



NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion, in Church

*There will be the opportunity for healing prayers today,
after the service, in the Lady Chapel*

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

Collect for The Conversion of Paul

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; 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 67

Refrain: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

1 God be gracious to us and bless us

and make his face to shine upon us,

2 That your way may be known upon earth,

your saving power among all nations. **[R]**

4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad,

for you will judge the peoples righteously

and govern the nations upon earth. **[R]**

6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,

and God, our own God, will bless us.

7 God will bless us,

and all the ends of the earth shall fear him. **[R]**

In the face of Jesus Christ your light and glory have blazed forth, O God of all the nations; with all your people, may we make known your grace and walk in the ways of peace; for your name's sake. Amen.

An anthem for today, *The shepherds' farewell*

(Hector Berlioz, 1803-69, from his Oratorio, L'enfance du Christ)

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare.

Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share.

Loving father, Loving mother, shelter thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear.

In the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here!

May the shepherd's lowly calling, ever to thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild!

Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure, the Prince of Peace, The Holy Child!

God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild!



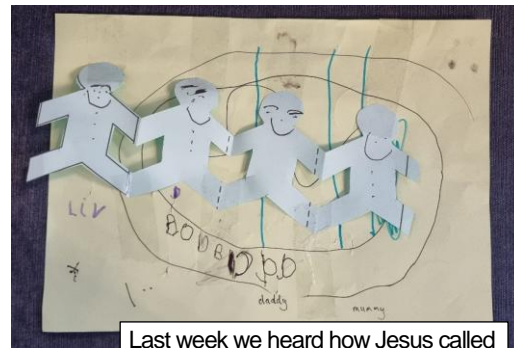
A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 19. 27-30

Peter said, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

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 the wedding at Cana (*John 2. 1-11*), discovering that God cares about his people and knows what help we need.



Last week we heard how Jesus called his first disciples (*Matthew 4. 18-23*) and how Jesus wants us to be in his team. We worked as a team with a balloon race, hunted round the room for cards with the 12 disciples, and made paper chains as friends of Jesus.

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) 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.



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

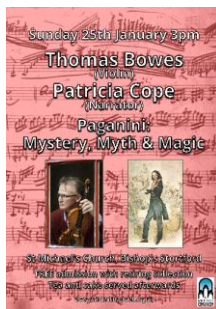
Newsletter and Notices

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

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

Healing Prayers – will be offered in the Lady Chapel after worship on fourth Sundays each month, beginning **this Sunday 25th January**.

Recital, this 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.



There will be a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this Sunday 25th January at 4pm at St Joseph's Church. All are warmly invited. This year's theme is "One Body One Spirit." More information can be found on the Churches Together in England website [here](#).

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. Next this Monday 26th January – All welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 28th January, 10am – Refreshments afterwards.

Tiny Tots, Thursdays from 12:30-2:30pm, 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 31st January, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am **next on Sunday 1st February**, then 15th February, 1st, 15th and 29th March (Palm Sunday).

Christingle Service with St Michael's School, next Sunday 1st February, 10am – Please come and share in our worship! This is the one occasion when all members of St Michael's School family are formally invited to join us in worship at church and it would be lovely to see many members of our own church family here to welcome them! We have a few collecting box candles if you'd like to collect for the work of The Children's Society.

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting on Tuesday 3rd 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 beekeeper.

Lunchtime Recitals begin on Thursday 5th February, then 12th and 26th February and 5th March, 1:30pm – We are delighted to welcome back students from Bishop's Stortford College to St Michael's for a series of free half hour/forty-minute recitals. Retiring collection.

Sunday 25th January 2026

The Conversion of Paul



Lent Reflections, Tuesdays from 24th February, 12-12:30pm in the Lady Chapel – All are warmly invited to join these sessions during Lent and Holy Week, with a reading, reflection, hymn and prayer. Each session will be followed by a frugal lunch at 12:30pm in the WCC, in aid of the two charities supported by our Charities Support Group Lent Appeal this year. [See our Lent flyer on our website](#) for more information; there are a few copies in the Publicity Area too.

We're thinking about offering the Bible Society's Bible Course as an online by Zoom or in person study opportunity during Lent – There's a sign-up sheet in the publicity area, as we'd like to see what interest there may be. Monday afternoon and evening are under consideration so please can potential participants indicate whether either or both are feasible. If folk don't have online access we could explore arranging 'screen-sharing' in company with a friend. Information is available at biblesociety.org.uk/the-bible-course-digital-hub (you'll need to register first, it's free). Thanks, Derwyn.

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.

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](#)

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

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.

Mary's Meals foreign currency collection and postage stamps for charity – There is a collection box in church during services for all your foreign currency, no matter how old, obscure or its value. Also, 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!

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The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) 652173

The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) 07539 058946

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