



NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion, in Church

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

Collect for The Second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen.

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 6. 25-34

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

[See our Lent flyer on our website](#) for more information; there are a few copies in the Publicity Area too.

Ash Wednesday, 18th February

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

Lent Reflections, Tuesdays from 24th February, 12-12:30pm, Lady Chapel

All are warmly invited to join these sessions during Lent. This year our theme is Journey to the Cross, with an audio reading from Bear Grylls book, 'The Greatest Story Ever Told': a retelling of the Gospel through the eyes of those who knew Jesus best, a short reflection, music and prayer. We begin on 24th February with 'Myriam' (his mother Mary). 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.

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

More information on next page and there's a sign-up sheet in the publicity area.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 136. 1-9, 23-26

Refrain: for his mercy endures for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

Give thanks to the God of gods, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

Who alone does great wonders, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

Who by wisdom made the heavens, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

Who laid out the earth upon the waters, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

Who made the great lights, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

The sun to rule the day, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

The moon and the stars to govern the night, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

Who remembered us when we were in trouble, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

And delivered us from our enemies, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

Who gives food to all creatures, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

Give thanks to the God of heaven, *for his mercy endures for ever.*

Remember us, O God, and shape our history, form our inward eyes to see the shadow of the life-giving cross in the turbulence of our time; for his sake who died for all, Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.** This week we begin a short series about 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 (stmichaelsbsdom@gmail.com) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people.

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.

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

Holy Communion, Wednesday 11th 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 these forthcoming half-term 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 continue this Thursday 12th February, then 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.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 14th February, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

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

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.

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.

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

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting on Tuesday 3rd March 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 own Rev'd June Knight with her talk, *Called and Collared.*

Spring Coffee Morning: Saturday, 7th March at 10am – All welcome! Fresh coffee/ tea and cakes, 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).

Sunday 8th February 2026

The Second Sunday before Lent



Recital, Sunday 22nd March at 3pm. A piano recital with Dominic Downs. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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	
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