



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

# Newsletter and Notices

**8am Holy Communion, in Church**

**10am Service of the Word, in Church & [Zoom](#)**

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

**1. Come to Church** All are welcome!

**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 Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## A Psalm for today, Psalm 72. 1-7,18,19

**Refrain: The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.**

Give the king your judgements, O God, and your righteousness to the son of a king.

Then shall he judge your people righteously and your poor with justice.

May the mountains bring forth peace, and the little hills righteousness for the people.

May he defend the poor among the people,

deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor. **[R]**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, like the showers that water the earth.

In his time shall righteousness flourish,

and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **[R]**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful things.

And blessed be his glorious name for ever.

May all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. **[R]**

*May your kingdom come, O God, with deliverance for the needy,  
with peace for the righteous, with overflowing blessing for all nations,  
with glory, honour and praise for Christ, the only Saviour. Amen.*

## Parish Register for November

We remember in our prayers the family of Bernice Venables  
whose funeral took place last month.

We celebrate the marriage of Anthony Brady and Katie Hadow last Saturday.

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

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

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Second Sunday of Advent**



## Gospel reading for today, Matthew 3. 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

## 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 continue our Advent series: Christmas People, and this week we hear about Joseph, and find out about the baby, Jesus, being born (Luke 2. 1-7).**

Our [Children & Young People](#) website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus this Advent and Christmas. **And perhaps you might like to open our [Digital Advent Calendar](#) each day – it's for adults and children alike.**

**Our young person's choir** - If your child is 7 or over and interested in joining, please contact Nathan Collins ( [stmicroelsbdsdom@gmail.com](mailto:stmicroelsbdsdom@gmail.com)) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people.



Last week, we learned about Mary, and heard about the coming of a baby, Jesus (Luke 1. 26-56). We shared in Mary's wonder and sang the praise song *Sing Hosanna* along with the rest of the congregation! We played with the different Nativity Scenes and worked hard to create a beautiful Advent Calendar to use these coming weeks. Come and see it in the Lady Chapel!



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

# Newsletter and Notices

**Forthcoming 8am services** – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am **this Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** December, then 21<sup>st</sup> December, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**School Services** – We are once again delighted to welcome many schools to our church for their Advent and Christmas Services these coming weeks. Please be aware that the church (and churchyard) will be busy almost every day, especially during this week and next, so check the website calendar carefully so as not to coincide.

**Holy Communion, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 10am** – Refreshments afterwards.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> December, 9:30-10am** – All welcome.

**Churches Together Carol Singing & Coffee Morning, Methodist Church, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 10am-12noon.** We will be collecting for the Night Shelter. We weren't able to sing in Jackson Square so this was the best option ... so do come along and help, buy a coffee, mince pie or cake and join in the singing.

**Advent and Christmas Services at St Michael's** – [All details are on our website](#) and on flyers in the Publicity Area but note our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, Crib Service at 3:30pm and Midnight Service at 11pm (with Choir Carols from 10:30pm) on Christmas Eve. We'll celebrate Parish Communion at 10am on Christmas Day. **We would welcome volunteers to read at Nine Lessons and Carols, speak to Derwyn if interested.**

**TLC Tuesdays, next meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 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 our mayor, Mr Richard Townsend.

**Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. Next on this Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January** – 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.

**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.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Second Sunday of Advent



**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.

**Tower Room Update** – Please see the Schedule of Documents on the [Notices page](#) of our website.

**Giant Christmas Card** – Once again the Giant Card will give everyone the chance to send Christmas Greetings to their St Michael's friends, and instead of incurring postal charges making a donation to The Children's Society. The card will be displayed in the Publicity Area during services on Sundays and Wednesdays. Many thanks for your support.

**Travelling Crib for ALL our church family** – Our travelling crib is making its way around the parish during Advent. 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, **we've still got a few places we'd love to fill!**

**Christmas flyers** – If you live in the parish and you'd like to take some for your road, please do. If you don't live in the parish, please use the flyer for a personal invitation to friends but don't deliver to non-parishioners, since they are served by our neighbour churches.

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.

## 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 below. Thank you.

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	

Vicar's Email: [stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com)  
Charity Registration No. 1130646

Email: [church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk](mailto:church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk)  
Website: [www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk)



Scan code for website