



8am Holy Communion, in Church

10am An Advent Sequence, in Church

A sequence of readings, prayers, hymns and choral music for Advent Sunday

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

The Apostles' Creed

This Sunday sees the last of our services featuring hymns, readings, prayers and preaching enabling us to explore articles of the Apostles' Creed.

Hopefully our worship has taken us a bit more deeply into what we believe, why it matters, and how it can shape our lives.

This week we conclude with, 'I believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.'

DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal

We are having a Red Bucket today 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 The First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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 80. 1-7

Refrain: Turn us again, O God;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock;

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation. **[R]**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears;

you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,

and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **[R]**

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 24. 23-31

If anyone says to you, "Look! Here is the Messiah!" or "There he is!"—do not believe it. For false messiahs* and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Take note, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, "Look! He is in the wilderness", do not go out. If they say, "Look! He is in the inner rooms", do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. 'Immediately after the suffering of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

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 begin 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 *Peace on earth* as we hear that God became a person, like us. (Luke 2. 1-20; Micah 5. 2-5)

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 (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.

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.



Last week we considered the theme, 'God with us' as we discovered that Jesus is God with us (Matthew 1. 18-23; Isaiah 7. 14) and made hanging decorations to remind us.



Newsletter and Notices



Travelling Crib, throughout Advent – Our travelling crib will be making its way around the parish during Advent; beginning with a blessing at the **10am service this 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. Do chat to Katharine Stanley if you'd like to know more and to sign up for a night, **we've still got places we'd love to fill!**

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC from 10am to 12noon, next meeting tomorrow Monday 2nd December. All welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft.

Forthcoming Funerals – The funeral of Brenda Dearman, is tomorrow, **Monday 2nd December at 12noon** and the family have asked us to say that all are warmly invited to attend both the service and afterwards. The Thanksgiving Service for Margaret Blascos is on **Thursday 12th December at 3pm**.

We're starting our holly ring making in preparation for the Holly Fair, this week 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 this 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.

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting this 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 Flitch Trials.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 4th December, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC.

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!

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 7th December, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

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). 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.

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.

Postage stamps for charity – Remember to save your used stamps this Christmas and put them in the bucket in the Publicity Area to go to charity. Please ensure that the stamps have a one inch paper envelope border, otherwise they cannot be used!

We are still short of drivers to collect and return guests for Company at Christmas. The communal Christmas party is at the Methodist Church Oasis Lounge on Christmas Day, and/or help needed to deliver hot meals to those who are unable to leave their homes. It will consume maybe one hour of your time and our guests would otherwise spend Christmas Day alone. All drivers will need to have a DBS, which can be arranged for them if they don't currently have one or if it has expired. If you can help us this year, please contact Steve Dale (07769 908777) or email: companyatchristmas@gmail.com Many thanks for your help. **ALSO, do sign up to help in other ways if you can! Details in the Publicity Area and our [website](#).**

Giant Christmas Card – Once again the Giant Card will give everyone the chance to send Christmas Greetings to their St Michael's friends, and instead of incurring postal charges making a donation to The Children's Society. The card will be displayed in the Publicity Area on Sundays and Wednesdays from 1st December. Many thanks for your support.

Food Bank Plea – Increased costs of living continue to hit foodbanks hard. Do consider whether you can donate: details on our [website](#) and church noticeboard. You might also wish to consider a 'reverse Advent Calendar' – donating every day in Advent.

Thank you for the Christmas flyer distribution – Between us we have delivered over 1800 flyers to Stortford Fields, St Michael's Hurst and Coopers Grange. If you live in the parish and you'd like to take some for your road, please do. If you don't live in the parish, please use the flyer for a personal invitation to friends but don't deliver to non-parishioners, since they are served by our neighbour churches.

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 Emeritus)	833523	Parish Office	01279 654416
Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com		Email: church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk	
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