

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 15th September 2024 Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity



8am Holy Communion, in Church 10am Service of the Word, 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

The Apostles' Creed

Our services until 8th December will feature hymns, readings, prayers and preaching enabling us to explore articles of the Apostles' Creed. Hopefully our worship will take us a bit more deeply into what we believe, why it matters, and how it can shape our lives. The Creed series will be interspersed with our usual Autumn festivals (e.g. Michaelmas and Harvest).

This week we continue with, 'I believe in God, Maker of heaven and earth'.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 8

O Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world!

O Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world!

Your majesty above the heavens is praised

out of the mouths of babes at the breast.

You have founded a stronghold against your foes,

that you might still the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have ordained,

What is man, that you should be mindful of him;

the son of man, that you should seek him out?

You have made him little lower than the angels

and crown him with glory and honour.

You have given him dominion over the works of your hands

and put all things under his feet,

All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field,

The birds of the air, the fish of the sea

and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.

O Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world!

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 10. 2-9

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' Jesus answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

Collect for The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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.

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).

Last week we heard about David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18. 1-5) learning how God gives us friends.

We also have an older group breakout session most

weeks. Today, we continue a short series about David, with David in trouble (1 Samuel 20).

Our <u>Children & Young People</u> website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.

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.



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Forthcoming 8am services - We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am this Sunday 15th, then 29th September (Michaelmas), 6th October (Harvest) and 20th October, 3rd and 17th November and 1st December.

A Sunday Recital, this Sunday 15th September 2024, 3pm We welcome Boglárka György and Amy Butler (Violin and Piano). Please visit our Music at St Michael's page for a glimpse of the programme and a short biography of both artists.

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC from 10am to 12noon, next this Monday 16th September. All welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft. We usually prepare items for sale at the annual St Michael's Church Holly Fair.

Open meeting about Lay Leaders of Worship - You may know that we've been considering creating a team of Lay Leaders of Worship (LLW) at St Michael's, to contribute to future provision of Sunday Worship. This was raised at the APCM in May, for instance. There will be an Open Meeting on the subject on **Monday 16th September, at 7.30 pm**, in the WCC. If you'd like to come to find out more, whether you might be considering offering to become a LLW, or you have some ideas or questions about the proposal, you'll be very welcome. The Diocesan Handbook on LLW (link here and via the forthcoming events page on our website) may be of interest, if you're thinking of coming to the meeting or would just like to know more. Please hold this in your prayers. Thank you, Derwyn.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 18th September, 10am – Refreshments after the service.

St Michael's Bellringers are taking part in Arts in East Herts - with bellringing demonstrations on Thursday 19th September. Visitors are invited to call in any time between 7.45pm and 9pm.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 21st September, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

A special Quiet Day, Thursday 26th September, 10am at St Cecilia – We begin at Little Hadham Church with a Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion. Afterwards, Don Gibson will give a short talk on the history of the church. All are welcome.

Tiny Tots relaunch: a new way, new day, new time! Thursdays from 26th September, from 12:30 - 2/2:30pm - Held weekly in the Windhill Churches Centre, Tiny Tots is for parents/carers and babies/preschoolers during term time, plus older children / siblings are very welcome during inset days and school holidays. We start with playtime and tea/coffee, then songs, stories, activities and a prayer. There's easy buggy access and baby change facilities. It is also ok to be late, we understand! We look forward to welcoming you soon!

St Michael's Patronal Festival Celebrations, Sunday 29th September – All are warmly invited to share in our festival worship: 8am Holy Communion, 10am Michaelmas Service of the Word, 11:15am simple Book of Common Prayer 'Said' Holy Communion at the High Altar You are then invited to join us for a celebratory lunch in the WCC after the 10am service. Sign up sheets are in the Publicity Area and WCC - all are warmly invited!

Help at 10am service on 29th September - Would any members of the congregation like to volunteer to do readings or set prayers at the 10am service for Michaelmas, 29th September. Please respond to the Parish Office if so.

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting Tuesday 1st October in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm -Join tea and talk and a regular 10/15 minute presentation on wide ranging interests. In October, we'll have a talk about a Punjabi wedding.

Harvest, Sunday 6th October – We'll celebrate Harvest at 8am and 10am services. There will be a Red Bucket for the Bishop's Appeal, Thrive: Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture in Sri Lanka. This year the diocese is partnering with The Leprosy Mission to support the Kaveri Kala Manram (KKM) project in Sri Lanka. The country is suffering from a huge economic crisis and families are struggling with soaring prices and shortages of food and fuel. For those affected by leprosy, life is especially hard, with the added burden of being shunned by their community. The Appeal will support a project run by Reverend Joshua, who helps families affected by leprosy to start their own vegetable gardens. We also requesting food gifts for Bishop's Stortford Food Bank.

We are running a Bereavement Journey Course – for anyone who has been bereaved at any time, to explore grief in a safe space. It will be on **Saturdays**, starting 19th October. at June Knight's house. Please do talk to June or Alison, or email alisonfaith1111@gmail.com

A short presentation from the Leprosy Mission, Sunday 20th October – The Charities Support Group has arranged a talk by Matt Henderson, our relatively new area contact, after coffee in the WCC. Please come and find out about this charity we support.

Paid Opportunity: Clerk to the Governors - St Michael's School has a vacancy for the Clerk to the Governors (and other roles), supporting governors by preparing for, attending and minuting meetings up to six times per year (equivalent to two hours per week). Please speak to Mark Johnson / Val Ashwood or visit https://stmichaelsjmi.herts.sch.uk/aboutus/job-opportunities/ to find out 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.

PRAYER, COUNSEL AND SUPPORT

If parishioners would value the prayers, counsel and support of the church, in time of need for themselves or others on their hearts, please do reach out to the ministry team. Do speak to us in person at church services and events, or use the contact details below. Thank you.

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The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)

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