



NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion, in Church

There is the opportunity for Prayers, for healing, praise or thanksgiving, in the Lady Chapel after the service

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

Collect for The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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 119. 129-136

Refrain: The opening of your word gives light.

129 Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.

130 The opening of your word gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and draw in my breath,
as I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love your name.

All: The opening of your word gives light.

133 Order my steps by your word,
and let no wickedness have dominion over me.

134 Redeem me from earthly oppressors
so that I may keep your commandments.

135 Show the light of your countenance upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes run down with streams of water,
because the wicked do not keep your law.

All: The opening of your word gives light.

*Lord, you are just and your commandments are eternal;
teach us to love you with all our heart and our neighbour as ourselves,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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

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

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.

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-46

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.' 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

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 conclude our series from the Old Testament: *Friends of God*, finding out about Samson, and and discovering that God can make people strong (*Judges 13. 1-7; 16. 4-31*).

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



Last week heard how Gideon obeyed God, and how God helps people obey and trust him (*Judges 7. 1-22*). We made Gideon hand puppets, and trumpets 'to blow your trumpet for the Lord'.

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 other page.



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Prayer Ministry – for healing, praise or thanksgiving are offered in the Lady Chapel after worship on fourth Sundays each month, **next on this Sunday 26th July.**

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am **on Sunday** 2nd August, then 30th August, 6th and 20th September.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 29th July, 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 are most welcome in these school 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! **We would really value some more helpers ... just to assist once a month. Please speak to Shell if you're interested in knowing more.**

Quiet Days in Albury – Days of reflection and contemplation in June's home. We'll be meeting next **on this Thursday 30th July.**

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 1st August, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

TLC Tuesdays, next on Tuesday 4th August in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm – In August, we'll be having a fundraising afternoon for the charity *Prostate Cancer UK* with Bingo and a special raffle, bric-a-brac stall, tea/coffee and cake: it'll be £5 each for the whole afternoon on this occasion. Donations welcome if you can't attend.

Our craft group usually meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. We're taking a short break for summer, returning on **Monday 7th September** – All welcome!

Bereavement Journey Course, on seven Saturday mornings from 26th September – 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 alisonfaith1111@gmail.com Previous guests have found the course to be supportive in their grief.

Autumn Preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Communion – I've had a few enquiries from folk who've recently started coming to St Michael's, about the opportunity to prepare to receive the Holy Communion. If possible, I'd like to set up a group to do this from September onwards. It will involve exploring Faith in Christ, and preparing for Baptism and/ or Confirmation, as the gateway to church membership and participation in Communion. If you'd like to find out more, do speak to me, or email the Parish Office. Thank you, Derwyn.



Sunday 26th July 2026
The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Holly Fair meeting 6th September – Our first meeting for this year's event (on Saturday 5th December at 10am) will take place after coffee in WCC (upstairs) on 6th September. If you can help in any way with planning, publicity and organisation, please come along. If unable to come to the meeting but happy to run your usual stall then do let us know. Thanks. Val Ashwood, Claire Conquest, Carole Macdonald, Martyn Greenwood, Angela Weeks.

Help raise money towards the Tower Room Appeal – by clicking on and signing up to this easy fundraising link and raise money as you shop: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=428546&invite=7sitbt&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=easyfundraising-app&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=copy-link You can also donate through the contactless card machine or by using the form in the Publicity Area.

Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford newsletter – A copy of the latest newsletter can be found on the CTBS website <https://ctbs.org.uk/> **There's lots happening, including a Songs of Praise service on 4th October, 4pm at the URC.**

New arrangements for PCC Invoices and Payments – Please note that all invoices, expenses claims, and claims for re-imbursement from the PCC now need to be sent to: invoices@saintmichaelweb.org.uk. The mechanism for processing payments is changing as we go forward from Graziana's retirement, so please be patient as the new system beds in. Thank you!

The Children's Society – Please could anyone with a collecting box bring it to me or to a church service, so the cash can be counted and banked as soon as possible. Thank you very much. Carole Macdonald.

Thank you all hugely for making our Strawberry Tea such a successful occasion. It was extremely hot weather for baking, helping in the kitchen, selling tickets, raffles, serving on the stalls ... and eating too! An extra round of thanks is definitely in order for endurance! It was all in an excellent cause and the final amount raised was £592.50.

Giving Sunday – Please place responses in the post box in the corner of the North Porch. Thank you for those which have already begun to come in. If you haven't yet received a Giving Season envelope, please take one from the Publicity Area.

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	

Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com
Charity Registration No. 1130646

Email: church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk
Website: www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk



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