



NO SERVICE AT 8am

10am Parish Communion for The Epiphany, in Church

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

Collect for The Epiphany

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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 146

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]**

May his dominion extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

May his foes kneel before him and his enemies lick the dust.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute;

the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall do him service. **[R]**

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, the needy and those who have no helper.

He shall have pity on the weak and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,

and dear shall their blood be in his sight. **[R]**

Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba;

may prayer be made for him continually and may they bless him all the day long. **[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 December

We remember in our prayers the family of Linda Marks
whose funeral and service of burial of ashes took place last month.

Gospel for The Epiphany, Matthew 2. 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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 start a new series for the new year: for the next few weeks we're exploring Jesus' early life and beginning work. This week we hear about Jesus being presented in the temple (*Luke 2. 22-40*).

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.

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.



Children's Activities in the Lady Chapel at Christmas –

Until 6th January we have our very own Nativity 'festival' with lots of different Nativity Scenes ... from Godly Play to St Michael's School. There's also be a prayer space, puzzle activity sheets, and craft materials to make the Wise Men to complete your own scene.

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.



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

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

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

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting this Tuesday 6th 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.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 7th January, 10am – Refreshments afterwards.

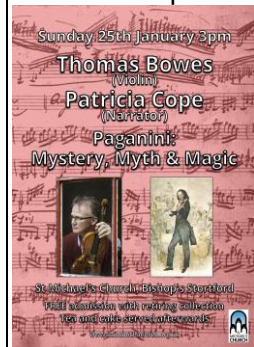
Tiny Tots, Thursdays from 12:30-2/2:30pm, WCC – We're back this Thursday 8th January! For parents/carers and babies/preschoolers in term time; plus older children in school holidays. Playtime, tea/coffee, songs, stories, activities and a prayer. Buggy access and baby change available, and you're welcome to bring a packed lunch if you like. It's also ok to be late, we understand!

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 10th January, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am **on Sunday 11th January**, then 18th January, 1st and 15th February.

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. Next on Monday 12th January – All welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft. See the website [here](#) to read about our knitting workshop for the Travelling Crib.

Bereavement Journey Course, Saturday mornings, 17th January - 21st 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](#).



Recital, Sunday 25th January at 3pm – Thomas Bowes (Violin) and Patricia Cope (Narrator) present Paganini: Mystery, Myth & Magic. You can find out a little more about Thomas and Patricia from our Music at St Michael's website page [here](#). Free admission, retiring collection, tea and homemade cakes afterwards.

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 26th March**. We desperately need drivers, please contact the Parish Office if you think you could help.

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.

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.

Sunday 4th January 2026

The Epiphany



Tower Room Update – See the Schedule of Documents on our website [Notices page](#)

Food Bank Plea – Increased costs of living continue to hit foodbanks hard. Do consider whether you can donate: details on our [website](#) and church noticeboard.

Invitation from the Bishop of Hertford to Young Adults Supper Party – Bishop Jane would like to explore the possibility of inviting members of our congregation who are aged between 18-35 to a Supper Party on Tuesday 3rd February (6:30pm onwards) at Bishopswood. If you might be interested in attending this gathering, or would like a chat about it, please speak to the Vicar.

Mary's Meals Foreign Currency Collection – There is a collection box in church during services for all your foreign currency, no matter how old, obscure or its value.

Postage stamps for charity – Remember to save your used stamps and put them in the bucket in the Publicity Area to go to charity. Please ensure that the stamps have a one inch paper envelope border, otherwise they cannot be used!

Travelling Crib sheep – We hope that you and your families enjoyed sharing in the Crib during Advent. If you held onto your sheep over Christmas, would you be good enough to return it to Katharine (or put it in the porch post box) as soon as possible? Many thanks!

Holly Rings – If you bought a Holly Ring at the Holly Fair, please could you return just the wire ring and pine cones to be recycled to help save expenses for next time. Thank you.

Greetings Cards – Many thanks to all who supported charities recently by purchasing Christmas cards which were on sale raising funds for Embrace, The Leprosy Mission and Mothers' Union. Rosemary will continue offering other greetings cards in 2026.

Thank You in huge measure to all who contributed to our Advent and Christmas worship in December: to wardens and sidespeople, singers, bellringers and musicians, all who cleaned the church and those who arranged hospitality, flowers, the crib and the tree. Thank you to everyone who contributed to worship to praise God at this special time. Thank you too from the Clergy for all our Christmas cards, messages and gifts. Blessings for the new year, Derwyn.

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 the contact details below. Thank you.

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------|
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| The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) | 652173 | | |
| The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) | 07539 058946 | Deputy Churchwardens: T Pigram, P Rixson | |
| Parish Office | 01279 654416 | Parish Safeguarding Officer: Dotun Akinde | |
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