



8am Holy Communion, in Church

10am Service of the Word, 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 Collect for The Third Sunday before Lent

Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 112. 1-9

Refrain: The righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.

Alleluia.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and have great delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land,

a generation of the faithful that will be blest.

Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness endures for ever.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright;

gracious and full of compassion are the righteous. **[R]**

It goes well with those who are generous in lending and order their affairs with justice,

For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil tidings; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. **[R]**

Their heart is sustained and will not fear, until they see the downfall of their foes.

They have given freely to the poor; their righteousness stands fast for ever;

their head will be exalted with honour.

Generous God, save us from the meanness that calculates its interest and hoards its earthly gain; as we have freely received, so may we freely give; in the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Register for December & January

We remember in our prayers the family of Iris Bishop, whose funeral took place in December; also the families of Patricia Pegrum, Thelma Scrivener and Maryan Yarwood, whose funerals took place this last month.

Gospel for today, Matthew 5. 13-20

Jesus said, 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

Come and share our short session for children and young people during our Sunday 10am service EVERY WEEK. **Almost every week – this week we all share in Christingle with children from St Michael's!**

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 also have an older group breakout on the last Sunday of the month.

Our [Children & Young People](#) website page has loads of activities help young people get to know the person of Jesus.



Last week we continued learning about Paul, with the theme 'Good News' and thought about God's followers telling others about Jesus. We made wristbands and figures of Paul.

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.



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.

Forthcoming services of Holy Communion at 8am – Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8am **this Sunday 5th February and also Sunday 19th February.**

Christingle Service with St Michael's School, this Sunday 5th February, 10am – Please come and share in our worship! This is the one occasion when all members of St Michael's School family are formally invited to join us in worship at church and it would be lovely to see many members of our own church family here to welcome them!

TLC this Tuesday 7th February, 2:15pm for 2:30pm, WCC – An opportunity to be able to join in with tea, talk and a regular short presentation on wide ranging interests. Later, 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! On Tuesday we welcome PC Gary Bentley, Chair of the Herts Christian Police Association to talk about what it's like to be "a Christian and a copper". (The Fire Brigade talk is now in April!)

Holy Communion, Wednesday 8th February, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 8th February, 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, 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. We offer light lunch/refreshments and whatever other support we can.

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

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 11th February, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Quiet Day, now Thursday 16th February – Please note the change of date for this popular event at June's house in Albury.

Lent Reflections: P.R.A.Y.

Tuesdays from 28th February, 12-12:30pm in the Lady Chapel

All are warmly invited to join these sessions during Lent. We'll explore excerpts from Pete Greig's book, *How to Pray*, framed with hymns, silence, and prayer.

Hopefully each session will be followed by a frugal lunch at 12:30pm in the WCC, in aid of the two charities supported by our Charities Support Group Lent Appeal this year: Bishop's Stortford Youth Project (incorporating Thirst Café) and Hope and Homes for Children, who are working in Ukraine.



Ash Wednesday, 22nd February will offer Holy Communion with option of imposition of ashes, at 10am and 7:30 pm. There will be hymns and music at both services.

HBW 'Superheroes' 7th-11th August 2023: We need you to be a tent leader! Will you be a superhero and help the children of our town learn about Jesus and his love for us? You don't have to be an expert because we have people willing and able to help you lead a fun and exciting week for the children. You won't be alone in the tent. All you need is an openness to let God use you to help the children have a great time during this super week! Please contact: davidholidaybibleweek@gmail.com

FINAL PLEA! Holly Rings & Travelling Crib sheep – If you bought a Holly Ring, please could you return just the wire ring and pine cones to be recycled to help expenses next time. We hope that you and your families enjoyed sharing in the Crib during Advent and if you held onto your sheep, 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, until the end of March. Winning vote wins £1500.

Food Bank Update – Bill Macdonald, Chair of Trustees, has written an article sharing news from the last couple of months. It's on our [website](#) and church noticeboard.

Coats for local asylum seekers – Care4Calais would be grateful for men's puffer/waterproof warm coats in S, M, L XL with hoods if possible (no leather or wool). Please check they are clean, no rips or stains and that the zips work and take them to Mione Goldspink at 9 Avenue Road, Bishop's Stortford. They may be left in the porch in a bag or phone 656634 to arrange a time. Thank you in advance.

Charities Support Group news – Following our finance report, we want to thank the congregation for their generosity through the Advent Appeal (£582) and the Holly Fair (final profit - £2952). We've donated £800 each to Meninadança and Bishops Stortford Night Shelter. The rest of the Holly Fair money was distributed to our regular charities including Mary's Meals where there was matched funding on January donations. We'd like a few new members if you'd be interested in joining the group: please speak to Val Ashwood, Peter Rixson, Angela Weeks, Carole Macdonald or Gavin Mintern.

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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