# **Newsletter and Notices**

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 Palm Sunday



### 8am Holy Communion, in Church 10am Service of the Word, in Church & Zoom

Palm Crosses at both services

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 #

Today we conclude our Lent series on prayer, considering the theme, 'Spiritual Conflict'

#### **Collect for Palm Sunday**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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 82

Refrain: Arise, O God, and judge the earth

God has taken his stand in the council of heaven;

in the midst of the gods he gives judgement:

'How long will you judge unjustly and show such favour to the wicked?

'You were to judge the weak and the orphan; defend the right of the humble and needy;

'Rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. [R]

'They have no knowledge or wisdom; they walk on still in darkness:

all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

'Therefore I say that though you are gods and all of you children of the Most High,

'Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like one of their princes.'

Arise, O God and judge the earth, for it is you that shall take all nations for your possession. [R] God our deliverer, when the foundations are shaken and justice has departed, defend the poor and needy and give your people strength to fight all wrong in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Parish Register for March**

We remember in our prayers the family of Trevor Smith, whose funeral was in March. We also celebrate the confirmation last month of Adeola Akinde. Fiore Akinde and Max Baulcomb.



Jesus said, "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.

John 12, 13-16

The crowd took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Jesus, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord - the King of Israel!' Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!' His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered.

#### 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. Today, we'll create a Palm Procession and enjoy activities focused on this week's Gospel from John chapter 12.

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

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.

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The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar) The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)

The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) Rob Klincke (Reader)

Charity Registration No. 1130646



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Scan code for website





St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

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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.

We offer an opportunity to journey the 'Way of the Cross', with stations for reflection for all ages. Our reflections 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.

#### **Special Holy Week and Easter Services**

This 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.

At **7:30pm on Maundy Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April we'll share 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**th **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.

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.

**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. Due to the funeral at 1:30pm, if you need to park in the churchyard, please do so before 1:25pm, or after 2:15pm.

**Holy Communion, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 10am –** A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

**Tiny Tots, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 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 weekly, with informal language lessons.

St Michael's Coffee Morning, WCC, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Come and join us for a cuppa from 10am to 12 noon. Fresh coffee / tea, biscuits and cakes ... plus a cake stall, a raffle and a good as new / unwanted gift stall. All contributions to the good as new/unwanted presents stall and the cake stall will be gratefully received. Thank you.

**Choral Evensong 14<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm –** Save the date for this service when we're delighted that the new Bishop of Hertford, The Rt Rev'd Dr Jane Mainwaring will be preaching.

**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 –** Sign up for helpers and children is open at holidaybibleweek.co.uk Please pray for the success of this year.

**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 <u>our website page</u> or ask the Parish Office for a copy. Palm Sunday will be the final day for donations and the red buckets.

**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.

**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 <a href="St Michael's school website">St Michael's school website</a>. 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 (<a href="chair@stmichaelsjmi.herts.sch.uk">chair@stmichaelsjmi.herts.sch.uk</a>) or see Katharine Stanley if you are interested.

**Children's Society –** Good news! Carole Macdonald is taking over as Children's Society Rep in St Michael's Church. We are hoping to empty all collecting boxes before we leave, so please bring your box to church or get in touch if you need us to pick it up. Thank you. Pat & Alan (659476).

**Church football team –** Tom Amos, Youth & Young Adults Ministry Lead at the Community Church is looking to start a team in the town, initially with kickabouts in April/May on Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons. Contact tom@thecommunitychurch.org.uk