

# **Newsletter and Notices**

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025 Sixth Sunday of Easter



### 8am Holy Communion, in Church 10am Parish Communion, in Church followed by our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the WCC

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the WCC after the 10am service and please stay for our APCM.

#### Collect for The Sixth Sunday of Easter

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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 150

Refrain: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Alleluia. O praise God in his holiness; praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness. [R] Praise him with the blast of the trumpet; praise him upon the harp and lyre. Praise him with timbrel and dances; praise him upon the strings and pipe. [R] Praise him with ringing cymbals; praise him upon the clashing cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Alleluia. [R]

God of life and love, whose Son was victorious over sin and death, make us alive with his life, that the whole world may resound with your praise; through 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 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.

#### A Gospel reading for today, John 14, 23-29

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not letour hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

#### **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, Peter,

friend of Jesus; learning how Peter and Jesus are still friends (Mark 16. 1-8; John 21. 15-19).



Our <u>Children & Young People</u> website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus this Eastertide (including a Lectio

Last week we heard how Peter let Jesus down, and discovered that being a friend of Jesus is not always easy (Mark 14. 27-31). We told the story with Lego and then made special clocks to remind us that we can be a friend of Jesus at

any time of day.

Divina each week for young people this Easter season).

Our young person's choir - If your child is 7 or over and interested in joining, please contact Nathan Collins (<a href="mailto:stmichaelsbsdom@gmail.com">stmichaelsbsdom@gmail.com</a>) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people.

Details of all services and events are available on the <u>Calendar</u> page on our website.

Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

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Forthcoming 8am services - We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am next this Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, then 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Annual Meetings: Our Vestry Meeting and APCM will be held after 10am worship this Sunday 25th May. The APCM documentation may be found on the website from the top of the Home Page. There are a few hard copies in the Publicity Area in church, for those without access to the internet.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 28th May, 10am - A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC.

Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 29th May - Places are limited at these days of reflection and contemplation in June's home; contact the Office for more information.

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!

Forthcoming Services using the Book of Common Prayer (1662) – This Thursday 29th May, 7:30pm: Ascension Day Sung Prayer Book Communion; 22nd June 6pm: Choral Evensong for St Alban's Day.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 31st May, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

There won't be a TLC session in the WCC on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – A reminder that on Tuesday 3rd June, our TLC regulars are enjoying a trip out for a cream tea at a surprise venue. We'll be back on 1st July.

Pentecost Prayer Breakfast, Saturday 7th June 10am-12noon, St Barnabas Centre, Thorley - Find out what local churches, charities, Christian and non-Christian groups are doing in our community. Drop by anytime from 10am for tea, coffee, pastries, information, prayer stations and friendship. We'll finish with a short time of worship at 11:30am.

Pentecost BBQ, Sunday 8th June - All are warmly invited to join us after our 10am service. Sign up in the Publicity Area to give us an idea of numbers. Donations of salads/puds warmly welcomed!

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 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 9th June.

HBW coffee morning, 14th June, 10am-12noon Methodist Church – Come along for refreshments, fellowship and a *Puppets Galore* performance at around 11am.

Love Stortford '25, Monday 16th - Saturday 21st June - The Churches Together event is taking place once again. Would you like to join the carnival procession (we have 3000 gifts to give!), litter pick or organise your own project? Leaflets are in the Publicity Area.

Gt St Mary's Mothers' Union Tea, Church House, Sawbridgeworth, Tuesday 17th June, 2pm - Tickets £3, including scones with cream and jam, and cake. Raffle, bookstall etc. RSVP by 12th June to Rosemary Penketh (01279 600254).

HBW 2025, 'Once upon a time...', Monday 4th - Friday 8th August - Registration now open for both children and volunteers for this year's event; sign up via the HBW website. We have had over 300 children signing up and lots of helpers but we still need more. See the church noticeboard for specific requests.

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.

**Archivist** – We are looking for someone to take on the church archiving. It is an interesting, important and creative role, which you can make your own, and do in your own time. Please see Gill for details.

Felsted Aid for Ukraine - The TLC Club have continued to support the charity following a splendid talk a few months ago and would welcome almost anything that can be sent to help the refugees there. Particularly, they have asked for medical aids, where our NHS do not accept returns (crutches, wheelchairs, support boots etc.) I am more than happy to accept these to forward to the store in Harlow and so speak to me soon. Many thanks Rosemary Thomson (758389 / r.thomson019@gmail.com)

Christian Basics - I've had a couple of expressions of interest in a group to think about the basics of the Christian Faith. This could lead on to preparation for baptism and confirmation. I'd like to run 4 1-hour sessions using the 3-2-1 course in the first instance. This could be on Saturday mornings and/or a weekday evening, depending on availability. If you might be interested, or like to know more, do have a word, or email me at stmichaelsbsvicar@gmail.com Thanks, Derwyn.

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

Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbsvicar@gmail.com

Charity Registration No. 1130646

The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) **Parish Office** 

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