



## NO SERVICE AT 8AM

### 10am Parish Communion, in Church

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

#### Collect for The Baptism of Christ

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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.

#### A psalm for today, Psalm 29

##### Refrain: The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;

the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. [R]

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;

the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox. [R]

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;

the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare;

in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. [R]

#### 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.

#### A Gospel reading for today, Luke 3. 15-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'



Last week in Godly Play we learned about The Baptism of Jesus.

#### 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 theme *Talking with God*.** This week, we hear about Jesus talking with God and learn to use Jesus' words to talk and listen to God, (*Luke 11. 1-4, Matthew 6. 5-15*).

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](mailto: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.



# Newsletter and Notices



**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 15<sup>th</sup> January, 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 18<sup>th</sup> January, 9:30am** – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

**Forthcoming 8am services** – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January**, then Sundays 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC from 10am to 12noon** – All welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft. We next meet on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January**.



**Piano Recital, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm** – Neil Crossland is a distinguished British pianist, composer and recording artist. The recital will include music by Vivaldi, Beethoven, and by Neil himself. Find out more, with programme notes, [on our website here](#). Free admission, retiring collection, tea and homemade cakes afterwards.

**Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford United Service – also Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm** at the Baptist Church.

**Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January** – Places are limited at these days of reflection and contemplation in June's home;

do contact the Office for more information.

**TLC Tuesdays, next meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm** – Join tea and talk and a regular 10/15 minute presentation on wide ranging interests. Bill Macdonald will be our speaker next month, on a subject of his choice.

**St Albans Cursillo is part of a movement within the Anglican church which helps to strengthen our faith and witness, as many St Michael's members have found.** Please see the blue leaflets in the Publicity Area for more information. We are holding our **next weekend away at Pleshey Retreat House from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025** and if you are interested, please contact John Emmett ([johnemmett2017@gmail.com](mailto:johnemmett2017@gmail.com)).

**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!

**Mary's Meals** “would like to thank everyone in the parish for their generosity in response to our Foreign Currency initiative. It raised a terrific £239.24 which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 12 children one good meal every school day for a whole year because of your support. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all”. CSG still have an ongoing collection if anyone still has currency to donate. A further amount can be sent once we have 2kg of currency. Please give donations to Martyn Greenwood, Peter Rixson, Claire Conquest, or Val Ashwood.

**Donating to the Food Bank** – Increased costs of living continue to hit foodbanks hard. Do consider whether you can donate: details on our [website](#) and church noticeboard.

**The Charities Support Group is looking for new members** – We'd like to find a Deputy Treasurer and Minutes taker but anyone who is interested in charities and the role of our church in supporting them is welcome. Involvement in the Holly Fair is part of the role, as well as four evening meetings a year when we discuss the distribution of the money to charities. Our first meeting of 2025 is 16<sup>th</sup> January. Please see Val Ashwood, Martyn Greenwood, Gary Jones, Angela Weeks or another group member if you are interested.

**Travelling Crib sheep** – We hope that you and your families enjoyed sharing in the Crib during Advent! If you have held onto your sheep over Christmas, would you be good enough to return it to Katharine (or put it in the porch post box) as soon as possible? Many thanks!

**Holly Rings** – If you bought a Holly Ring at the Holly Fair, please could you return just the wire ring and pine cones to be recycled to help save expenses for next time. Thank you.

**A thank you from Churches Together Bishop's Stortford** – “We worked together on December 21st and the Carol Singing in Jackson Square raised £165 and thank you to Nathan Collins for organizing this. The Coffee Morning in Oasis at the Methodist Church raised £145 ... all for Holy Trinity Winter Night Shelter”.

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 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	<b>Parish Office</b>	<b>01279 654416</b>
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