

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 19th November 2023 Second Sunday before Advent



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

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 **#** Please come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the WCC after the 10am service.

Following Jesus: Our worship will centre around themes of discipleship, with readings and hymns chosen to focus.

The readings are distributed with our newsletter each week by email. Please complete a form in the Publicity Area if you'd like to receive weekly emails.

Today we'll be considering Following Jesus in our leisure

A Psalm for today, Psalm 148

Refrain: O praise the name of the Lord.

Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light.

Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. [R]

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord. For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven.

He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants,

the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia. [R]

O glorious God, your whole creation sings your marvellous work; may heaven's praise so echo in our hearts that we may be good stewards of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Gospel reading for today, Mark 8. 34 - 9. 1

Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.' And he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.'

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

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 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. **This week we**

begin a new series as we approach Advent: Good news for Everyone. How will we demonstrate that the good news is for all people and all nations?

The 'Remembrance Tree' with poppies made by our young people as part of our Remembrance worship and reflections last week in A Godly Play.

Our Children & Young People website

page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.

We are delighted to announce the recommencement of our young person's choir – If your child is 7 or over and interested in joining, please contact Nathan Collins (stmichaelsbsdom@gmail.com) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people and welcome the support of those who would like to help contribute to these.



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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.

Today is Safeguarding Sunday. We strive to keep everyone safe. In an effort to do so we ask if anyone has any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a member of the church especially a child or the elderly, they should please feel free to raise it with Dotun Akinde (Parish Safeguarding Officer). Any joys, thoughts, concerns could also be shared with Michelle Durnell (Children's Advocate).

The videos below help us better understand safeguarding within St Michael's: What is safeguarding How do we make church safer

Holy Communion at 8am - Forthcoming services at 8am will be this Sunday 19th November, then 3rd and 24th December, and 7th January.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 22nd November, 10am - A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 22nd November, 11 for 11:15am 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 in the WCC, if you can. We gather in the WCC and walk across to the Lady Chapel for worship.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 25th November, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

St Michael's Recital, next Sunday 26th November, 3pm -Pavlos and his wife Marily are excellent musicians and will guide you through a beautiful selection of music by an eclectic mix of composers. You will also get to hear a little of Nathan's tunefulness along the way. As usual, refreshments will be served at the end, so please consider staying for a chat over tea and cake. Entrance and refreshments are free of charge with a retiring collection for those who are able to and would like to make a donation.



Holly ring making - We're starting our holly ring making in preparation for the Holly Fair. Mossing up 21st November, Ring making 27th, 28th and 30th November from 9am. There are sign-up sheets on the welcome desk or speak with Peter or Claire. Please let us know if you have any holly or mature ivy for the Holly Rings. We have a few people able to collect the holly and can also direct you to where to leave it on weekend of 25th-26th November if you are able to cut and transport it yourself.

St Michael's School Christmas Fayre, next Saturday 25th November, 12-3pm. We are all invited to come along and support our church school!

Holy Trinity Night Shelter is preparing to reopen on 29th November, complete with two extra pods, and is seeking volunteers to help in the evenings or overnight this winter. For more information talk to Val Ashwood or see the Night Shelter website.

Holly Fair, Saturday 2nd December – If you can run a stall or help in any other way please give your name to Mireille, Carole, Claire or Val. We are collecting chocolate, unwanted gifts, bottles and items for raffle hampers for the Holly Fair (list and boxes for donations in Publicity Area). If you are able to donate a raffle prize, or obtain one from a local business, these are also welcome (we will advertise list of prize donors). Also please invite your friends and neighbours to the event to help make it a success.

Travelling Crib - Once again we are delighted that our travelling crib will be making its way around the parish during Advent; beginning with a blessing at the 10am service on 3rd December. Hosting the figures for a night is a wonderful chance to share with children the anticipation of Christ's birth and fellowship with other families as the crib is passed on ... and a moment of stillness in an otherwise busy Advent. Please chat to Katharine if you'd like to know more about it and to sign up for a night.

TLC Tuesday 5th December, 2:15pm for 2:30pm, WCC - Join in with tea and talk and a regular 10/15 minute presentation. 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. This month, our speaker is June Milne, a volunteer for UK-Aid: Felsted Aid for Deprived Children, which supports victims of Chernobyl and the Russian invasion.

MU Advent Service, Great St Mary's, 19th December, 2pm - Great St Mary's Mothers' Union branch would like to invite MU members to their service in Sawbridgeworth, followed by light Christmas refreshments in Church House.

Bishop's Stortford Child Contact Centre - The work of the Centre is expanding and they are looking to recruit new volunteers. If interested, please contact the co-ordinator (admin@bsccc.co.uk) or you are very welcome to contact Angela Weeks (831404) for an initial chat.

Greetings Cards for sale – There is a wide range of cards on display in the Charnley Hall. Rosemary keeps them topped up regularly and they now include good value Christmas cards (raising funds for the work of the Charities Support Group).

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

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