



NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion, in Church

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in (or outside) the WCC after the 10am service.

Collect for The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of 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 111

Refrain: *The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.*

Alleluia. I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the faithful and in the congregation.

The works of the Lord are great, sought out by all who delight in them.

His work is full of majesty and honour and his righteousness endures for ever.

He appointed a memorial for his marvellous deeds;

the Lord is gracious and full of compassion. **[R]**

He gave food to those who feared him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He showed his people the power of his works

in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are truth and justice; all his commandments are sure.

[R]

They stand fast for ever and ever; they are done in truth and equity.

He sent redemption to his people;

he commanded his covenant for ever; holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

a good understanding have those who live by it; his praise endures for ever. **[R]**

Gracious God, you are full of compassion;

may we who long for your kingdom to come

rejoice to do your will

and acknowledge your power alone to save;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Gospel reading for today, Mark 1. 21-28

The disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

An anthem for Today, *O thou, the central orb*

(Charles Wood, 1866-1926, adapted by Henry Ramsden Bramley, 1833-1917)

O thou the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine; thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

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 learn about the presentation of Jesus at the temple, in preparation for our Christingle service next week at Candlemas (Luke 2. 22-40).**

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

We are delighted with 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.



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

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

Clarinet and Piano Recital, this Sunday 28th January at 3pm – It's with great pleasure that we welcome back Andy Mellor and Angela Novy for a Clarinet and Piano recital. Visit the [Music at St Michael's page](#) on our website for programme notes and more information on other forthcoming concerts.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 31st January, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 31st January, 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 3rd February, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Christingle Service with St Michael's School, next Sunday 4th February, 10am – Please come and share in our worship! This is the one occasion when all members of St Michael's School family are formally invited to join us in worship at church and it would be lovely to see many members of our own church family here to welcome them!

There will be a service of Prayer for Christian unity next Sunday 4th February at 7pm in the St Barnabas Centre, Thorley. All are warmly invited. This year's theme is "You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbour as yourself." More information can be found on the Churches Together in England website [here](#).

TLC Tuesday, 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. Do come along...and tell your friends too! Our own James Hellis will be playing the guitar for us.

The next St Albans Cursillo Weekend will be from 16th-18th February, at Pleshey. Cursillo is a movement within the Anglican church which provides a framework for Christians to grow in their faith through prayer, study and action and helps them to share their faith with others. Many members of St Michael's find this helpful, contact John Emmett (07773 528835) if you'd like to know 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.

Food Bank Plea – Increased costs of living continue to hit foodbanks hard. Do consider whether you can donate: details on our [website](#) and church noticeboard.

We are collecting used postage stamps for charity – Please cut off your address leaving an inch border of envelope and place in the bucket in the Publicity Area. Any questions to Christine or Samuel Solway.

Holly Rings – If you bought a Holly Ring at the Holly Fair, please could you return just the wire ring and pine cones to be recycled to help save expenses for next time. Thank you.

Travelling Crib sheep – We hope that you and your families enjoyed sharing in the Crib during Advent! If you have held onto your sheep over Christmas, would you be good enough to return it to Katharine (or put it in the porch post box) as soon as possible? Many thanks!

Advent Appeal thank you – To everyone who donated for Care4Calais locally and the Holy Trinity Night Shelter & Community Outreach. The final total was £665.26 and has been divided between the charities. Please pray for both charities and their work. The Night Shelter is in need of more volunteers and the sleeping accommodation for overnight volunteers is much improved. The shelter is usually open until March. Contact Dave Perry who runs the shelter (htnsmanager@outlook.com) or speak to Val Ashwood if you'd like more information about what it involves.

DIGITAL GIVING TO ST MICHAEL'S

We know that fewer people carry cash, and whilst our donations in the collection plates and offertory box are much smaller, the costs of running our parish remain. Please consider using our **Card-Giving facility (contactless or with PIN)** to support St Michael's. **To give by phone**, text STMIC (then a number from 2 to 20, e.g. STMIC7 or STMIC15) to 70085. The most efficient way to give is by **Standing Order** direct from your bank account: please see the Giving Season envelopes from our most recent Stewardship renewal, in the Welcome Area.

Thank you for considering your giving to St Michael's at this season.

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