



## No Service at 8am

### 10am Holy Communion, in Church

We welcome Adeola Akinde, Fiore Akinde and Max Baulcomb to share Communion as newly confirmed members of the church.

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

### 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). **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 looking at God's big plan and begin to consider the Easter story, asking 'Where is Jesus?' (*John 19. 17-30, 20. 1-18*) Our [Children & Young People](#) website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.

### Bible readings for today, as we focus on 'intercession/asking':

#### Genesis 18. 20-33

The Lord said, 'How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.' So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' And the Lord said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.' Abraham answered, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?' And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.' Again he spoke to him, 'Suppose forty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do it.' Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.' He answered, 'I will not do it, if I find thirty there.' He said, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.' Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.' And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

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

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

### A Psalm for today, Psalm 61

**Refrain: You are my refuge, O God, a strong tower against the enemy.**

Hear my crying, O God, and listen to my prayer.

From the end of the earth I call to you with fainting heart;

O set me on the rock that is higher than I.

For you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

Let me dwell in your tent for ever and take refuge under the cover of your wings. **[R]**

For you, O God, will hear my vows;

you will grant the request of those who fear your name.

You will add length of days to the life of the king,

that his years may endure throughout all generations.

May he sit enthroned before God for ever; may steadfast love and truth watch over him.

So will I always sing praise to your name, and day by day fulfil my vows. **[R]**

*Risen Christ, as you knew the discipline of suffering and the victory that brings us salvation, so grant us your presence in our weakness and a place in your unending kingdom now and for evermore. Amen.*

### From the letter of James, (James 5. 13-18)

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

### Gospel (Matthew 7. 7-11)

Jesus said, 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

### A Collect for The Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.



**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 **Jake and Sarah from BSYP to talk after the service this Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March: over coffee in the WCC, at 11.30am.**

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

#### Tuesdays until 28<sup>th</sup> March, 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 Sunday's homily is also expanding this theme.

The 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.

**Holy Communion, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 10am** – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

**Tiny Tots, Wednesday 15<sup>th</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, WCC** – Space at the WCC for Ukrainian guests and host families to meet together, along with informal language lessons, once a week.

**Prayers for our Community, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 9:30-10am** – All welcome.

**Sunday Services, 19<sup>th</sup> March** – We'll celebrate Lent 4 at our 8am Holy Communion service and continue our prayer theme at both 8am and 10am, with the theme 'Contemplation'. Children in our Godly Play session next Sunday will be helping to finish floral gifts to give to ladies in our church family.

**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.

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.

### Sunday 26 March 3pm Steven Watson Guitar Recital



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.

St Michael's Church, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford

Free admission with retiring collection  
Refreshments will be served



**Tesco blue tokens for Bells restoration project** – 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, the second placed project £1,000 and the third placed project £500

**TLC Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 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 the Fire Brigade to talk about fire safety in the home.

**Good Friday Choral Evensong, 7<sup>th</sup> April** – There will be a special choral service for Good Friday, with singers from East Herts Church Choirs Association, to explore the Passion of Christ. It will be the only act of worship at St Michael's that day. The church will be open for private prayer. Please come to the service at 7:30pm and, if you might like to read a Bible passage, please contact the Parish Office.

**Other Holy Week and Easter Services** – will be available soon on the [Lent and Easter page on our website](#).

**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.

**Could you help us as a verger for funerals?** Contact the Office if you're interested. It's not an onerous role and training will be given.

**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".

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	<b>Parish Office 01279 654416</b>	



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