



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

8am Holy Communion for Epiphany 4, in Church 10am Service of the Word for Candlemas, in Church & [Zoom](#)

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

1. Come to Church All are welcome!

Remember to bring your order of service for the 10am service.

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 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of 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 36. 5-10 Refrain: **With you, O God, is the well of life.**

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.

7 How precious is your loving mercy, O God!

All mortal flesh shall take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

8 They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house;

they shall drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light. **[R]**

10 O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you

and your righteousness to those who are true of heart. **[R]**

O God, the well of life, make us bright with wisdom, that we may be lightened with the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

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.

Sunday 1st February 2026

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany



A Gospel reading for today, John 2. 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Come and share our short session for children and young people during our Sunday 10am service EVERY WEEK!

Almost every week – this week we all share in Christingle with children from St Michael's!

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.**

Next week we begin a short series on the prophet Jeremiah, hearing how God's messenger, Jeremiah, speaks out faithfully for God in difficult time. We begin with 'The potter's house' (Jeremiah 18. 1-12).

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) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people.



Last week we heard about the wedding at Cana (John 2. 1-11), discovering that God cares about his people and knows what help we need. We coloured in these sheets to fill them with red wine.

Parish Register for January

We give thanks and celebrate the life of our friend Doreen Richardson, who reached her 100th birthday in January.

We remember in our prayers the family of Nick Jones whose funeral and service of burial of ashes took place last month. We also remember the families of Eunice Crane, whose ashes were interred last month, and of Derek Green whose funeral took place in January.



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

Christingle Service with St Michael's School, this 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 this 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.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 4th February, 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!

Lunchtime Recitals begin this 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. See our website's [Music](#) pages for more information.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 7th February, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. Next on Monday 9th February – All welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft.

Follow up Holly Fair meeting – Those involved in 2025 Holly Fair may like to feed back at a short meeting after the service on **Sunday 15th February** upstairs in WCC. We'll discuss improvements for next year and things that worked well. We raised over £4000 for the charities so thank you to everyone who worked hard and helped to make this possible.

Ash Wednesday, 18th February will offer Holy Communion with optional imposition of ashes, at 10am and 7:30 pm. There will be hymns and music at both services.

Healing Prayers – are offered in the Lady Chapel after worship on fourth Sundays each month, next on **Sunday 22nd February**.

Easter flyer delivery to new homes? If we are to deliver Easter Sunday information to the newest homes in Stortford, we need a group of people able to devote some time to this. If you can be involved, please speak to the Vicar or email the Parish Office. Thank you.

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| Thursday 5th February 2026 1.40pm - 2.20pm Strings |
| Thursday 12th February 1.40pm - 2.20pm Woodwind |
| Thursday 26th February 2026 1.40pm - 2.20pm Singers |
| Thursday 5th March 2026 1.40pm - 2.20pm Brass |

Sunday 1st February 2026

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany



Lent Reflections, Tuesdays from 24th February, 12-12:30pm in the Lady Chapel – All are warmly invited to join these sessions during Lent, 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](#); there are a few copies in the Publicity Area too.

We're thinking about offering the Bible Society's Bible Course as an online study opportunity by Zoom, or in person, 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.

Spring Coffee Morning: Saturday, 7th March at 10am – All welcome! Fresh coffee/ tea and cakes ... plus a cake stall, toy stall, raffle and good as new/unwanted gift stall. Come and join us for a cuppa! Any helpers and cake bakers most appreciated (contact Gill).

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.

The Charities Support Group would welcome new members – If you're interested in helping support charities through events, talks and distributing the funds at St Michael's Church then get in touch with CSG or Derwyn. Specifically we would like someone to work alongside the current treasurer with a view to taking over at some point. Equally if someone could regularly do minutes at our meetings (4 per year) this would also be appreciated. Our next meeting is **9th April at 7.30pm in the WCC**. Val Ashwood (Chair).

Next St Albans Cursillo Weekend 24th-26th April – We would love to welcome more people from St Michael's to experience a Cursillo Weekend. Cursillo is a short course focusing on growing in your Christian faith through Prayer, Study and Action. It includes talks, discussion and regular worship. The weekend is a joyful experience and takes place at Pleshey Retreat Centre, Friday evening until Sunday. Please see the blue leaflets in the welcome area. Forms to apply are available from people below or can be downloaded from the website. More information from Mike or Val Ashwood, John or Viv Emmett, Miriam Watson, Alison Jordan, Liz Puller or anyone else you know who has done the course.

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| 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 | |
| Parish Office | 01279 654416 | Parish Safeguarding Officer: Dotun Akinde | |
| | | safeguarding@saintmichaelweb.org.uk / 07921 860862 | |

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