



### No Service at 8am

### 10am Holy Communion, in Church

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

*At our 10am service this Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March we introduce and pray for the family of Arthur Stockbridge who is soon to be baptised.*

*The congregation response is, 'With the help of God, we will'.*

**Today we continue our Lent series on prayer, considering the theme, 'Unanswered Prayer'**

### Collect for The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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 13

**Refrain: I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication.**

1 How long will you forget me, O Lord; for ever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long shall I have anguish in my soul

and grief in my heart, day after day?

How long shall my enemy triumph over me? [R]

3 Look upon me and answer, O Lord my God;

lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

4 Lest my enemy say, 'I have prevailed against him,'

and my foes rejoice that I have fallen. [R]

5 But I put my trust in your steadfast love;

my heart will rejoice in your salvation.

6 I will sing to the Lord,

for he has dealt so bountifully with me. [R]

*Jesus Christ, Son of God,*

*who passed through the dark sleep of death,*

*remember those who cry to you*

*in shame and silence and defeat*

*and raise them to your risen life,*

*for you are alive and reign for ever. Amen.*

### A Gospel reading for today, Mark 14. 32-42

Jesus and his disciples went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.' He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

### Share our short session for children/young people at our Sunday 10am service!

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.

Today, we continue to consider prayer and explore Jesus' 40 days in the desert (*Matthew 4. 1-11*).

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



Thank you to all the children in our church family who created such beautiful daffodils and prayer cards for the ladies in our congregation on Mothering Sunday.

### Holy Week and Easter Services

**Next Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April is Palm Sunday** and we'll celebrate **Holy Communion at 8am and Service of the Word at 10am**, with palm crosses at both services.

**Maundy Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 7:30pm - Holy Communion** then stripping of the altar.

**Good Friday Churches Together United Service, URC, 10am**, followed by a Walk of Witness through the town to the Methodist Church, in groups, holding palm crosses.

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

On **Easter Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, we'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am and 10am**, with an Easter egg hunt after the 10am service.



**The church is open each day, from early morning to mid afternoon.**  
*An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection.*

**From this Sunday onwards, there will be an opportunity to journey the 'Way of the Cross', with stations for reflection for all ages.**

**From 2<sup>nd</sup> April onwards, our reflections will include a special prayer corner if you'd like to pray, light a candle or write a prayer on a paper cross and hang it by the cross.**

**Steven Watson Guitar Recital, this 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, and a couple of video 'teasers' visit the [Music Page](#) on our website. **Free admission, followed by homemade scones, tea and coffee.**

**Lent Reflections: P.R.A.Y. , Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 12-12:30pm in the Lady Chapel** – All are warmly invited to join the last session this Lent. We'll explore excerpts from Pete Greig's book, *How to Pray*, framed with hymns, silence, and prayer. Sunday's homily is also expanding this theme. The session will be followed by a frugal lunch at 12:30pm in the WCC.

**Holy Communion, Wednesday 29<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 29<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.

**Tesco blue tokens for Bells restoration project** – until the end of March!

**Prayers for our Community, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 9:30-10am** – All welcome.

**TLC Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2:15pm for 2:30pm, WCC** – An opportunity to be able to share tea and talk and a regular 10/15 minute 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 ... and tell your friends too! This month, six firefighters from the local Fire Brigade will be visiting us to talk about fire safety in the home.

**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

LEVER & Co.  
Solicitors & Conveyancers

**APCM, 28<sup>th</sup> May after 10am service** – Electoral Roll revision starts on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and ends on 30<sup>th</sup> April, if you'd like to join our electoral roll and/or nominate for PCC election.

**HBW 'Superheroes' 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August 2023** – Come and find out what we've been doing this year at our **AGM on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 8pm, at St James, Thorley Emmaus Centre.** Please pray for the success of this year. Looking forward to seeing you!

**In memory of a loved one** – If anyone in the congregation wishes to contribute to the purchase of Easter lilies in the Lady Chapel, please give your donation to Sheila Bridgewater or Barbara Eldridge and complete a dedication card as soon as possible.

**A request for small, wrapped Easter Eggs** – We're delighted to be able to offer an Easter Egg hunt for the children and young people of St Michael's after the 10am service on Easter Day. We'd be most grateful for donations of **small (Creme Egg size) individually wrapped Easter Eggs.** Please place them in the box in the Publicity Area, thank you!

**Lent Red Bucket Appeal from the Charities Support Group** – The proceeds will be added to the money raised through Lent Lunches this year. This follows the Emergency Appeal for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake for which we sent £474.05 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.

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

**The Church-School Committee of the Governors at St Michael's school really needs one or more Associate Governors** – There are only two formal meetings a year. We focus on the SIAMS 'Church school' inspections priorities, RE and Collective Worship, and also promote and encourage Church links, with St Michael's Church in particular. We would appreciate more input from St Michael's Church to complement the excellent work by the headteacher Rachel Griffiths at school. The last inspection feedback (2019) is available on the [St Michael's school website](#). Hopefully we can support the school in this important area. Please speak to us at church or contact by email the co-chairs Val Ashwood and Mark Johnson ([chair@stmichaelsjmi.herts.sch.uk](mailto:chair@stmichaelsjmi.herts.sch.uk)) or see Katharine Stanley if you are interested.

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 Pigrum, P Rixson	
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