



## NO SERVICE AT 8am

## 10am Parish Communion, in Church

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

### Collect for Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; 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 46

**Refrain: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble;

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,

and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;

Though the waters rage and swell, and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

**All: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; therefore shall she not be removed;

God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken,

but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.

**All: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Come and behold the works of the Lord,

what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.

He makes wars to cease in all the world;

he shatters the bow and snaps the spear and burns the chariots in the fire.

'Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.'

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**All: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

*God of Jacob,*

*when the earth shakes*

*and the nations are in uproar,*

*speaking, and let the storm be still;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Gospel reading for today, Luke 23. 33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

### 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 also have an older group breakout session most weeks. We begin a new series as we approach Advent: Christmas People, and this week we learn about Zechariah, and how God can do impossible things, (Luke 1. 5-25, 57-66).**

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](mailto:stmichaelsbdsdom@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 next page. Thank you.



Last week, we talked about keeping safe and learned more about the Bible; hearing how Jesus read from God's book, (Luke 4. 16-30, Isaiah 61. 1,2). We looked in Bible versions for Jesus and drew the story. This is William's drawing of the donkey for Palm Sunday.



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

# Newsletter and Notices

**St Michael's Recital, this Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 3pm** – Aleksandra Pykacz ('cello) and Shirley Wu (piano) will play a selection of music including Fauré, Rachmaninov and Shostakovich. Listen to a taster via YouTube [here](#). Free admission, retiring collection, tea and homemade cakes afterwards.

**Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. Next on this Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November** – All welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft. We usually prepare items for sale at the annual St Michael's Church Holly Fair.

**Holy Communion, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 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, WCC** – For parents/carers and babies/preschoolers in term time; plus older children in the holidays. Playtime, tea/coffee, songs, stories, activities and a prayer. Buggy access and baby change available, and you're welcome to bring a packed lunch if you like. It's also ok to be late, we understand!

**Prayers for our Community, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 9:30-10am** – All welcome.

**Holly ring making** – We're starting our holly ring making in preparation for the Holly Fair. Mossing up from 9am **25<sup>th</sup> November**, Ring making **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (and afternoon of 3<sup>rd</sup>) December**. Sign-up sheets on the welcome desk or speak with Peter or Claire.

**Forthcoming 8am services** – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am **on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November**, then 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**Travelling Crib for ALL our church family** – Our travelling crib will be making its way around the parish during Advent; **beginning with a blessing at the 10am service on 30<sup>th</sup> November**. Hosting the figures for a night is a wonderful chance to share the anticipation of Christ's birth and fellowship with your family and others as the crib is passed on ... and a moment of stillness in an otherwise busy Advent. Please chat to Katharine if you'd like to know more about it and to sign up for a night.

**TLC Tuesdays, next meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm** Join tea and talk and a regular short presentation on wide-ranging interests. This month we are delighted to welcome children from St Michael's School who will be singing carols to and with us.

**Holly Fair (and Tower Tours too!), Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 10-1pm** – If you know anyone who could donate a raffle prize please speak to Carole Macdonald or Angela Weeks. We'll make Holly Rings as usual the week before the fair. If you would like to make any donations, there will be boxes in church at the services from Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November for the **unwanted gifts stall, the bottle and chocolate tombola and for any raffle prizes**. There will also be a list for donations for the raffle hampers. Any contributions will be greatly received; thank you very much. All proceeds go to charities. **Also please invite your friends and neighbours to the event to help make it a success.**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Christ the King



**Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 6pm** – We would welcome volunteers to read at this service, speak to Derwyn if interested.

**Bereavement Journey Course, Saturday mornings, 17<sup>th</sup> January - 21<sup>st</sup> February** For anyone bereaved at any time; with films and discussion groups. It's the chance to explore grief in a safe space. If you are interested and would value a preliminary conversation please contact Alison Jordan [via the Parish Office](#).

**Quiet Days in Albury** – Days of reflection and contemplation in June's home. We'll be taking a break for a few months, hopefully meeting next on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**. We desperately need drivers, please contact the Parish Office if you think you could help.

**Postage stamps and foreign currency collections 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! The Charities Support Group has an ongoing collection of currency for Mary's Meals. A further amount can be sent once we have 2kg of currency.

**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.

**Communion Music** – To help with congregational singing at communion, the Sidespeople have melody versions of some settings available for worshippers. If you'd be helped by having some music for these, do ask for a score when you pick up your service books.

**Charity Christmas Cards for sale** – There's a wide range of cards on display in the Charnley Hall, on Sundays and Wednesdays; with profits to the Holly Fair.

**We have a wonderful band of cleaners and are now looking for extras** – We have two groups, and it would mean cleaning once every eight weeks. We meet on the final Saturday of the month from 10-11am or earlier if preferred.

**Christmas flyer distribution, (if possible before 30<sup>th</sup> November)** – Please help us spread the Christmas message by posting our flyer to brand new homes in Stortford Fields or St Michael's Hurst. They are in bundles at the Cross Aisles in church. Any queries, please speak to Katharine Stanley.

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.

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

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

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar)	899261	Churchwarden: Claire Conquest	07944 431873
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)	652173		
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)	07539 058946	Deputy Churchwardens: T Pigram, P Rixson	
<b>Parish Office</b>	<b>01279 654416</b>	Parish Safeguarding Officer: Dotun Akinde	
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Vicar's Email: [stmichaelsbsvicar@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelsbsvicar@gmail.com)

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