



10am Parish Communion

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

Collect for The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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 106 *Refrain: The Lord remembered his covenant*

The wrath of the Lord kindled against his people, and he abhorred his inheritance. He gave them over to the hand of the nations, and those who hated them ruled over them.

So their enemies oppressed them and put them in subjection under their hand.

Many a time did he deliver them, but they rebelled through their own devices and were brought down through their wickedness.

Nevertheless, he saw their adversity, when he heard their lamentation.

He remembered his covenant with them and relented according to the greatness of his faithful love. **[R]**

An anthem for today *Blessed be the God and Father*

*Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876); Text: 1 Peter 1:3-5, 15, 17, 22b, 23a, 24
Composed for Easter Sunday evensong at Hereford Cathedral, 1834*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed at the last time.

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.

Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.

Love one another with a pure heart fervently. See that ye love one another.

Love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God.

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.

The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away.

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Amen.

Romans reading for today:

Romans 11.1-36 (excerpts) Has God rejected his people?

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 11. 20-24

Jesus began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. 'Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgement it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that on the day of judgement it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.'

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** Today, we'll be continuing concluding our Eastertide theme of light (*Matthew 5. 14-16*) and learn to be encouraged by what Jesus says about those who follow him.



Last week we made bracelets to remind us that Jesus is always with us, (*Matthew 28.20*).

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

Have you enjoyed our choral music this Easter? 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.

Quiet Days in Albury, next on Wednesday 1st May – These popular days of reflection and contemplation in June's home have returned. Places are limited, please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 1st May, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 1st May, from 10:45 for 11:15am – Worship for babies/toddlers; with a story, singing and instruments 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 at 11:15am for a short worship.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 4th May, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Bishop's Stortford Gospel Choir Concert 4th May 7pm at Holy Trinity – This Spring Concert is to raise money for the Holy Trinity Night Shelter. Tickets are £10 (Concessions £7). Tickets available at cbbs.org.uk

TLC Tuesday, 7th May in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm – Join 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! This coming month, Margaret Webb will be our speaker, talking about her work with the charity, Rotary Jaipur Limb.

Ascension Day, Thursday 9th May, 7:30pm – All are warmly invited to share in our special Evensong service of Holy Communion, with music and hymns.

Christian Aid Week, 12th-18th May – If you wish to find out more or to make a donation, go to christianaid.org.uk or give via the **Christian Aid Red Bucket in church** at services from 12th May. Why not have fun and try the 2024 CA Quiz with family and friends! Thank you so much. Carole Macdonald.

Services for Pentecost, Sunday 19th May – Please note these services in your diary, more information soon! 8am Holy Communion, 10am Pentecost Praise Service of the Word, 11:15am A simple Book of Common Prayer Said Holy Communion at the High Altar to offer Pentecost Communion.

Annual Meetings – Our Vestry Meeting and APCM will be held after worship on the morning of **26th May**. **The Electoral Roll will be revised until 28th April**. See notices/forms for details. If you can consider offering service as a Parochial Church Council (PCC) member for 2024-27 (5 Monday meetings annually, at 7:45pm), please speak to a Churchwarden, Minister, or current PCC member. Many thanks. Over the coming weeks the APCM documentation will be published on the website from the [PCC page](#).

The TLC Club invites you to join them on their annual mystery tour on Tuesday 4th June – “We leave Bishop's Stortford just after 1pm, arriving back around 5:30/6pm. Cost is £25 covering travel and cream tea at our destination”. Speak to Rosemary asap or email/call her for more details and to book (r.thomson019@gmail.com / 758389).

HBW, Monday 5th - Friday 9th August, Windhill21 – This year's theme is 'There's a world out there' [Registration for children and volunteer sign up here](#).

Small part-time job available – We are looking for a cleaner for the WCC: 5 hours a week, flexible hours. If you're interested, please contact Gill or Claire.

Volunteer Chaplaincy – Are you interested in becoming a chaplaincy volunteer visitor? Princess Alexandra Hospital is planning to run a training course for interested potential new chaplaincy volunteers. The ten-week course will run every Tuesday evening starting on Tuesday 16th April, from 6:30-8:30pm. Email paht.chaplaincy@nhs.net or call 01279 973407/973183 to book your space.

St Albans Diocesan Synod Elections – Elections to the Diocesan Synod by the Houses of Laity and Clergy in the Deanery Synods for the triennium 2024-2027 will be held between 1st May and 15th July 2024 this year. Please see the noticeboard for more information and speak to Derwyn, if you'd value his recollections of serving on the Synod.

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)	899261	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 Pigram, P Rixson	
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