St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 8th November 2026

Third Sunday before Advent ● Remembrance Sunday

NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion for Remembrance Sunday, in Church including Remembrance Ceremonies at the War Memorial in our Churchyard

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

Collect for Remembrance Sunday

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; 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 70

Refrain: Come to me quickly, O God.

1 O God, make speed to save me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
2 Let those who seek my life
be put to shame and confusion;
let them be turned back and disgraced
who wish me evil.
3 Let those who mock and deride me
turn back because of their shame.

All: Come to me quickly, O God.

4 But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say always, 'Great is the Lord!'
5 As for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me quickly, O God.
6 You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay.

All: Come to me quickly, O God.

O God, our helper and defender,
deliver us in our weakness, answer our longings and vindicate our faith,
that we may see your glory in 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.

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 25. 1-13

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'



Last week *we* echoed the All Saints/All Souls theme, learning how to be assured of God's love for us and to express our thoughts and feelings to him, as we shared Psalm 139.

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 our messages come from John 15, Matthew 5, and James 3, as we consider the themes of love and peace. We'll be making poppies so that the children can share in the Remembrance Ceremonies, later in the service.**

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 (stmichaelsbsdom@gmail.com) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people

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

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

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This Sunday is Remembrance Sunday – During the 10am Parish Communion service we will be gathering round the War Memorial in the churchyard for our Remembrance Ceremonies. Our Godly Play session will include Remembrance crafts to be placed at the foot of the memorial.

Night Shelter introduction / induction dates – Monday 16th or Wednesday 18th November at 7pm; Saturday 21st November 10am AND 2pm in Holy Trinity Night Shelter. There's been a lot of work to improve both guest, and volunteer experiences. Come along to see if there is something that you can help out with including interaction with guests at lunchtime or evening; overnight sleeping supervision of the guests, admin; food collections. Every bit of help we receive enables us to be there when someone is finds themselves in the unenviable position of being homeless. htns.volunteering@outlook.com

Holy Communion for Armistice Day, Wednesday 11th November, 10am – Refreshments afterwards.

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 and our End of Term Service in Church on Thursday 17th December at 11am.** 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 **new school display at the back of the church.**

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 Lucie if you're interested in knowing more.**

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

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am on **Sunday 15th November,** then 29th November, 6th, 20th and 27th December.

Craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. We next meet on **Monday 16th November -** 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.

Prayer Ministry – for healing, praise or thanksgiving are offered in the Lady Chapel after worship on fourth Sundays each month, **next on Sunday 22nd November.**



Recital with Fumi Otsuki (Violin) and Gisela Meyer (Piano), Sunday 22nd November, 3pm – Free admission, retiring collection. Tea and cake afterwards. Programme information and biographies on our website (Music at St Michael's page).

Quiet Days in Albury – Days of reflection and contemplation in June's home. We'll be meeting next **on Thursday 26th November.**

Travelling Crib – Once again we are delighted that our travelling crib will be making its way around the parish during Advent; **beginning with a blessing at the 10am service on 29th November**. Hosting the figures for a night is a wonderful chance to share the anticipation of Christ's birth and fellowship with other families as the crib is passed on ... and a moment of stillness in an otherwise busy Advent. Please chat to Katharine if you'd like to know more about it and to sign up for a night.

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting on Tuesday 1st December 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 children from St Michael's School who will be singing carols to and with us.

Holly Fair (and Tower Tours too!), Saturday 5th December, 10-1pm – If you know anyone who could donate a raffle prize please speak to Carole Macdonald or Angela Weeks. We'll make Holly Rings as usual the week before the fair. If you would like to make any donations, there will be boxes in church at the services from soon for the gifts stall, the bottle and chocolate tombola and for any raffle prizes. There will also be a list for donations for the raffle hampers. Any contributions will be greatly received; thank you very much. All proceeds go to charities.

Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford AGM, Wednesday, 11th November, 7:45pm in the WCC. All are welcome. The Agenda is on the Church Noticeboard. A copy of the latest newsletter can be found on the CTBS website https://ctbs.org.uk/

A wide range of Charity Christmas cards are on sale in the WCC on Sundays and Wednesdays, together with the usual Greetings Cards. All profits are going towards the Holly Fair. Many thanks, Rosemary Thomson.

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