



NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion, in Church

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the WCC after the 10am service.

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 Psalm for The Third Sunday of Advent, verses from Psalm 146

Refrain: The Lord shall reign for ever.

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them;

who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong and bread to those who hunger. **[R]**

The Lord looses those that are bound; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. **[R]**

The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;

he upholds the orphan and widow; but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia. **[R]**

Lord of all, our breath and being come from you, yet our earthly end is dust; as you loose the bound and feed the hungry, so bring us in your mercy through the grave and gate of death to the feast of eternal life, where you reign for evermore. Amen.

Gospel for today, Matthew 11. 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he'.



Come and share our short session for children and young people during our Sunday 10am service EVERY WEEK! This week, we begin the theme **God is Love and the amazing news of Jesus' birth**. 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.

Sunday 18 December
8am Holy Communion
10am Service of the Word
6pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 21 December
10am Holy Communion
11am Tiny Tots

Saturday 24 December
 10am-3pm Church open for prayer,
 all ages welcome:
Come and see the Christmas Crib
Write a prayer and hang it on
the Christmas Tree
Enjoy the fresh 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
with Carols by the Choir from 10:30pm

Sunday 25 December
10am Christmas Parish Communion

Open for prayer every day
 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford
www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk

Scan code for website



The church is open each day, from early morning to mid afternoon.

An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection

Holy Communion, Wednesday 14th December, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC. With celebration of MU?

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 14th December, 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 guests 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.

Mothers' Union Christmas Party, Wednesday 14th December, 2pm – A celebration of our branch as we reluctantly close. All past and present members welcome.

Carol Singing, Friday 16th December, 4-6pm in Jackson Square – Come for as long as you like and join members of *Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford* for Carol Singing, at the top of the travelator. Collection for the Bishop's Stortford Contact Centre and the YMCA.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 17th December, 9:30am – All are welcome!

Advent and Christmas Services at St Michael's – All details are on our website and on flyers (see other page) but note our **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm on Sunday 18th December, Crib Service at 3:30pm and Midnight Service at 11pm (with Choir Carols from 10:30pm) on Christmas Eve.** We'll celebrate **Parish Communion at 10am on Christmas Day.** Do visit our [website's Choir page](#) for some lovely choral audio recordings on YouTube from last year's Service of Nine Lessons.

#FollowTheStar 2022, The Great Invitation – We invite you to sign up now for the Church of England's 12 days of reflections, starting 24th December: cofe.io/FollowTheStar Each day, read or listen to a Bible passage, short reflection and prayer, in the way that suits you: by app, email, smart speaker or phone.

Giant Christmas Card – Once again the 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 displayed in the Publicity Area on Sundays and Wednesdays. Very many thanks for your support.

Can you help Company at Christmas this year? Do you have a car? If so, could you spare maybe one hour of your time on Christmas Day to transport one or more guests from their homes in and around Bishops Stortford to the Methodist Church Hall for a communal Christmas dinner, and take them home again at 5pm? If you can help, please contact steve.dale@gmail.com (07769 908777). ALSO, do sign up to help in other ways if you can! Details in the Publicity Area.

Bishop's Stortford Youth Project – "We're delighted to let you know that we are now offering FREE hot food at Thirst Youth Café for secondary school children (11-18's) on Wednesdays from 3.30pm (and Thursdays from Jan 2023) as part of the "Warm Spaces" initiative. Food available whilst stocks last. Menu changes weekly."

St Albans Cursillo weekend 10th-12th February – "Cursillo is a movement of the Church providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share God's love with everyone". Our next weekend will take place at Pleshey (near Chelmsford). It's not a traditional retreat and more explanation is at www.stalbanscursillo.com including a YouTube video explaining more. Many members of St Michaels congregation would recommend: speak to Mike & Val Ashwood, John & Viv Emmett, Claire Conquest, Derek & Pauline Hinge, Pam Johnson-Cook and Audrey Smith if you would like to know more.

Charities Support Group Advent Red Bucket appeal – "This year we are supporting Holy Trinity Winter Night Shelter who we support every winter and Meninadança who recently spoke at church. Further details about the charities and donating by bank transfer can be found [here](#). The night shelter are in need of more helpers to run the shelter this winter and it's a very worthwhile thing to do. Please contact Dave Perry via htnsmanager@outlook.com If you'd like to know more you could also see Val Ashwood, Margaret Fox, or Angela Weeks".

The Charities Support Group would like to thank everyone who worked hard and to make the Holly Fair such a success. There was a lovely atmosphere, and we hope everyone enjoyed the occasion. The total so far is £2850 with a few more things to sell.

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.

The Holy Trinity Night Shelter is looking for volunteers for overnight and evening – A big surge in demand expected with the cold snap, so the Night Shelter is looking for more willing helpers to be able to call on. Anyone new will always be with at least one volunteer who knows the systems etc. (Overnight: 9:45pm-7:30am; Evening 7pm-10pm). If interested, please email Dave Perry on htnsmanager@outlook.com

A message from friends overseas – Nigel and Sandra Turner are settling in well in their new home, near their daughter, in Australia; and are thinking of us all this 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)		Churchwardens: Claire Conquest	07944 431873
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)	652173	Gill Johnson	07912 432221
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)	07539 058946	Deputy Churchwardens: T Pigram, P Rixson	
Rob Klincke (Reader)	833523	Parish Office	01279 654416



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