St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 2nd June 2024 First Sunday after Trinity



8am Holy Communion, in Church 10am Service of the Word with Holy Baptism, 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 # Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the WCC after the 10am service

Collect for The First Sunday after Trinity

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through 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 81. 1-10

Refrain: O come, let us sing to the Lord.

Sing merrily to God our strength, shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

Take up the song and sound the timbrel, the tuneful lyre with the harp.

Blow the trumpet at the new moon, as at the full moon, upon our solemn feast day.

For this is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob.

The charge he laid on the people of Joseph,

when they came out of the land of Egypt. [R]

I heard a voice I did not know, that said: 'I eased their shoulder from the burden; their hands were set free from bearing the load.

'You called upon me in trouble and I delivered you;

I answered you from the secret place of thunder

and proved you at the waters of Meribah.

'Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you: O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

'There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not worship a foreign god.

'I am the Lord your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide and I shall fill it.' *[R]*

Parish Register for May

We remember in our prayers the families of Libby Allen and David Browning, whose funerals took place this last month.

We also remember the family of Michael Meacock, whose ashes were interred in our Garden of Remembrance last month.

A Gospel reading for today, Mark 2. 23 - 3. 6

One sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' And he said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.' Then he said to them, 'The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.' Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come forward.' Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

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 returning to the Old Testament, beginning a new series on Joshua, as we hear how Joshua continues Moses' work and receives his commision from God, 'Joshua leads the way', (*Joshua 1. 1-9*).

Our <u>Children & Young People</u> 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.



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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.

Conversation about Children and Young People - We'll be having a gathering in the Lady Chapel immediately after the 10am First Sunday service this Sunday 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, this Sunday 2nd June, 3pm - We introduce Dennis Lee playing Xiao (a Chinese vertical end-blown flute) with other musicians on



Pipa, ('Chinese Lute') and Gugin, ('Chinese Zither'). Free admission with retiring collection and tea and homemade cake served afterwards.

There won't be a TLC session in the WCC this Tuesday 4th June - A reminder that this Tuesday, 4th June, our TLC regulars are enjoying a trip out for a cream tea at a surprise venue. We'll be back in July (see details opposite).

Holy Communion, Wednesday 5th June, 10am - A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 5th June, 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 to the Lady Chapel at 11:15am for a short worship.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 8th June, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Coffee Morning, next 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, Monday 10th - Saturday 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? Leaflets in the Publicity Area.

The Big Sing for Music Sunday, Sunday 16th June at 10am - A special service of the Word for Music Sunday - a hymn sandwich!

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.

Charities Support Group presentation, Sunday 16th June, during coffee after the 10am service - The Charities Support Group has invited staff from one of our longstanding charity partners, Eden and Nabikabala schools in Uganda, to offer a brief presentation after coffee. Do come along and find out more.

Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 27th June – These popular days of reflection and contemplation in June's home have returned. Places are limited, please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Organ Concert in support of Grove Cottage, Saturday 29th June, 7-8pm - An event sponsored by Daniel Robinson & Sons in support of Grove Cottage. Jonathan Eyre (Organist, Royal Naval College, and Director of Operations, DRS) wishes to give a recital to support this local charity. Free concert; retiring collection for Grove Cottage. Refreshments served afterwards.

TLC Tuesday, 2nd July 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! Next month, The Vicar will be our speaker, talking about his 30 years in ministry.

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! We still need more helpers: please prayerfully consider volunteering. Registration for children and volunteer sign up here.

St Albans Diocesan Synod Elections - Elections by the Houses of Laity and Clergy in the Deanery Synods for the triennium 2024-2027 will be held between 1st May-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.

Christian Aid Week thanks - Thank you very much to everyone for your prayers and your on line donations during Christian Aid Week. We have also so far collected £151 in the Red Buckets, at the BBQ and at coffees. Your support and generosity will definitely make a difference.

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