

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

## **Newsletter and Notices**

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Fifth 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 #

### Collect for The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, 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 31. 1-5, 14-16 Refrain: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;

deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me. [R]

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my stronghold; guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

Take me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me, for you are my strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. [R] But my trust is in you, O Lord. I have said, 'You are my God.

'My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

'Make your face to shine upon your servant, and save me for your mercy's sake.' [R] Lord Jesus Christ, when scorn and shame besiege us and hope is veiled in grief, hold us in your wounded hands and make your face shine on us again, for you are our Lord and God. Amen.

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.

#### A Gospel reading for today, John 14. 1-14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him. 'Lord. show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Today, we'll be talking and hearing about Jesus – discovering that God does what he says he will dona and is a helper and friend (*Acts 4. 1-4, 23-31*).

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.



Parachute games during our worship last Sunday

### Parish Register for April

We remember in our prayers the families of Peter Blascos and Michael Meacock, whose funerals took place this last month; also the family of Dorothy Risby, whose ashes were interred in our Garden of Remembrance last month.

We welcome Arthur Stockbridge into the fellowship of faith following his Baptism in April.



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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.

Our church services to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III:

This 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.

CORONATION KING CHARLES III AND SER

Forthcoming Services - At 7:30pm on 10<sup>th</sup> May, at Kimpton, Bahram Asadi and Atena Omrani will be confirmed. They will

share in Communion with us as newly confirmed members of the church on Sunday 14th May. Please pray for Bahram and Atena and if you're able to join with them in fellowship on any of these occasions you will be most welcome. Thank you, Derwyn.

Christian Aid Week, 14th-20th May – If you wish to find out more or to make a donation, go to christianaid.org.uk or give via the Christian Aid Red Bucket in church at services from 14th May. Why not have fun and try the CA Quiz with family and friends! Thank you so much. Carole Macdonald.

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

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 10th 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 13th 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: this time it will be Victoria sponge and lemon drizzle cake!

#### **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.

APCM, 28th May after 10am service – Nominations for PCC welcomed! Over the coming weeks the APCM documentation will be published on the website from the PCC page.

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.

The TLC Club is offering an open invitation to their event on 4th July – A mystery tour taking you by coach around the local villages and arriving at a secret venue for a cream tea. The cost is £25 to cover coach travel and the tea (cash or cheques payable to R Thomson to be given on booking). If you'd like to come please speak to Blanche or Rosemary as they both have a booking folder with confirmation and pickup details and will be pleased to accept your money!

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@stmichaelsjmi.herts.sch.uk) or see Katharine Stanley if you are interested.

Do you have any unwanted A4 box files? We really need about 6 more box files (not the lever arch ones). Thank you! Please leave any donations at the back of the church.

Nathan Collins is skydiving for Bishop's Stortford Youth Project on 20th May - To sponsor him, please go to https://www.justgiving.com/team/teamjacobandnathancollins

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

The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) Rob Klincke (Reader)

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