



NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion, in Church

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

12:30pm Holy Baptism

Collect for The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of 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 19. 7-11

Refrain: The commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure

and gives wisdom to the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is pure

and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;

the judgements of the Lord are true

and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,

more than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey, dripping from the honeycomb.

By them also is your servant taught

and in keeping them there is great reward. **[R]**

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

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

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 overleaf. Thank you.

A Gospel reading for today, Luke 4. 14-21

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

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, in preparation for Candlemas next Sunday, we hear about the presentation of Jesus in the temple: where faithful Simeon and Anna talked with God all their lives (Luke 2. 22-40).

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 (stmichaelsbdom@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.



Last week we discover how prayer is a two-way process: we heard that God wants us to talk with him and that he listens to us, (Luke 11. 5-13). We completed our little books to keep, and did some acting: a neighbour knocking and getting an answer after persisting.



Newsletter and Notices



Piano Recital, this Sunday 26th 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 this Sunday 26th January at 3pm at the Baptist Church.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 29th January, 10am – Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Thursdays from 12:30-2:30pm – Held weekly in the Windhill Churches Centre, Tiny Tots is for parents/carers and babies/preschoolers in term time; and older children 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!

Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 30th January – Places are limited at these days of reflection and contemplation in June's home; do contact the Office for more information.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 1st February, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am **on Sundays 2nd and 16th February, 2nd and 16th March.**

Christingle Service with St Michael's School, next Sunday 2nd February, 10am – Please come and share in our worship! This is the one occasion when all members of St Michael's School family are formally invited to join us in worship at church and it would be lovely to see many members of our own church family here to welcome them!

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 tomorrow, **Monday 3rd February.**

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting Tuesday 4th 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.

Christian Basics and Confirmation (Adults) – I've had some interest in a course to explore the fundamentals of the Christian Faith. So there will be sessions on Tuesdays from 7:30-9pm in the WCC, on February 4, 11 and 25. Just 3 sessions in the first instance, after which participants will decide if going on to further sessions of Confirmation preparation is right for them at this point. If you'd like to join in please contact the Parish Office, or speak to me to find out more. Thank you, Derwyn.

Confirmation Preparation (Young People) – I've had an enquiry about Confirmation preparation for young people, and would like to see if anyone else is interested. If we can gather a group I'd envisage an after-school session on a convenient weekday. If any young people aged 12+ (or soon to turn 12) may be interested in coming along, or want to ask more about Christian nurture and Confirmation, please have a word with me. Thanks, Derwyn.

Lunchtime Recitals, Thursdays 6th, 13th, 27th February and 6th March, 1:30pm – We are delighted to welcome back students from Bishop's Stortford College to St Michael's for a series of half hour/forty-minute recitals. Free admission, retiring collection.

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 21st to 23rd March 2025** and if you are interested, please contact John Emmett (johnemmett2017@gmail.com).

Mary's Meals, foreign currency collection – The Charities Support Group still has an ongoing collection. 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.

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. Please see Val Ashwood, Martyn Greenwood, Gary Jones, Angela Weeks.

Travelling Crib sheep – We hope that you and your families enjoyed sharing in the Crib during Advent! Please return any stray sheep to Katharine (or put in the porch post box).

Home Communion Ministry – Thank you to the team who visit with the sacrament on behalf of our Parish. And thanks for all the reflection, thanksgiving and discussion at our recent meeting. If members of the congregation know of housebound communicant parishioners who may wish to receive visits with the sacrament, please contact the Parish Office, or have a word with one of the clergy. If any lay people would like to be considered to join the Home Communion Team (DBS clearance and Safeguarding Training are required), please let me know. Many thanks! Derwyn.

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.

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