmas – We'll be having our very own Nativity 'festival' with lots of different Nativity Scenes ... from Godly Play, to TLC, to St Michael's School. There will also be puzzle activity sheets, plus craft materials to make the Wise Men to complete your own scene.



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 – This Sunday 19th December at 10am is the last day of our 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 22nd 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 22nd December, 11 for 11:15am – A new style of worship for babies/toddlers and their parents / carers. Older children are welcome too! 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 18th December, 9:30am A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Would you be interested in reading at our services in the coming days? We would love to have some volunteers for **Christmas Eve** (3:30pm and 11pm) and **Christmas Day** (10 am). Do contact the Parish Office by Monday at the latest if you'd be interested.

Christmas Eve onwards: The Christmas Story, a reflective journey – We invite you to look at the flower arrangements as you make your way around the church. They tell the Christmas story, with suggestions for reflection and prayer. At the Crib, do light a Candle, say a prayer, and write a prayer to place on the Christmas Tree. There are also activities in the Lady Chapel, especially suitable for families.

St Stephen's Day service, 26th 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 in the Chancel for any who wish to keep St Stephen's Day on 26th December.

TLC Club, Tuesday 4th January, 2-4:40pm (first Tuesday each month) – Do come along: all welcome! Our second meeting was much enjoyed recently, despite atrocious weather. We were very pleased to welcome The Rev'd June along with other newcomers.

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.

TLC Planning meeting, Tuesday 11th January at 2pm, WCC – To confirm future monthly dates and discuss what we might do to ensure our visitors enjoy that time with us. All are most welcome to come along to the meeting ... we always need more volunteers and many hands make light work! Many thanks in anticipation, Rosemary.

Giant Christmas Card in aid of The Children's Society – Our Giant Christmas Card gives everyone the chance to send Christmas greetings to their St Michael's friends and, instead of incurring postal charges, donating 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.

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? Please contact Claire Conquest on 07944 431873.

Considering schools for your little ones? Come join our St Michaels' School Family! We offer all day provision in Nursery. Do look at our [school website](#) 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.

Would you be interested in managing the stock of our information booklets? This small role would involve the occasional update of information and translation leaflets and their stock and displays. Do contact the Parish Office if you're interested in volunteering.

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

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)	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	Parish Office	01279 654416
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