



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

# Newsletter and Notices

**8am Holy Communion, in Church**

**10am Parish Communion, in Church**

*during which we celebrate Doreen Richardson's 100 years  
and hear her about her journey in faith.*

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

## Collect for The Baptism of Christ

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 29

**Refrain: The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;

the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. **[R]**

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;

the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox. **[R]**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;

the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare;

in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **[R]**

*Open our ears, glorious Lord Christ,*

*to hear the music of your voice*

*above the chaos of this world;*

*open our eyes to see the vision of your glory,*

*for you are our King, now and for ever. Amen.*

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The Baptism of Christ



## A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 3. 3-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

## 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 series exploring Jesus' early life and beginning work. This week we hear about Jesus being baptised by John (*Matthew 3. 1-17*).

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 ( [stmichaelsbdsom@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelsbdsom@gmail.com) ) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people.

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 the contact details on the next page. Thank you.



Last week we talked about surprises and trusting God. We looked at all our Nativity scenes in the Lady Chapel and discovered some lovely surprises on the way. Then we heard about Jesus being presented in the temple (Luke 2. 22-40) and made our own puppets of Simeon and Anna to join the puppet Nativity. Finally we enjoyed a big surprise of seeing the Wise Men at the Crib as we went up for Communion.



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

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

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

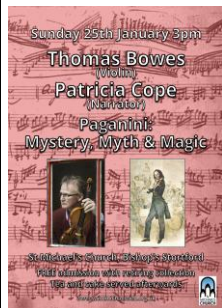
**Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. Next on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January** – All welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft. See the website [here](#) to read about our knitting workshop for the Travelling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

**Holy Communion, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 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 17<sup>th</sup> January, 9:30-10am** – All welcome.

**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](#).



**Recital, Sunday 25th January at 3pm** – Thomas Bowes (Violin) and Patricia Cope (Narrator) present Paganini: Mystery, Myth & Magic. An exceedingly rare chance to hear some of Paganini's astonishing music for solo violin interspersed with narration by Patricia Cope. "A show that will reveal the triumphant and tragic tale of this prototype pop star". 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.

**TLC Tuesdays, next meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 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 Jane Ridler who is a master bee keeper.

**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.

**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.

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

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The Baptism of Christ



**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.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Thank you very much to everyone** for your lovely greetings in the Giant Christmas Card. We raised £184 in church for the Children's Society and more donations were also made online. A great total for a good cause!

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  
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