

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 14th November 2021

Second Sunday before Advent • Remembrance Sunday



8am Holy Communion, in Church

10am Service of the Word for Remembrance, in Church & **Zoom** including Remembrance Ceremonies at the War Memorial in our Churchyard

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 followed by #, then enter Meeting Passcode followed by #

Collect for Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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 16

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;

I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord, all my good depends on you.'

All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,

upon those who are noble in heart. [R]

Though the idols are legion that many run after, their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; in your hands alone is my fortune.

My share has fallen in a fair land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage. [R]

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,

and in the night watches he instructs my heart.

I have set the Lord always before me; he is at my right hand; I shall not fall. **[R]** Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my flesh also shall rest secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Death, nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy ◆

and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. [R]

Give to us, Lord Christ, the fullness of grace, your presence and your very self, for you are our portion and our delight, now and for ever. Amen.

A Gospel reading for today, Mark 13. 1-8

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.'

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, 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! This week we'll be focusing on Remembrance and making poppies to place at the church war memorial later in the service.

You might also like to explore the links on our Children & Young People page. There's a printable sheet based on today's Gospel reading, which offers a

Our Creation Display made in A Godly Play last week

prayer / activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.

Considering schools for your little ones? Come join our St Michaels' School Family! We offer all day provision in Nursery. Do look at our school website and follow the link for the virtual tour to find out more about our wonderful school and our 'Outstanding' (OFSTED 2019) Early Years.

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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.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 17th November, 10am - A service of Holy Communion, in church and via Derwyn's Zoom (ID: 846 662 9590 / Passcode: **834900).** You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 17th November, 11 for 11:15am – We're delighted to be offering a new style of worship for babies/toddlers and their parents / carers. Join us for refreshments, fellowship and a little chance for the children to play before the service too!

Prayers for our Community in Church, Saturday 20th November, 9:30am A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Organ Recital with Richard Carr, Saturday 20th November, 7-8pm - We are delighted that Richard will be performing a variety of pieces, including items from Bach Vierne, Rawsthorne and McDowall. We also introduce special guest and Organ Student James Frans. Proceeds to the Bells Appeal. Suggested donations of £5 plus invited. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Voices from the Persecuted Church - An estimated 340 million Christians worldwide are suffering persecution or severe discrimination and in 2020, 4,761 Christians were murdered for their faith. After the 10am service on 21st November, during coffee in the WCC, we'll have a short presentation on this topic; with examples from countries where our brothers and sisters are suffering, simply for following Jesus.

10am service on 21st November is Holy Communion for Christ the King – The service will not be Zoomcast. If you wish to access a Holy Communion by Zoom this will be available on Wednesdays 17th and 24th November. The 10am service on 28th November will be a sequence of readings, prayers, hymns and choral music for Advent Sunday.

Holly Wreath making, 23rd, 29th November - 1st December, 10am-3pm in WCC -Would you like to help our Charities Support Group raise money this Advent? They're looking for volunteers to help with the production of holly wreaths. Mossing - 23rd November, help gathering holly - 28th November then wreath-making Monday 29th to Wednesday 3rd. Sign-up sheets will be on the table in the Publicity Area. Holly wreaths will be available to pre order, instructions to follow. More information from Claire Conquest: claire.conquest62@gmail.com

TLC Club Tuesday 7th December, 2-4:30pm - Our first monthly gathering took place recently and was huge fun! It's 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!

More 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.

Travelling Crib, throughout Advent - 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 28th November. Hosting the figures for a night is a wonderful chance to share with children 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 Stanley if you'd like to know more about it and to sign up for a night.

Company at Christmas 2021 - Due to COVID-19, 'Company at Christmas' will once again be delivering food and gifts to our guests who might otherwise be alone at Christmas. We hope that in 2022 we will be able to return to an in-person event. This year there are THREE main ways you can help: Could you be a Delivery Driver? Could you be a Shopper? Could you be a Goody Bag Packer? Details are available on our website and if interested, please email companyatchristmas@gmail.com or contact Jenny Klincke (833523) or Margaret Fox (658638).

Short trip to Salisbury Flower Festival, 10th - 12th May 2022 - We still have a few places available. This is a lovely event and offers a very pleasant early summer break with friends from the Church. If you are interested please speak to me asap for more details. Many thanks and hope to speak to you soon. Rosemary Thomson.

Autumn/Winter church opening - The Church will be locked at 3:30pm Monday -Thursday. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays may be later to accommodate visitors.

A request for refreshment helpers - It's great to see so many people sharing fellowship at coffee times again! Would you be willing to join the coffee rota to help occasionally on either Sundays or Wednesdays? If interested, please contact Claire Conquest on 07944 431873.

Would you like to receive news and information from St Michael's **electronically?** May we invite new or newer worshippers to think about completing a Welcome Card, and submitting your email on it if you wish.

Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar - In the run-up to Christmas, the Foodbank is expecting a rise in demand. Would you be interested in joining their initiative, possibly as part of your Advent reflection? Details on our website or on posters in the Publicity Area in church and, if you like, you could collect your items and bring them along when you come into church.

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

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

Churchwarden: Rosemary Thomson 899261 Deputy Churchwardens:

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