



8am Holy Communion, in Church

10am Service of the Word, 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 Sunday next before Lent

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; 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 2

Refrain: The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.

Why are the nations in tumult, and why do the peoples devise a vain plot?

The kings of the earth rise up,

and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed:

'Let us break their bonds asunder and cast away their cords from us.'

All: The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.

He who dwells in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.

Then shall he speak to them in his wrath and terrify them in his fury:

'Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.'

All: The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord;

he said to me: 'You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.

'Ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance

and the ends of the earth for your possession.

'You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'

All: The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.

Now therefore be wise, O kings; be prudent, you judges of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear, and with trembling kiss his feet,

lest he be angry and you perish from the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Happy are all they who take refuge in him.

All: for his mercy endures for ever.

Most high and holy God, lift our eyes to your Son enthroned on Calvary; and as we behold his meekness, shatter our earthly pride; for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

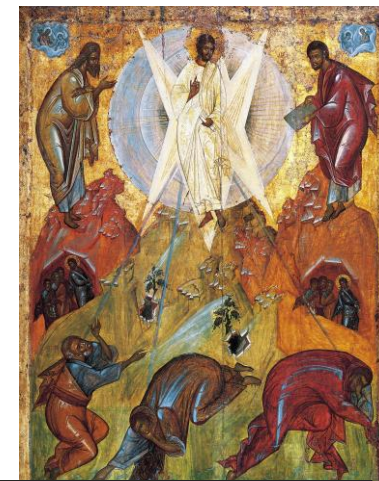
Sunday 15th February 2026

The Sunday next before Lent



A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 17. 1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'



'Transfiguration' att. Theophanes the Greek; Spaso-Preobrazhensky Cathedral, Pereslavl-Zalessky (15C, Tretyakov Gallery)

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 continue our series on the prophet Jeremiah, hearing how Jeremiah buys a field (*Jeremiah 31. 1-6; 32. 1-15*).

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.

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am **on this 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 **this 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 is this Wednesday 18th February and will offer Holy Communion with optional imposition of ashes, at 10am and 7:30pm. There will be hymns and music at both services.

Tiny Tots, Thursdays from 12:30-2/2:30pm, WCC – For parents/carers and babies/preschoolers in term time; **plus older children in these 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!

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 21st February, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

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

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. Next on Monday 23rd February – All welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft.

Lent Reflections, Tuesdays from 24th February, 12-12:30pm in the 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. [See our Lent flyer on our website](#) for more information; there are a few copies in the Publicity Area too.

Online study opportunity by Zoom during Lent, or in person: the Bible Society's Bible Course, Monday afternoon / evening – 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).

Lunchtime Recitals resume next Thursday 26th February then on Thursday 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.

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Charities Support Group Presentation, Sunday 1st March – After our 10am service and coffee, the CSG has invited one of the charities we are supporting this Lent, Riding Lights, to offer a brief presentation. The speaker will be John Emmett. Riding Lights is a professional theatre company with a strongly Christian ethos. It tours nationally and its output is often explicitly Christian or at other times aims to give a Christian perspective on contemporary life, exploring topics such as dementia, artificial intelligence and supporting young people in the care system. Its new Passion Play, *Night Falls* is touring during Lent and will be at Chelmsford Cathedral on 23rd March and Verso Vineyard Church, St Albans on 27th March. See www.ridinglights.org/nightfalls for more information.

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 ... 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).

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 still 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 do 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).

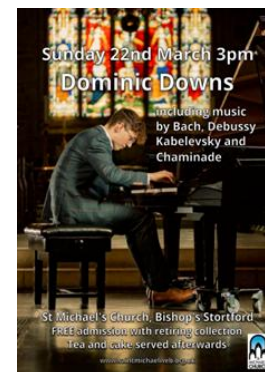
Details of all services and events are available on the [Calendar](#) page on our website.

Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

The 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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