St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 16th March 2025 The Second Sunday of Lent



8am Holy Communion, in Church 10am Service of the Word, in Church & Zoom 11:15am BCP Holy Communion & Litany, in Church

You are welcome to share in our worship in the following ways:

1. Come to Church All are welcome!

Remember to bring your order of service for the 10am service.

2. Join Zoom on your computer

When signed in you can 'Join a Meeting' (ID: 927 480 8728 / Passcode: 889123).

3. Join with Audio Zoom via phone

a) Call 0131 460 1196 b) Enter Meeting ID then #, then enter Meeting Passcode then #

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

Collect for The Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 are using Psalm 1 as a Lenten 'Anchor' psalm for the season.

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

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.

Their delight is in the law of the Lord and they meditate on his law day and night.

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.

As for the wicked, it is not so with them;

they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement,

nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

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.

A Gospel reading for today, Luke 13. 31-35

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

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 conclude our series,** *David the King.* We discover that, even when God's friends do something wrong, God loves them and wants to forgive them (2 Samuel 11.1 – 12.15).



Last week we learned how God is kind to us and how we can be kind to others, (2 Samuel 9). We did some colouring and made puppets to remind us of the story of David and Mephibosheth.

Our <u>Children & Young People</u> 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.

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.

The church is open each day, from early morning to mid afternoon. An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection.

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

Forthcoming Services using the Book of Common Prayer (1662) – this Sunday 16th March, 11:15am: Lenten Prayer Book Communion and Litany; 6th April, 6pm: Choral Evensong 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.

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon - All welcome! We next meet tomorrow, Monday 17th March.

Lent Reflections, Tuesdays from 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. See our Lent flyer on our website for more information: there are a few copies in the Publicity Area too.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 19th March, 10am – Refreshments afterwards.

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 22nd March, 9:30-10am – All welcome.



'It's Good to Sing' Upper Voices Choir (with David Boarder). Sunday 23rd March, 3pm - Come along to our next recital! Free admission (retiring collection), tea and homemade cakes after.

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 - Days of reflection and contemplation in June's home; contact the Office for more information.

Fabric and grounds working party session, Saturday 29th March, from 10am – All are welcome to help until noon, or whatever time you have available. Please meet in the south porch. We shall be looking at what we can do to keep the church in good repair, and the grounds tidy in the warmer season. Refreshments afterwards.

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'.

Quiz Night, 3rd May, 7pm in the WCC, for a prompt 7:30pm start – We're raising funds for a Leprosy Mission Project (in addition to the donations we make each year through the CSG) as there is urgent need for further help. Tickets are £15 each, including a fish/chicken and chip supper. There will be a raffle too! Please see Rosemary asap for details/tickets, after Sunday and Wednesday services. We can accommodate individuals or tables of 8.

APCM. 25th May after 10am service - The Electoral Roll is due to be renewed this year starting on 31st March and ending on 28th April, if you'd like to join our electoral roll and/or nominate for PCC election. The old Roll will be discarded and everyone who wishes to be on the new Roll will need to fill in an application form.

HBW 2025, 'Once upon a time...', Monday 4th - Friday 8th August - Registration now open for both children and volunteers for this year's event.

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.

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

Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbsvicar@gmail.com

Charity Registration No. 1130646

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