



### NO SERVICE AT 8AM

### 10am Parish Communion, in Church

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

#### A Collect for The First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 62

**Refrain: Wait on God alone in stillness, O my soul.**

1 On God alone my soul in stillness waits; from him comes my salvation.

2 He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

3 How long will all of you assail me to destroy me,  
as you would a tottering wall or a leaning fence?

4 They plot only to thrust me down from my place of honour;  
lies are their chief delight;  
they bless with their mouth, but in their heart they curse.

5 Wait on God alone in stillness, O my soul; for in him is my hope.

6 He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken. **[R]**

7 In God is my strength and my glory;  
God is my strong rock; in him is my refuge.

8 Put your trust in him always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

9 The peoples are but a breath,  
the whole human race a deceit;  
on the scales they are altogether lighter than air.

10 Put no trust in oppression; in robbery take no empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

11 God spoke once, and twice have I heard the same,  
that power belongs to God.

12 Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,  
for you repay everyone according to their deeds. **[R]**

*O God, teach us to seek security, not in money or theft, not in human ambition or malice, not in our own ability or power, but in you, the only God, our rock and our salvation. Amen.*

#### Gospel for today, John 10. 1-6

Jesus said: "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

#### An anthem for today, *Lord, let me know mine end*

Maurice Greene (1695-1755)

Organist of St. Paul's Cathedral and of the Chapel Royal of George II.

Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days,  
that I may be certified how long I have to live.

Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long,  
and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee;  
And verily every man living is altogether vanity.

For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain;  
he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.

And now, Lord, what is my hope? truly my hope is even in thee.  
Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with thine ears consider my calling;  
hold not thy peace at my tears.

O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength,  
before I go hence, and be no more seen.

#### 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).



Last week we made a picture of Ruth or Naomi's faces and then our own, talking about how we too can love God as those women did.

**We also have an older group breakout session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.** We continue our theme of loyalty, friendship and service: learning more of the story of Ruth, this time with Boaz (*Ruth 2-4*).

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



**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 1<sup>st</sup> March, 10am** – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

**Tiny Tots, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 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 4<sup>th</sup> March, 9:30am** – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

**TLC Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 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! This month we welcome a Guide Dogs volunteer (and her pup!), to talk about her experience as a Guide Dogs Puppy Raiser and the onward journey.

**Lent Reflections: P.R.A.Y.**

**Tuesdays from 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.



**Lent Red Bucket Appeal from the Charities Support Group** – The proceeds will be added to the money raised through the Tuesday Lent Lunches this year. This follows the Emergency Appeal for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake for which we are sending the money through the DEC. We will split the Lent money between Bishop's Stortford Youth Project and Hope and Homes for Children. Further information about the charities and details of online donations to CSG can be found on [our website page](#) or ask the Parish Office for a copy. We also look forward to welcoming **Jessica and Sarah from BSYP to talk after the service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March: over coffee in the WCC, at 11.30am.**

**Steven Watson Guitar Recital, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 3pm** – Come and enjoy a selection of beautiful music, including works by 'Shakespeare's lutenist' Robert Johnson, Franz Liszt, Django Reinhardt, and an early 19th century sonata by the Czech guitarist Wenzel Matiegka. For some fascinating programme notes, visit the [Music Page](#) on our website. Free admission, refreshments served.

**HBW 'Superheroes' 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August 2023:** Registration for children opens soon! This year it's at Windhill 21 School.

**Please does anyone know of a flat or two bedroomed dwelling available** to rent for a Ukrainian family - a young woman, her mother and her daughter? They are currently hosted in Bishop's Stortford but know that they have to vacate their accommodation by the end of March and are really concerned about what happens next. Any suggestions or help would be much appreciated. Please contact Angela Weeks on 07974 852086.

**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.

**Children's Society representative needed** – "We are moving away from Bishop's Stortford and looking for someone willing to replace us as St Michael's Children's Society representative. The role is not too onerous. Anyone interested in supporting the work of this important charity please get in touch (659476). Best wishes, Pat and Alan".

**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.

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)	652173	Churchwardens: Claire Conquest	07944 431873
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)	07539 058946	Gill Johnson	07912 432221
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)	833523	Deputy Churchwardens: T Pigram, P Rixson	
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