St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 30th April 2023 Fourth Sunday of Easter



8am Holy Communion, in Church 10am Service of the Word, in Church & Zoom

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in 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: 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 23

Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. [R]

He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. [R]

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. [R]

O God, our sovereign and shepherd,

who brought again your Son Jesus Christ from the valley of death, comfort us with your protecting presence and your angels of goodness and love, that we also may come home and dwell with him in your house for ever. Amen.

GIVING TO ST MICHAEL'S

While fewer people carry cash, and our donations in the collection plates and offertory box remain much smaller than before the pandemic, the costs of running our parish remain.

No Collection is taken at our services; please donate by Text or leave a gift (in a completed gift aid envelope if you are able to do so) in the Offertory Plates or by contactless card giving as you leave. Thank you. We are encouraging supporters of the church to give by Bank Transfer to support our work. Details are on resources tab on our website or contact the Parish Office at church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk Thank you for considering your giving.

Collect for The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Gospel reading for today, John 10. 1-10

Jesus said: 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate

but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'



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 on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. **Today, we'll be sharing in some games (hopefully outside!) and walking, leaping and praising God (Acts 3. 1-10).**

Our <u>Children & Young People</u> website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus this Easter season.



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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.

TLC Club's Coronation Celebration, Tuesday 2nd May, 2.30 to 4.30pm - An Open Invitation to all our friends in the local community to come along to celebrate this momentous occasion. Some of us of a certain age will remember the 1953 Coronation, so please bring any memorabilia of royal occasions for us to share memories! £2 for the afternoon, including cakes, tea/coffee/soft drinks, plus a glass of fizz as we raise our glasses to King Charles.

Just as important also are our Church services around that time: Sunday 7th May, 8am Holy Communion and 10am Service of the Word; Sunday 14th May, 10am Holy Communion and 6pm Festal Choral



Evensong in Thanksgiving for the Coronation of King Charles III, when we're delighted that the new Bishop of Hertford, The Rt Rev'd Dr Jane Mainwaring will be preaching.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 3rd May, 10am - A service of Holy Communion, in church Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 3rd May, 11 for 11:15am in the WCC – Worship for babies/toddlers and their grown-ups; with a story, singing and instruments for little ones too! Join us for refreshments, fellowship and a chance for the children to play beforehand.

Ukrainian Hospitality Support, Wednesdays from 11:30am-2pm, WCC - Space at the WCC for Ukrainian guests and host families to meet weekly, with informal language lessons.

Prayers for our Community in Church, Saturday 6th May, 9:30am - A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Jill Crossland Piano Recital, Sunday 21st May, 3pm - Works to include Bach, Mozart and Beethoven's Variations on 'God save the King'. Free admission with retiring collection. Refreshments will be served.

A quiet day at Albury, Thursday 25th May, 10:30am-3pm - These popular days of reflection and contemplation in June's home, offered on a monthly basis. Places are limited, please contact June on 07539 058946 to book, or for more information.

APCM, 28th May after 10am service - Electoral Roll revision ends this Sunday, 30th April, if you'd like to join our electoral roll and/or nominate for PCC election.

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.

Thanksgiving and Celebration for the end of the Bells Project, Trinity Sunday 4th June - Please save the date in your diary to join us in worship at 10am then enjoy special refreshments afterwards in the Windhill Churches Centre. More details soon.

HBW 'Superheroes' 7th-11th August 2023 - Sign up for helpers and children is open at holidaybibleweek.co.uk Please pray for the success of this year. Do join our launch night which is being hosted at the Baptist Church on the evening of 8th June - with great excitement over the theme song! It's also a chance to meet the tent teams and encourage each other.

Could you help us as a verger for funerals in church? Contact the Office if you're interested. It's not an onerous role and training will be given. We would value some help!

The Church-School Committee of the Governors at St Michael's school really needs one or more Associate Governors – There are only two formal meetings a year. We focus on the SIAMS 'Church school' inspections priorities, RE and Collective Worship, and also promote and encourage Church links, with St Michael's Church in particular. We would appreciate more input from St Michael's Church to complement the excellent work by the headteacher Rachel Griffiths at school. The last inspection feedback (2019) is available on the St Michael's school website. Hopefully we can support the school in this important area. Please speak to us at church or contact by email the co-chairs Val Ashwood and Mark Johnson (chair@stmichaelsimi.herts.sch.uk) or see Katharine Stanley if you are interested.

Church football team - Tom Amos, Youth & Young Adults Ministry Lead at the Community Church is looking to start a team in the town, initially with kickabouts in April/May on Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons. Contact tom@thecommunitychurch.org.uk



Do you have any unwanted A4 box files? Katharine is gradually sorting through materials for Godly Play, and we really need about 10 box files (not the lever arch ones). Thank you! None received yet, so please leave any donations at the back of the church or email the Parish Office.

Street Pastors' Newsletter - Do have a look on our website or see the church noticeboard for the latest newsletter from Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth Street Pastors, a few of our church family are actively involved in this important ministry.

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

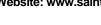
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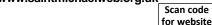
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Rob Klincke (Reader)