



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 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.

This week we continue with, 'I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints.'

DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal

We are having a Red Bucket for the next 2 weeks (up until 1st December) to support the Appeal that was launched recently. People across Gaza and Lebanon are in urgent need of food, shelter and medical care. 2.1 million (almost the entire population of Gaza) do not have enough to eat. 3 million people in the area (90% of Gaza and around a million in Lebanon) have been displaced. Some of the congregation will have donated online but we wanted to offer our traditional Red Bucket option too.

Collect for Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; 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 51. 7-15

Refrain: *The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.*

Behold, you desire truth deep within me

and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the bones you have broken may rejoice. [R]

Turn your face from my sins and blot out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me. [R]

Give me again the joy of your salvation

and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation,

and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness. [R]

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 16. 13-20

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 continue our series as we approach Advent: God is Love.** We take time to pause and ponder that God loves us

so much that he became a human being. This week the theme is God with us as we discover that Jesus is God with us. (*Matthew 1. 18-23; Isaiah 7. 14*)

Our [Children & Young People](#) website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.

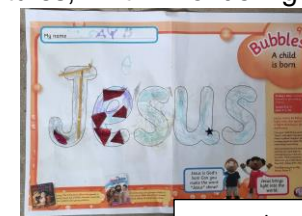
Our young person's choir - If your child is 7 or over and interested in joining, please contact Nathan Collins (stmichaelsbdsdom@gmail.com) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people and welcome the support of those who would like to help contribute to these.

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.

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

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



Last week we began to look forward to the coming of Jesus (*Isaiah 9. 2-7; John 1. 1-18*); making bright and shiny posters to fill the word Jesus with light; whilst the older children worked on decorating their posters of the Creed theme for the week.



Our next recital features Natalie Bleicher, this Sunday 24th November, 3pm – Natalie is a classical pianist and composer living in Hertfordshire. She has a particular passion for contemporary music and performs new works regularly. She studied music at New College, Oxford and composition at King's College London. We look forward to welcoming her for a recital of exciting and accessible contemporary works. Free admission, retiring collection; tea and cake afterwards.

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC from 10am to 12noon, next on this Monday 25th November. All welcome!

Holly ring making – We're starting our holly ring making in preparation for the Holly Fair. Mopping up from 9am **26th November**, Ring making **2nd, 3rd** and afternoon of **4th December**. Sign-up sheets in the Publicity Area or speak with Peter or Claire. If you have holly for the rings we will be collecting it over the weekend **30th November-1st December**. Please contact Peter, Claire or Val for where to leave it or if you would like us to cut we can arrange.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 27th November, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC.

Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 28th November – These popular days of reflection and contemplation in June's home have returned. Places are limited, please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Tiny Tots, 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, and you're welcome to bring a packed lunch if you like. It's also ok to be late, we understand! We look forward to welcoming you soon!

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 a person who would like to join us for Christmas lunch, entertainment and afternoon tea or have a meal delivered to their home please ask them to contact Deb Hunt: 07900 916243 / deb@mrhunt.co.uk.

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

St Michael's School Christmas Fayre, Saturday 30th November, 12-3pm. We are all invited to come along and support our church school!



Christmas flyer distribution – Please help us spread the Christmas message by **posting our flyer to homes in Stortford Fields before 1st December**. They are in bundles at the Cross Aisles in church. Any queries, please speak to Katharine Stanley.

Forthcoming 8am Holy Communion service – Next on **Sunday 1st December**.

Travelling Crib – Once again we are delighted that our travelling crib will be making its way around the parish during Advent; beginning with a blessing at the **10am service next Sunday 1st December**. Hosting the figures for a night is a wonderful chance to share with children the anticipation of Christ's birth and fellowship with other families as the crib is passed on ... and a moment of stillness in an otherwise busy Advent. Please chat to Katharine if you'd like to sign up for a night, **we still have lots of spaces!**

Funeral of Brenda Dearman, Monday 2nd December, 12noon – The family have asked us to say that all are warmly invited to attend both the service and afterwards.

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting Tuesday 3rd December 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, since she was unable to attend last time, we welcome June Milne, past secretary of the historic Dunmow Fitch Trials.

Holly Fair, Saturday 7th December, 10am-1pm, WCC – We are collecting chocolate, unwanted gifts, children's small new toys (value £1+) for a lucky dip, bottles and items for raffle hampers for the Holly Fair (list and boxes for donations in Publicity Area). If you can donate a raffle prize, or obtain one from a local business, these are also welcome (we will advertise a list of prize donors). Nearer the time, if you are a baker, we would welcome cakes and produce e.g. jam, plus home-made mince pies for our mulled wine and mince pie stall. Also please invite your friends and neighbours to the event to help make it a success.

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Sunday 22nd December, 6pm – We would welcome volunteers to read at this service, speak to Derwyn if interested.

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	Churchwardens: Claire Conquest	07944 431873
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	
Rob Klincke (Reader)	833523	Parish Office	01279 654416
Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com		Email: church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk	
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