

10am Parish Communion

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

***We are also warmly invited to share bubbles and cake
to celebrate Peter Eldridge's 90th birthday***

Collect for The Seventh Sunday of Easter

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, 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 37. 1-8

Refrain: The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord.

Fret not because of evildoers; be not jealous of those who do wrong.
For they shall soon wither like grass and like the green herb fade away.
Trust in the Lord and be doing good;

 dwell in the land and be nourished with truth.

Let your delight be in the Lord and he will give you your heart's desire. **[R]**

Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him,
 and he will bring it to pass.

He will make your righteousness as clear as the light
 and your just dealing as the noonday.

Be still before the Lord and wait for him;

 do not fret over those that prosper as they follow their evil schemes.

Refrain from anger and abandon wrath; do not fret,
 lest you be moved to do evil. **[R]**

We continue our series from Paul's letter to the Romans

Romans 14. 2-19 *None of us lives to himself*

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 7. 1-5

Jesus said: 'Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbour, "Let me take the speck out of your eye", while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye.'

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 sharing the Ascension Day story (*Acts 1. 1-11*).



Last week we learned how Jesus loves us and wants us to love others, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (*John 15. 12*). We made play-dough heart-shaped candle holders to take home and remind us always.

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 (stmichaelsbdsdom@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.



Newsletter and Notices



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

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

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 this Sunday, 12th May. Why not have fun and try the 2024 CA Quiz with family and friends! Thank you so much. Carole Macdonald.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 15th May, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 15th 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 18th May, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Services and barbecue lunch for Pentecost, next Sunday 19th May – Please note these services in your diary: 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. Our coffee time will blend into a celebratory Pentecost barbecue lunch, after coffee and at the conclusion of the BCP service. **Sign up sheets are in the Publicity Area – all are warmly invited!**

APCM, Sunday 26th May after 10am service – Over the coming weeks the APCM documentation will be published on the website from the [PCC page](#). There will be a few hard copies of the papers, along with the finance documents available in the Publicity Area. Any other members who are unable to print their own papers, or read them via the website, please contact Katharine Stanley. **Please email Graziana Maddalozzo (stmichaelsbtreasurer@gmail.com), our Treasurer, with any queries you have about the finance papers in advance of the APCM. Thank you.**

Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 30th 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.

Conversation about Children and Young People – We'll be having a gathering in the Lady Chapel immediately after the 10am First Sunday service on **2nd June**, for children, young people and their families. We'd love to hear thoughts about what we're now doing with our younger church members, and how this ministry may develop. Further details and publicity to follow, but please note the date! Thank you.

A recital with UK Chinese Ensemble, Sunday 2nd June, 3pm – We introduce Dennis Lee playing Xiao (a Chinese vertical end-blown flute) with other musicians on Pipa, ('Chinese Lute') and Guqin, ('Chinese Zither'). Free admission with retiring collection and tea and homemade cake served afterwards.

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).

Coffee Morning, Saturday 8th June, 10am-12noon – All welcome! Fresh coffee / tea and cakes ... plus a cake stall, a raffle and a good as new / unwanted gift stall. Come and join us for a cuppa! Any helpers and cake bakers would be most appreciated. Please contact Gill.

Love Stortford '24, 10th - 15th June – The Churches Together event is taking place once again. Would you like to join the carnival procession, litter pick, organise your own project or deliver gifts to schools? Pick up a leaflet in the Publicity Area.

HBW, Monday 5th - Friday 9th August, Windhill21 – This year's theme is '**There's a world out there**'. We already have over 280 children signed up! Child registration will stay open until 27th May ... but we have fewer than 40 adults signed up so far (last year we had 85)...so we really need more helpers: please prayerfully consider volunteering. [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.

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.

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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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