



Newsletter and Notices

Christmas Day

NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion for Christmas, in Church

Wednesday 28th December

**10am Holy Communion, in Church
NO TINY TOTS**

Sunday 1st January

NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Service of the Word for The Naming of Jesus, in Church and via [Zoom](#)

You are welcome to share in our worship in the following ways:

1. Come to Church for any service All are welcome!

2. On Sunday 1st January you could join Zoom on your computer

When signed in you can 'Join a Meeting' (ID: 927 480 8728 / Passcode: 889123).

3. On Sunday 1st January you could join with Audio Zoom via phone

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

A Collect for Christmas

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

A Psalm for today: Psalm 98 Refrain: The Lord has made known his salvation.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory. [R]

The Lord has made known his salvation;

his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel,

and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. [R]

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music.

Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King. [R]

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it.

Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,

for he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity. [R]

Lord God, just and true, you make your salvation known in the sight of the nations; tune the song of our hearts to the music of creation as you come among us to judge the earth; through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



Sunday 25th December, Christmas Day & Sunday 1st January, Naming of Jesus



Gospel for Christmas Day, John 1. 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Gospel for The Naming of Jesus, Luke 2. 15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Children's Activities in the Lady Chapel at Christmas –

Come and see our very own Nativity 'festival' with lots of different Nativity Scenes ... from the one we made in Godly Play last year, to our knitted Nativity, to some belonging to our church team. There's a reading area and lots of fun puzzle activity sheets.

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.





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BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE CLERGY AND CONGREGATION OF ST MICHAEL'S

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

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

Come and see the Christmas Crib • Enjoy the fresh floral displays

Write a prayer and hang it on the Christmas Tree

Children's activities (Lady Chapel)

Holy Communion, Wednesday 28th December and 4th January, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

TLC Tuesday 3rd January, 2:15pm for 2:30pm, WCC – An opportunity 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! Rosemary has written a reflection/plans for 2023 [on the website](#) so do take a look.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 4th January, 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. **We meet next on Wednesday 4th January.**

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 7th January, 9:30am – All are welcome!

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.

Thirst Youth Café Wednesday and Thursdays – “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 January) as part of the “Warm Spaces” initiative. Food available whilst stocks last. Menu changes weekly.”

Volunteer Open Day for Bishop's Stortford Youth Project, Saturday 14th January, 10:15am at Thirst Youth Café – Adults and young people (aged 11-18) needed. For more details see the posters or our [website](#).

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. Many members of St Michael's would recommend: do speak to the Ashwoods, the Emmetts, the Hinges, Claire Conquest, Pam Johnson-Cook and Audrey Smith.

#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 by app, email, smart speaker or phone.way that suits you:

Congregation Giant Christmas Card – Do take time to look at all the greetings in the card shared amongst our congregation this Christmas. It is not too late to add your good wishes and either put your donation to The Children's Society in the box, or if you are able to Gift-Aid, use one of the envelopes provided. Thank you for all your support for this charity's important work during 2022. The card is on display in the Publicity Area.

Food Bank Plea – Increased costs of living are hitting foodbanks hard. Do consider whether you can donate: details on our [website](#) and church noticeboard.

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	



Website: www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk

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