



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 Fourth Sunday before Lent

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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 138

Refrain: Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods will I sing praise to you.

I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

In the day that I called to you, you answered me; you put new strength in my soul. **[R]**

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,

for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly;

as for the proud, he regards them from afar. **[R]**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will preserve me;

you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;

your right hand will save me.

The Lord shall make good his purpose for me;

your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; forsake not the work of your hands. **[R]**

Lord our God, supreme over all things,

look upon the humble and lowly and put new strength into our souls

to complete your purpose for us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

An anthem for today, 'If we believe that Jesus died and rose again'

(John Goss, 1800-1880) Text: 1 Thessalonians 4. 14, 18

If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

A Gospel reading for today, Luke 5. 1-11

While Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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). **This week we continue our theme Talking with God.** We discover that we can always talk with God, (Luke 18. 1-8).

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.



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 12th February, 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, for parents/carers and babies/preschoolers in term time; older children very welcome during inset days and holidays. There's playtime and tea/coffee, then songs, stories, activities and a prayer. 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!

Lunchtime Recitals continue this Thursday 13th February, then 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 free half hour/forty-minute recitals. Retiring collection.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 15th February, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

St Michael's Bellringers will be hosting the East Anglian 12-bell striking competition, George W Pipe Trophy, on Saturday 15th February – We will be welcoming competing bands from Norwich, Ipswich, Bury St Edmund's, Saffron Walden, Chelmsford and Waltham Abbey. St Michael's ringers are very pleased to be able to also take part now that our bells have been augmented to a ring of 12. The ringing will take place from 10:30am to 2:30pm and will be streamed via cameras to the church, so please come along and have a listen. Members of St Michael's ringers will be there to explain more about the event.

Holy Communion at 8am on Sunday 16th February, then 2nd and 16th March.

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 meet next on **Monday 17th February**.

CTBS Forum meeting, Wednesday 19th February 7.30-9pm, Methodist Church – Churches Together Bishops Stortford offers a warm invitation to all to come to our next Forum at the Oasis Lounge, Methodist Church. Tea, coffee, cake, chat, local knowledge table quiz and action planning ideas. Please join us!

Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 27th February – Places are limited at these days of reflection and contemplation in June's home; contact the Office for more information.

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting Tuesday 4th March in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm – Join tea and talk and a regular short presentation on wide ranging interests. Carol Giffen, from Herts & Essex Boundary Flower Club, will be our speaker next month with her talk, 'The road to Chelsea and beyond'.

Ash Wednesday, 5th March will offer Holy Communion with optional imposition of ashes, at 10am and 7:30 pm. There will be hymns and music at both services.

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.

Lent Reflections, Tuesdays from 11th March, 12-12:30pm in the Lady Chapel – All are warmly invited to join these sessions during Lent. This year our theme is *Lent Reflections on Everyday Objects*, with a reading, reflection, hymn and prayer. Each session will be followed by a frugal lunch at 12:30pm in the WCC, in aid of the two charities supported by our Charities Support Group Lent Appeal this year.

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).

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.

Postage stamps for charity – Remember to save your used stamps 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, 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.

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.

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The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)	07539 058946	Deputy Churchwardens: T Pigram, P Rixson	
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