

Newsletter and Notices

Don't forget the clocks go forward 1 hour this Sunday! 8am Holy Communion for Lent 4, in Church

10am Service of the Word for Mothering Sunday, 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 service sheet for 10am. 2. Join Zoom on your computer (ID: 846 662 9590 / Passcode: 834900).

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

LENT 2022 AT ST MICHAEL'S

A Season for Living in God • A Season for Giving our time • A Season for Giving our treasures

Please see our Giving Season Envelopes in the Publicity Area or on our website's Lent Page for more information on our Lenten theme, along with all the information on our regular and special services this Lent. Thank you for considering your giving to St Michael's.

Collect for The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Psalm for The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Psalm 32

Refrain: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord.

Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered. Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

For I held my tongue; my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long.

Your hand was heavy upon me day and night;

my moisture was dried up like the drought in summer. [R]

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and my iniquity I did not hide.

I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all the faithful make their prayers to you in time of trouble;

in the great water flood, it shall not reach them.

You are a place for me to hide in; you preserve me from trouble;

you surround me with songs of deliverance. [R]

'I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye. Be not like horse and mule which have no understanding;

whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.'

Great tribulations remain for the wicked, but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart. [R]

Give us honest hearts, O God, and send your kindly Spirit to help us confess our sins and bring us the peace of your forgiveness; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Sunday 27th March 2022 Fourth Sunday of Lent • Mothering Sunday



Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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.

Gospel for Mothering Sunday, Luke 1. 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Marv said to the angel, 'How' can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word. Then the angel departed from her.

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! This week the children will be helping to finish small

posies of flowers to give to ladies in our church family.

Last week we learned about the Parable of the Fig Tree; then the children tasted figs and planted cress thinking about how 'God lets me grow'

You might also like to explore the links on our Children & Young People page. There are loads

of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus this Lent. This week there's also a beautiful bookmark to colour and cut out for Mothering Sunday.

We are advertising for a Families Minister! - We hope to be interviewing candidates in April. Are you the person to encourage, coordinate, develop and expand ministry among children, young people and their families at our church? Or perhaps you know the right person? More detailed information about the role is on the website here. The deadline for applications

is THIS THURSDAY 31st MARCH.

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.





St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

John Tarran's funeral, Tuesday 29th March – There will be a family cremation at 12noon followed by a service of thanksgiving at his recent church, St Mary's Latton at 1pm to which all are invited, then afterwards a reception at the St John's Arc Centre in Old Harlow.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 30th March, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church and via Zoom (ID: 846 662 9590 / Passcode: 834900). You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 30th March, 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 2nd April, 9:30am – All welcome.

TLC Tuesday 5th April from 2pm, WCC – 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! This coming month, the theme is Easter and the children will be invited to decorate a chocolate item!

Free Clarinet & Piano Lunchtime Recital, Thursday 7th April, 1-2pm – All are invited to this recital featuring Guildhall School of Music & Drama graduates, Angela Novy and Andy Mellor.

Passiontide and Easter -

Next Sunday, 3rd April, at 10am we'll share a Service of the Word for Passion Sunday with music from Bach's Double Violin Concerto in D Minor. Also from next Sunday onwards, there will be an opportunity to journey the 'Way of the Cross', with stations for reflection for all ages.

On **Palm Sunday 10th April**, we'll celebrate **Holy Communion at both 8am 10am, with palm crosses** and a **Choral Evensong for Holy Week at 6pm**. From 10th April onwards, our 'Way of the Cross' reflections will include a special prayer corner if you'd like to pray, light a candle or write a prayer on a paper cross and hang it by the cross.

At 7:30pm on Maundy Thursday 14th April we'll share Holy Communion with music and a Good Friday Sequence with music on 15th April from 1:45-3pm.

On **Easter Sunday**, **17**th **April, we'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am and 10am**, with an Easter egg hunt after the 10am service. Throughout Easter week share our Easter Resurrection story, with flowers and prayers.

The bells restoration begins on the 19th April – The Church kitchen area and toilet will not be available for some time. However, we are very fortunate to have alternative facilities in the Churches Centre, so Wednesday morning refreshments will take place there from 20th April until the bells project is complete. This will enhance our social time with more space and during the summer we will aim to serve tea and coffee outside in the sunshine!

Roger & Rowena Sudbury farewell, Sunday 24th April – The Sudburys have settled into their new home in Suffolk and are coming to say a proper 'goodbye' to us all, sharing in worship and fellowship at the 10am service, followed by refreshments in the WCC. Do join!

Sunday 27th March 2022 Fourth Sunday of Lent • Mothering Sunday



Lent Reflections How are you feeling? - Meeting God in our emotion Tuesdays at 12pm in the Lady Chapel

All are warmly invited to join these sessions during Lent. We'll explore feelings and theologically reflect on them in the light of Christ; through a meditative blend of Scripture, prayer, song, music and talks. **29th March – Love 5th April - Hope**

Each session will be followed by a frugal lunch at 12:30pm in the WCC, in aid of the three charities supported by our Lent Appeal this year: Hope & Homes for Children (Ukraine appeal), Portland Child Contact Centre and the Delhi Brotherhood Society.

Our APCM, is on 29th May after 10am service – Electoral Roll revision starts on 3rd April (ending on 1st May), if you'd like to join our electoral roll and/or nominate for PCC election.

Flower Festival for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 2nd–5th June – We need your help! Are you a flower arranger? Can you help arrange sponsorship? Please contact Claire (07944 431873 / <u>claire.conquest62@gmail.com</u>) or Jenny (jennyklincke@gmail.com / 833523) and do save the date! Proceeds to St Michael's Church Bell Restoration Fund.

Friends of St Michael's, Saturday 2nd July – Another date for your diary! Family Fun Day, then Gilbert & Sullivan Concert. More details in due course.

Holiday Bible Week, 1st - 5th **August** – After two years, we're delighted to be able to host a live HBW for 2022. This year's theme is all about celebration and we hope your children (ages 5-11) will be able to join us to celebrate an action-packed week full of stories, puppets, music and games. More details on Facebook and Instagram over the coming weeks. Places are allocated according to our Child Allocation Policy. So don't miss out, register now! Please may we also emphasise the importance of adults volunteers signing-up too so that we can offer places to as many children as possible (usually about 500).

Renewing the vision for our St Michael's School – We want **everyone** to be involved. We want to think about the future of our school and keep improving what we do for all members of our school community. <u>Please see our website for ways to be involved</u>.

Lent Red Bucket Appeal from the Charities Support Group UPDATE – The proceeds will be added to the money raised through Lent Lunches this year. Following events in Ukraine we will split the money three ways between the Hope & Homes for Children (who we regularly support through the CSG) and our original chosen charities (Portland Child Contact Centre and the Delhi Brotherhood Society). Members of the CSG have put together information about the charities and ways to donate: please see <u>our website page</u>

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