



Newsletter and Notices

8am Holy Communion for Harvest, in Church

10am Service of the Word for Harvest, in Church & [Zoom](#)

We are delighted that Chris from Church Mission Society (CMS) will be joining us via zoom for the 10am service and reflecting on his ministry. Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the WCC after the 10am service

There will be a Red Bucket for Chris' work with CMS. We're also requesting food gifts for Bishop's Stortford Food Bank (see list).

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 #

A Psalm for today, Psalm 65. 9-13

Refrain: Be joyful in God, all the earth.

The river of God is full of water;

you prepare grain for your people, for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;

you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.

You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness and the hills be girded with joy.

May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep

and the valleys stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing. **[R]**

May the richness of your creation, Lord, and the mystery of your providence lead us to that heavenly city where all peoples will bring their wealth, forsake their sins and find their true joy, 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 other page.



Sunday 4th October 2026
Harvest Festival



Collect for Harvest

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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 Gospel reading for today, Mark 6. 26-34

Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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.** Today, we're going to be celebrating Harvest with the rest of our church family and giving thanks to our loving God (*Psalm 136. 1-9*).

Could you help A Godly Play once a month? Due to one of our team needing to step down, we urgently need some extra help: please speak to Katharine if interested.

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 we celebrated the Feast of St Michael with the rest of our church family: we followed the Sunday readings and talked all things angels!



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

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Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am on **this Sunday 4th October**, then 18th October, 1st, 15th and 29th November.

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 this Sunday 4th October, 4pm at the URC.**

Craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. We next meet on **this Monday 5th October** - all welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft. We usually prepare items for sale at the annual St Michael's Church Holly Fair.

TLC Tuesdays, this Tuesday 6th October in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm – Join tea and talk and a regular short presentation on wide-ranging interests. On Tuesday we are delighted to welcome Patricia Meadmore with her talk, 'Once upon a stage'.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 7th October, 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 on inset days and 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.**

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

CSG talk, Sunday 18th October, after the 10am service – We're delighted to welcome members of our church who volunteer at Holiday Bible Week; who will talk and answer questions about the work of this charity, which is one of those supported by St Michael's this year.

We welcome you in the name of the Lord! Saturday 24 October, 9am-12:30pm, WCC – A morning to think, talk and pray about how we **welcome, nurture and integrate** newcomers into our church. Everyone is welcome! If you have a heart for reaching out to grow our community, or you're new or relatively new to St Michael's, do come along. Open to all and no need to pre-book, but to help planning, you can let the Parish Office know you'll be coming. Call 02179 654416.

Sunday 4th October 2026
Harvest Festival



Prayer Ministry – for healing, praise or thanksgiving are offered in the Lady Chapel after worship on fourth Sundays each month, **next on Sunday 25th October.**

Quiet Days in Albury – Days of reflection and contemplation in June's home. We'll be meeting next on **Thursday 29th October.**

Forthcoming events for our Church School – Ms Griffiths and our school community warmly invites you to share in some or all of our forthcoming events! including Remembrance Commemorations - Wednesday 11th November, for 11am at the Town Memorial. Please come and support our children. Also, please do visit [St Michael's School](#) page on our website for a couple of really interesting articles on the school vision and our language of spirituality. Finally, please take a moment to admire and reflect on the latest school display at the back of the church.

Help raise money for the last push 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.

New PCC Governor for St Michael's School – Would you like to be a school governor? It's a rewarding and important role in a friendly team and we currently have one vacancy. There are 7 foundation governors appointed by the PCC at church or St Albans diocese to uphold the Christian ethos of the school as well as taking other responsibilities. See Mark Johnson (chair) or Val Ashwood or email chair@stmichaelsjmi.herts.sch.uk

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.

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	
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