St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

## **Newsletter and Notices**

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 Second Sunday of Lent



## 8am Holy Communion, in Church 10am A Choral Lent Sequence, in Church & Zoom

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in (or outside) the WCC after the 10am service.

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: 846 662 9590 / Passcode: 834900).

3. Join with Audio Zoom via phone

a) Call 0131 460 1196 b) Enter Meeting ID then #, then enter Meeting Passcode then #

#### **LENT 2022 AT ST MICHAEL'S**

A Season for Living in God A Season for Giving our time A Season for Giving our treasures

Please see our Giving Season Envelopes in the Publicity Area for more information on our Lenten theme, along with all the information on our regular and special services this Lent 2022. Thank you for considering your giving to St Michael's.

#### A Psalm for today, Psalm 42

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night,

while people say to me continually, 'Where is your God?'

These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:

how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God,

with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you

from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts;

all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me,

a prayer to the God of my life.

I say to God, my rock, 'Why have you forgotten me?

Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?'

As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me,

while they say to me continually, 'Where is your God?'

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

#### Collect for the Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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, Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-18

Jesus said, 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

# 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). There will be a display in the Lady Chapel most weeks, if you'd like to find out more!



The Temptations of Jesus in the desert

You might also like to explore the links on our <u>Children & Young People</u> page. There are lots of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.

More details of all services and events are available on the <u>Calendar</u> page on our website.

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



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

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

A date to note - There will be a short vigil for Ukraine, Sunday 13th March at 3pm in the Market Square.

#### **Lent Reflections**

How are you feeling? - Meeting God in our emotion Tuesdays from 8<sup>th</sup> March, 12pm in the Lady Chapel

All are warmly invited to join these sessions during Lent. We'll explore feelings and theologically reflect on them in the light of Christ; through a meditative blend of Scripture, prayer, song, music and talks.

15th March - Anger 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Love 29th March - Fear 5<sup>th</sup> April - Hope

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: Portland Child Contact Centre and the Delhi Brotherhood Society.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 16th March, 10am - A service of Holy Communion, in church and via Zoom (ID: 846 662 9590 / Passcode: 834900). You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 16th March, 11 for 11:15am - Worship for babies/toddlers and their parents / carers; with a story, singing and instruments for little ones too! Join us for refreshments, fellowship and a little chance for the children to play before/after the service.

Prayers for our Community in Church, Saturday 19th March, 9:30am - A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

A quiet day at Albury, Thursday 24th March, 10:30am-3pm - These popular days of reflection and contemplation in June's home are returning, on perhaps a monthly basis. Places are limited, please contact June on 07539 058956 to book, or for more information.

TLC Tuesday 5th April from 2pm, WCC - An opportunity for anyone who wishes to attend to be able to join in with tea and talk, read the paper, play board games ... and then later in the afternoon we welcome families after school for a short while, to share in reading/play and enjoy a biscuit/cake/fruit snack. Do come along ... and tell your friends too! This coming month, the theme is Easter and the children will be invited to decorate a chocolate item!

Flower Festival for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June - We need your help! Are you a flower arranger? Can you help arrange sponsorship? Please contact Claire (07944 431873 / claire.conquest62@gmail.com) or Jenny (833523 / jennyklincke@gmail.com) and do save the date! Proceeds in aid of the St Michael's Church Bell Restoration Fund.

Friends of St Michael's, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Another date for your diary! Family Fun Day, then Gilbert & Sullivan Concert. More details in due course.

Holiday Bible Week, 1st - 5th August - After two years, we're delighted to be able to return to host a live Holiday Bible Week for 2022. This year's theme is all about celebration and we hope your children (ages 5-11) will be able to join us to celebrate an action-packed week full of stories, puppets, music and games. We'll be announcing more details on Facebook and Instagram over the coming weeks. Places will be allocated according to our Child Allocation Policy. So don't miss out, register now!

We are advertising for a Families Minister! - We hope to be interviewing candidates in April. Are you the person to encourage, coordinate, develop and expand ministry among children, young people and their families at our church? Or perhaps you know the right person? More detailed information about the role is on the website here. The deadline for applications is 31st March.

Renewing the vision for our St Michael's School – We want everyone to be involved. We want to think about the future of our school and keep improving what we do for all members of our school community. Please see our website for ways to be involved.

Could you help by auditing St Michael's School Governor accounts? Please contact Katharine Stanley in the Parish Office if you think you might be able to assist.

We have a significantly diminished rota for readers at the Sunday 8am Service - If you think you could help by joining our rota, could you please contact Steve Dale 07769 908777 / steve.dale@gmail.com. This is not an onerous duty and would only entail doing a bible reading once every 4 weeks or so. The 8am Service is fairly small, quiet and reflective and is held in the Lady Chapel.

Lent Red Bucket Appeal from the Charities Support Group UPDATE - The proceeds will be added to the money raised through Lent Lunches this year. Following events in Ukraine we will split the money three ways between the Hope and Homes for Children (who we regularly support through the CSG) and our original selected charities (Portland Child Contact Centre and the Delhi Brotherhood Society). Members of the CSG have put together information about the charities and ways to donate: please see our website page or ask the Parish Office for a copy.

Thank you so much to all who contributed to my retirement gift. The beautifully made and inscribed organ pipe will take its place on the wall next to my house organ which I hope to take delivery of shortly and I've used the gift vouchers to purchase an Anglepoise lamp for this organ which will be very helpful whilst also reminding of my time at St Michael's and your kindness and generosity. Despite "retiring" I look forward to having the opportunity to play the organ from time to time at St Michael's in the future. Robert.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar) The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)

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Rob Klincke (Reader)







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