

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 20th October 2024 Twenty First Sunday after Trinity



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

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

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 #

The Apostles' Creed

Our services until 1st 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.

This week we continue with, 'I believe in Jesus Christ, who descended to the place of the dead'.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 88

Refrain: You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before you.

Let my prayer come into your presence; incline your ear to my cry.

For my soul is full of troubles; my life draws near to the land of death.

I am counted as one gone down to the Pit; I am like one that has no strength,

Lost among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,

Whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand. [R]

You have laid me in the lowest pit, in a place of darkness in the abyss.

Your anger lies heavy upon me, and you have afflicted me with all your waves.

You have put my friends far from me and made me to be abhorred by them.

I am so fast in prison that I cannot get free; my eyes fail from all my trouble. [R]

Lord, I have called daily upon you; I have stretched out my hands to you.

Do you work wonders for the dead? Will the shades stand up and praise you?

Shall your loving-kindness be declared in the grave,

your faithfulness in the land of destruction?

Shall your wonders be known in the dark

or your righteous deeds in the land where all is forgotten? [R]

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 27. 45-54

Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said. 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Collect for The Twenty First Sunday after Trinity

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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).

We also have an older group breakout session most weeks. Today, we finish our series on God's Champions as we learn about Luke (Luke 1. 1-4, Acts 1.1-2).



Last Sunday we heard from the story of Timothy that every single person is important to God and that there are things we can do for him (Acts 16. 1-5, 1 and 2 Timothy).

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.

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am this Sunday 20th October, then 3rd and 17th November and 1st December.

A short presentation from the Leprosy Mission, this 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.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 23rd October, 10am - A service of Holy Communion, lin church. Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots: new way, new day, new time! Thursdays from 12:30-2/2:30pm - Held weekly in the Windhill Churches Centre, Tiny Tots is for parents/carers and babies/preschoolers in term time; and 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's also ok to be late, we understand! We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 26th October, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC from 10am to 12noon. next on Monday 28th October. 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.

Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 31st October - These popular days of reflection and contemplation in June's home have returned. Places are limited, please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Commemoration All Souls' Service, 10am, Sunday 3rd November – All are welcome to this reflective service, with readings, choral music, prayers and lighting of candles. . If you would like loved ones to be remembered by name, enter their names CLEARLY IN CAPITALS in the book by the Lady Chapel entrance and please come to the service if you can. (It will be transmitted by Zoom also).

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting Tuesday 5th November in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm - Join tea and talk and a regular 10/15 minute presentation on wide ranging interests. This month we welcome June Milne, past secretary of the historic Dunmow Flitch Trials.

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.

Quiz Night, Saturday 9th November, 7 for 7:30pm prompt in the WCC - Tickets are £15 which includes a fish and chip supper (or chicken), a raffle and funds being raised for The Holy Trinity Night Shelter. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Tables of 8 as a group or individuals welcomed. Tickets from Angela Weeks, Caroline Galway, Lynn Graseman and Rosemary Thomson as soon as possible.

Remembrance Sunday, 10th November - During the 10am Parish Communion service we will be gathering round the War Memorial in the churchyard for our Remembrance Ceremonies. Our Godly Play session will include Remembrance crafts to be placed at the foot of the memorial.

Message from Company at Christmas – If anyone would like to help on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day there is a meeting at the Methodist Church on 28th November at 7:30pm. Also, if anyone knows of a single person who would either like to join us for Christmas lunch, entertainment and afternoon tea or a meal delivered to their home please ask them to contact Deb Hunt: 07900 916243 / deb@mrhunt.co.uk.

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 https://stmichaelsimi.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.

CTBS – A reminder that there are lots of events and courses in our churches locally. Visit the CTBS website or see their Facebook account.

Mary's Meals Foreign Currency Collection - There will be a collection box in church during services for all your foreign currency, no matter how old, obscure or its value. There are also individual envelopes available for you to take home and fill, if you prefer.

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) The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) Rob Klincke (Reader)

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