St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 16th January 2022 The Second Sunday of Epiphany



8am Holy Communion, in Church 10am Holy Communion, in Church

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 (not this Sunday)

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

3. Join with Audio Zoom via phone (not this Sunday)

a) Call 0131 460 1196 b) Enter Meeting ID then #, then enter Meeting Passcode then #

A Psalm for today, Psalm 36. 5-10

Refrain: With you, O God, is the well of life.

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens

and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains,

your justice like the great deep;

you, Lord, shall save both man and beast. [R]

How precious is your loving mercy, O God!

All mortal flesh shall take refuge

under the shadow of your wings.

They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house;

they shall drink from the river of your delights. [R]

For with you is the well of life

and in your light shall we see light.

O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.

They are cast down and shall not be able to stand. [R]

O God. the well of life.

make us bright with wisdom,

that we may be lightened with the knowledge of your glory

in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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 today, John 2. 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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, stories, crafts, puzzles, and even some acting for those that want ... 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!

You might also like to explore the links on our <u>Children & Young People</u> page. There are lots of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.



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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.

Thanksgiving for the service of Robert Stokely - As part of our 10am Service of Holy Communion this **Sunday 16th January** we will be celebrating Robert's long service with us, both as chorister and then for more than twenty-five years as organist. All are warmly invited to the service.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022, 18th - 25th January - This year, there won't be our usual Churches Together Bishop's Stortford service but on 25th January at 7:30pm we are invited to an online event, hosted by Doral Hayes of Churches Together in Hertfordshire. Prayer and worship will be led by The Rt. Rev Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford, and Stephen Copson of the Central Baptist Association. Zoom Meeting ID: 894 6588 1609, Passcode: 656904

Holy Communion, Wednesday 19th January, 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 19th January, 11 for 11:15am – Worship for babies/toddlers and their parents / carers; with a story, singing and instruments for little ones too! Join us for refreshments, fellowship and a little chance for the children to play before/after the service.

Prayers for our Community in Church, Saturday 22nd January, 9:30am A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

TLC Tuesday 1st February from 2pm, Windhill Churches Centre - 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 ... and tell your friends too!

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

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.

Governors needed! Can you help St Michael's Primary School to deliver its Christian vision, by joining our governing body? We must have a majority of church governors but have several upcoming vacancies. Please think about whether you can offer us your time and speak to Katharine in the Parish Office if you'd like to know more. Thank you.

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.

Holly Rings - If you bought a Holly Ring, please could you return just the wire ring and pine cones to be reused and save expenses for next time. Thank you.

Travelling Crib sheep - We hope that you and your families enjoyed sharing in the Crib during Advent! If you have held onto your sheep over Christmas, would you be good enough to return it to the Parish Office (or put it in the porch post box) as soon as possible? Many thanks!

Choir - Have you and/or your child been inspired by the singing recently? Might you like to join our Choir? We would welcome interest from possible singers, adults or children in Year 4 or above. For more information on the Choir see the website or contact the Parish Office.

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.

Join our virtual Valentines balloon race for the Bellringing Appeal – Starting from the Trevi Fountain in Rome and lasting for 7 days. Balloons may be purchased online here and the race is tracked on a map. Progress is recorded by using actual weather conditions at the time. Balloons are also available to purchase after the Sunday 10am services, and for those wishing to take part but who don't like to engage in online activities, Anne Brolly can create entries on vour behalf - a bit like selling raffle tickets.

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

899261 Churchwarden: Rosemary Thomson Deputy Churchwardens:

771756 C Conquest, G Johnson, T Pigram, P Rixson

833523 Parish Office 01279 654416 Email: church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk | Scan code





for website

