



NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion, in Church

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in (or outside) the WCC after the 10am service.

Collect for The Baptism of Christ

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 Psalm for today, Psalm 29

Refrain: *The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters. **[R]**

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox. **[R]**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare;
in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **[R]**

Open our ears, glorious Lord Christ, to hear the music of your voice above the chaos of this world; open our eyes to see the vision of your glory, for you are our King, now and for ever. Amen.

Gospel for The Baptism of Christ, Matthew 3.13-end

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."



Baptism of Christ Icon, 1497, Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery

Come and share our short session for children and young people during our Sunday 10am service EVERY WEEK!

This week, we begin the theme 'Good News' and think about spending time with the friends God gives us.

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.



Newsletter and Notices



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 11th January, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 11th 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.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 14th January, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

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](#).

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 and Thursdays from 3:30pm as part of the “Warm Spaces” initiative. Food available whilst stocks last. Menu changes weekly.”

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 at this season.

TLC Tuesday 7th February, 2:15pm for 2:30pm, WCC – An opportunity to be able to join in with tea and talk and a regular 10/15 minute presentation on wide ranging interests ... 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.

St Albans Cursillo weekend 10th-12th February – Our next weekend will take place at Pleshey (near Chelmsford). We already have a couple of participants from St Michael's and if anyone else is interested then please let us know as soon as possible to help with the planning. More explanation is at www.stalbanscursillo.com. 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. The application form is on the Cursillo website and is to be sent to Mike Ashwood who is the Bookings secretary.

Giant Christmas Card – Many thanks to all who used the Christmas Card to pass on good wishes. A total of £379.70 was raised for the work of The Children's Society.

Holly Rings – If you bought a Holly Ring, please could you return just the wire ring and pine cones to be recycled to help 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 Katharine (or put it in the porch post box) as soon as possible? Many thanks!

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

Paediatric services at Princess Alexandra Hospital – The Patient Panel at PAH has been urged to pass on a message to the local community, to prevent someone with a poorly child from traipsing all around the hospital. The paediatric services at PAH have been relocated to Gibberd ward, at the rear of the hospital, location 6.

Tesco blue tokens for Bells restoration project – We have been successful in our application for the Tesco Community Grants Scheme. Please consider using your blue tokens (in Stortford, Stansted and Elsenham Tesco branches) for our Bells Appeal, from mid-January until the end of March. Winning vote wins £1500.

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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