



Newsletter and Notices

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 Epiphany

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 27. 1, 4-12

Refrain: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
 The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
 One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek:
 that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek his will in his temple. **[R]**
 For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter;
 in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me and set me high upon a rock.
 And now shall he lift up my head above my enemies round about me;
 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness;
 I will sing and make music to the Lord. **[R]**
 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy upon me and answer me.
 My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.' Your face, Lord, will I seek.
 Hide not your face from me, nor cast your servant away in displeasure.
 You have been my helper; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. **R**

God, our light and our salvation, illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living, and, looking on your beauty, may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An anthem for today, *Christ, whose glory fills the skies*

Music, Harold Darke (1888-1976), Words, Charles Wesley

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,
 Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
 Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.
 Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
 joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see,
 till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart
 Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
 fill me, radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
 more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

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Gospel for today, Matthew 4. 12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
 on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
 the people who sat in darkness
 have seen a great light,
 and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
 light has dawned.'

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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). **This week, we continue the theme 'Good News' and identify how God uses ordinary people to work for him. Next week we're delighted to have our breakout group for older children too!**

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.





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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

Holy Communion, Wednesday 25th January, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 25th 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 28th January, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Forthcoming services of Holy Communion at 8am – Holy Communions will be celebrated at 8am on **Sundays 29th January and 5th and 19th February**.

Oliver King Organ Recital, NEXT SATURDAY 28th January, 7-8:30pm – "A formidable force in organ playing". Oliver played piano at St Michael's as part of a 'four hands' piano recital with Martin Huggett in 2019. You can find out more about him and the evening's programme by visiting the [Music page](#) on our website. We look forward to welcoming Oliver back for this exciting concert.

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](#).

Mothers' Union meeting, Wednesday 8th February – There will be a final Mothers' Union meeting on Wednesday 8th February from 2pm. We will start with an AGM, followed by a tea party.

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.stalbancursillo.com. Many members of St Michael's would recommend: do speak to the Ashwoods, the Emmets, 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.

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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 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!

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.

A message from Archdeacon Janet – Derwyn's recovery is continuing. His involvement in parish worship and activity is gradually increasing. Plans are in place for this to continue over the coming weeks and months. Derwyn is looking to take on a manageable amount of pastoral work and is happy to have 1-1 face to face conversations. Electronic enquiries about parish activities and ministry should continue to go to the Parish Office or to June or Derek. For practical Parish matters, please do approach the Churchwardens in the first instance. Please do continue to pray for Derwyn and the family, for one another and for your wider community. With my prayers, thanks and good wishes for you all, Archdeacon Janet.

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

Charges are introduced for Sunday town parking – A fixed all-day rate of £1.50 is now in place, including Apton Road and Basbow Lane carparks.

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

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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