



No Service at 8am

10am Parish Communion, in Church

3:30pm Carols and Candlelight Service, in Church

An informal carol service, in collaboration with Daniel Robinson & Sons. There will be special emphasis on remembering loved ones.

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

Collect for The Second Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 85, 1-2, 8-13

Refrain: Show us your mercy, O Lord.

Lord, you were gracious to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the offence of your people
and covered all their sins. **[R]**

I will listen to what the Lord God will say,
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.

Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land. **[R]**

Mercy and truth are met together,
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
Truth shall spring up from the earth
and righteousness look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed give all that is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him
and direct his steps in the way. **[R]**

Most holy God,

*when we come to you fearing that truth condemns us,
show us that truth is one with love in your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

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 continue our Advent series Good news for**

Everyone: How will we demonstrate that the good news is for all people and all nations?

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.



Last week we heard about the good news for the shepherds, and made a paper chain of our prayers; as we wondered at and thanked God for the good news that Jesus is born.



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

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

Travelling Crib, throughout Advent – Our travelling crib is making its way around the parish during Advent. 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. Do chat to Katharine Stanley if you'd like to know more and to sign up for a night, **we've still got a few places we would love to fill!**

Advent and Christmas Services at St Michael's – [All details are on our website](#) and on flyers in the Publicity Area but note our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm next Sunday 17th December, Holy Communion at 8am, Crib Service at 3:30pm and Midnight Service at 11pm (with Choir Carols from 10:30pm) on Christmas Eve. We'll celebrate Parish Communion at 10am on Christmas Day. **We would welcome volunteers to read at Nine Lessons and Carols, speak to Derwyn if interested.**

Holy Communion, Wednesday 13th December, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 13th December, 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.**

Carol Singing with the Town Band Friday 15th December, 12noon-2pm – Meet in Jackson Square [at the mall square](#). A great fundraising event for Bishop's Stortford Child Contact Centre.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 16th December, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

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.

Funeral of Helen Britton, Thursday 21st December, 1pm – Chris and family would like to invite all who knew Helen to the funeral and then afterwards to refreshments in the WCC.

Holy Communion at 8am – Forthcoming services at 8am will be **on Sunday 24th December and then 7th January.**

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.

Company at Christmas urgently require a few more drivers on Christmas Day

This is a commitment of about one hour between 11:45am-12:45pm to deliver a meal and bring one/two people to the Methodist Church, and about a half hour to take guests home at 5pm. Please contact Steve Dale on 07769 908777 if you can help or Jenny Klincke on 07951 037851 if you have any questions before committing.

TLC Tuesday, a date for your diary – We're not meeting in January but do make a note of **6th February in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm.** An opportunity 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.

Once again the Giant Christmas Card gives everyone the chance to send Christmas Greetings to their St Michael's friends and instead of incurring postal charges making a donation to The Children's Society. The card will be displayed in the Publicity Area on Sundays and Wednesdays. Very many thanks for your support.

Charities Support Group Advent Red Bucket appeal – This year we're supporting two local charities. Details about donating by bank transfer can be found [via our website CSG Page](#). **Care4Calais Stansted** helps asylum seekers, accommodated in two hotels close to Bishop's Stortford. The group of volunteers from and around Bishop's Stortford, provide moral and emotional support during this difficult time for local asylum seekers (many families with children, including new-borns) living in difficult situations. We source basic supplies, arrange activities (eg. children's parties/craft sessions) and English lessons. They have endured painful experiences and are escaping horrific situations - so your donations really make a difference. 100% of donations received purchases items and provides crucial services in our area. If you'd like to know more, please speak to Alison Jordan.

We support the **Holy Trinity Night Shelter** every winter and they are open overnight from the end of November. The Shelter needs more volunteers including evenings and lunchtimes. Please contact Dave Perry via htnsmanager@outlook.com If you'd like to know more you could also see Val Ashwood, Margaret Fox or Angela Weeks.

Holly Fair thanks – The Charities Support Group would like to thank everyone who worked hard and made the Holly Fair such a success again. There was a lovely atmosphere and we hope all enjoyed the occasion. The total profit was £3006.

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