St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 9th March 2025 The First Sunday of Lent



NO SERVICE AT 8AM 10am Parish Communion, in Church

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

During our coffee fellowship we are delighted to welcome Dinah Findlay, who will tell us more about the charity she founded, **Supporting Dalit Children**, which we are supporting in Lent this year.

The other charity we're supporting with our Lent Appeal is **Holy Trinity Night Shelter**.

Collect for The First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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.

From Ash Wednesday we will use Psalm 1 as a Lenten 'Anchor' psalm for the season.

Psalm 1 Refrain: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

- 1 Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither, whatever they do, it shall prosper.

All: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

- 4 As for the wicked, it is not so with them;
- they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement,
- nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked shall perish.

All: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

Christ our wisdom, give us delight in your law, that we may bear fruits of patience and peace in the kingdom of the righteous; for your mercy's sake. 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 contact details on the next page. Thank you.

A Gospel reading for today, Luke 4. 1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." 'Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." 'Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." 'Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." 'When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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 series, *David* the King. We learn how God is kind to us and we can be kind to others, (2 Samuel 9).

Our <u>Children & Young People</u> website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.



Last week we heard about David thanking God for his promise that one of David's family would always be king (2 Samuel. 7). We built our own ark of the covenant and a special tent, enjoyed some acting and shared thank you prayers.

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.



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

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

'Holiday Bible Week Sunday' 9th March - Registration opens for both children and volunteers for this year's event: **HBW 2025, 'Once upon a time...', from Monday 4**th - Friday 8th August.

Thanksgiving Service for Graham Savage tomorrow, Monday 10th March. 1:30pm - The family have asked us to say that all are warmly invited to attend both the service and refreshments afterwards.

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. We begin on 11th March with 'Spectacles'. 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. See our Lent flyer on our website for more information: there are a few copies in the Publicity Area too.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 12th March, 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 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 15th March, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Forthcoming Services using the Book of Common Prayer (1662) - 16th March. 11:15am; Lenten Prayer Book Communion and Litany; 6th April, 6pm; Choral Evensond for Passion Sunday; 18th May, 11:15am: Eastertide Prayer Book Communion; 29th May 7:30pm: Ascension Day Sung Prayer Book Communion; 22nd June 6pm: Choral Evensong for St Alban's Day.

Forthcoming 8am services - We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am next on **Sunday 16th March**, then 6th and 20th April (Easter Day).

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 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 17th March.**

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.

Mothers' Union Lady Day service. Tuesday 25th March – This service will be at 2pm at Hoddesdon Parish Church. Transport to be arranged. If you would like to attend please contact Barbara Eldridge asap (653753 / barbaraheleneldridge@gmail.com)

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

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting Tuesday 1st April in the WCC, 2:30pm - Join tea and talk and a regular short presentation on wide ranging interests. Martin Pettitt will be our speaker next month with his talk, 'The French Peasant and the Welsh Princess'.

Postage stamps for charity - Save your used stamps for the bucket in the Publicity Area. Stamps must have a one inch paper envelope border, or they can't be used!

Mary's Meals, foreign currency collection - The Charities Support Group has an ongoing collection. A further amount can be sent once we have 2kg of currency.

Lent Red Bucket Appeal from the Charities Support Group - The proceeds will be added to the money raised through the Tuesday Lent Lunches this year. We will split the Lent money between Supporting Dalit Children and Holy Trinity Night Shelter. Dalits are also known as 'untouchables', or 'outcasts'. These children are the 'poorest of the poor' in India; many have lost one or both parents, and all the children work from a young age to help supplement the family income. Further information about the charities and details of online donations to CSG can be found on our website page or ask the Parish Office for a copy.

We have an opportunity for a Governor at our Church School! Would you be interested or do you know somebody who might be? Please contact Mark Johnson for information (chair@stmichaelsjmi.herts.sch.uk) or speak to Val Ashwood or the Vicar.

Are you interested in joining a home group? Perhaps you'd like to find out about what they can offer? Contact Derwyn in the first instance if you'd like to know more.

Congratulations to all at St Michael's School – Our church school is delighted that a recent inspection by Ofsted found that 'pupils are proud to attend this school and they show self-assurance that stems from feeling happy and secure'. The inspector highlighted caring staff and a strong sense of community. Well done to all who form that wonderful community. More information here, including tours for interested parents.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar) The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)

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