

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 22nd September 2024 Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity



NO SERVICE AT 8am 10am Parish Communion, in church

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 Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary'.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 2

Refrain: The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.

- 1 Why are the nations in tumult,
- and why do the peoples devise a vain plot?
- 2 The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed:
- 3 'Let us break their bonds asunder and cast away their cords from us.' [R]
- 4 He who dwells in heaven shall laugh them to scorn;

the Lord shall have them in derision.

- 5 Then shall he speak to them in his wrath and terrify them in his fury:
- 6 'Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.' **[R]**
- 7 I will proclaim the decree of the Lord;

he said to me: 'You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.

- 8 'Ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.
- 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.' [R]
- 10 Now therefore be wise, O kings;

be prudent, you judges of the earth.

- 11 Serve the Lord with fear, and with trembling kiss his feet,
- lest he be angry and you perish from the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- 12 Happy are all they who take refuge in him. [R]

A Gospel reading for today, Luke 1. 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Collect for The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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

Last week we heard about David in trouble (1 Samuel 20) and thanked God for

his protection

related activities). We also have an older group breakout session most weeks. Today, we conclude our short series about young David, with 'David and King Saul' (1 Samuel 24).

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.

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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.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 25th September, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC.

A special Quiet Day, this 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 this Thursday 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!

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 28th September, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

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

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. Sign up sheets are in the Publicity Area and WCC – all are warmly invited so PLEASE SIGN UP BY THIS SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER.

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.

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC from 10am to 12noon, next this Monday 30th 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.

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.

Details of all services and events are available on the <u>Calendar</u> page on our website. Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

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. 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.

Choral Evensong, Sunday 13th October at 6pm – This lovely service will have a St Luke's tide theme with a focus on healing. Prayers with a laying on of hands for healing will be available at the end of the service.

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

Autumn Coffee Morning: Saturday, 19th October at 10am – 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.

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/about-us/job-opportunities/ to find out more.

A request for toys for Tiny Tots – We are looking for excellent quality toys for 3-4 year olds, and games for older children for inset days/holidays. Please speak to Heather Tanner.

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.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar) 899261
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) 652173
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) 07539 058946
Rob Klincke (Reader) 833523

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