St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 6th November 2022 Third Sunday before Advent



8am Holy Communion for Third before Advent, in Church 10am Commemoration All Souls' Service, in Church & Zoom

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in 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: 927 480 8728 / Passcode: 889123).

3. Join with Audio Zoom via phone

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

A Psalm for Third Sunday before Advent, Psalm 17. 1-8 Refrain: Deliver me, O Lord, by your hand.

Hear my just cause. O Lord: consider my complaint:

listen to my prayer, which comes not from lying lips.

Let my vindication come forth from your presence; let your eyes behold what is right.

Weigh my heart, examine me by night, refine me,

and you will find no impurity in me. [R]

My mouth does not trespass for earthly rewards;

I have heeded the words of your lips.

My footsteps hold fast in the ways of your commandments;

my feet have not stumbled in your paths. [R]

I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me;

incline your ear to me, and listen to my words.

Show me your marvellous loving-kindness,

O Saviour of those who take refuge at your right hand

from those who rise up against them.

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings [R]
Generous Lord, deliver us from all envious thoughts, and when we are tempted by the
desire for wealth, let us see your face; for your abundance is enough to clothe our
lack; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Register for October

We remember in our prayers the family of Betty Freeman, Peter Mansfield and Dorothy Risby, whose funerals took place last month; and Gladys Harris, whose ashes were interred in our Garden of Remembrance last month.

We welcome Rory Carter and Leni Needham into the fellowship of faith following their Baptism in October.

Collect for All Souls' Day

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer, grant us, with all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; 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 the Third Sunday before Advent, Luke 20. 27-38

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.' Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

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). We've lost a few of our helpers recently and sadly we can't offer our fortnightly breakout session for older children/young people BUT WE CAN DO SO ONCE A MONTH!! There's a display in the Lady Chapel, if you'd like to find out more! Our Children & Young People website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.



We continue the story of the prophet Samuel (and for older children, the theme of hearing from God) in our Godly Play sessions for the next few weeks.

This week we learn about Samuel as a boy, and his calling. 1 Samuel 3



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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

Commemoration All Souls' Service, 10am, this Sunday 6th November - A reflective service, with readings, choral music, prayers and lighting of candles. If you would like loved ones to be remembered by name, enter their names CLEARLY IN CAPITALS in the book by the Lady Chapel entrance and please come to the service if you can. (It will be transmitted by Zoom also). All are welcome.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 9th November, 10am - A service of Holy Communion. in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 9th November, 11 for 11:15am in the WCC - Worship for babies/toddlers and their grown-ups; with a story, singing and instruments for little ones too! Join us for refreshments, fellowship and a chance for the children to play beforehand.

Ukrainian Hospitality Support, Wednesdays from 11:30am-2pm - St Michael's is providing space at the WCC for Ukrainian quests and host families to meet together, along with informal language lessons, once a week. St Joseph's Hall is open too, as extra space for teaching or play. We are offering a light lunch / refreshments for adults and children and whatever other support we can.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 12th November, 9:30am - All are welcome!

Remembrance Sunday, 13th November – During the 10am Parish Communion service we will be gathering round the War Memorial in the churchyard for our Remembrance Ceremonies. Our Godly Play session will include Remembrance crafts to be placed at the foot of the memorial.

Holly ring making - We're starting our holly ring making in preparation for the Holly Fair. Mossing up 15th November, Ring making 28th, 29th November and 1st December from 9am. There are sign-up sheets on the welcome desk or speak with Peter or Claire

Choral Evensong for Christ the King, Sunday 20th November at 6pm - This is our first opportunity to share Choral Evensong in nearly three years! All are warmly welcomed to this special reflective and celebratory service for Christ the King.

A Quiet Day at Albury, Thursday 24th November, 10:30am-3pm - A day of reflection and contemplation in June's home. Places are limited, please contact June on 07539 058946 to book, or for more information.

Holly Fair on Saturday 3rd December 10am-12:30pm - All offers to help with stalls would be useful, (even help for an hour rather than the whole time!) We'd particularly welcome people to help with some children's activities to make this a family friendly event. All profits go to local charities and those overseas including those whom we have recently welcomed in church. Do contact Val Ashwood or Claire Conquest for more information.

Travelling Crib - Once again we are delighted that our travelling crib will be making its way around the parish during Advent; beginning with a blessing at the 10am service on 27th November. 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. Please chat to Katharine if you'd like to know more about it and to sign up for a night.

Charity Christmas cards available on Sundays and Wednesdays in the WCC; profits added to Holly Fair funds. A wide selection, along with the usual greeting cards and homemade jams. Thank you to those who gave jam jars: I now have plenty in preparation for marmalade making in the New Year! Rosemary Thomson.

A message of thanks from Gary Jones - Thanks to all who commented to East Herts Council on the introduction of parking charges on Sundays. There were 69 church objections from Bishop's Stortford. Instead of the weekday charge of up to £4.80, a flat rate of £1.50 will apply from January. The voice of the Church was heard, and Sunday will continue to be recognised as a special day.

Parish Office - The Parish Office continues to be closed for the duration of the bell restoration works. Katharine is working from home and may be readily contacted by email, or chat to her after the Wednesday Holy Communion service.

The Vicar has been granted a period of leave by the Diocese. Please keep him in your prayers for a speedy recuperation and continue to allow him a period of privacy with his family. In the meantime, please contact Derek or June for pastoral matters or email the Parish Office with administrative concerns.

A couple of reminders from the Churchwardens - Please avoid parking in the churchyard at ANY TIME including nominated clergy spaces, whilst the bells restoration work continues. This is especially important this next six weeks, with increased contractor traffic as the project concludes. Please may we also encourage all users of the WCC to be vigilant about lights and locking the centre afterwards.

Food Bank Plea - Increased costs of living are hitting foodbanks hard. Do consider whether you can donate: details on our website and church noticeboard. You might also wish to consider the 'reverse Advent Calendar' - donating every day in Advent.

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)

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