St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Christmas Day, St Stephens Day and Second Sunday of Christmas



Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion 10am A Christmas Service, in Church & via Zoom

St Stephen's Day, Sunday 26th

9am Said Holy Communion, Chancel

Wednesday 29th December

10am Holy Communion in Church & via Zoom 11am Tiny Tots

Sunday 2nd January

8am Holy Communion
10am Service of the Word for Second
Sunday of Christmas,
in Church & via Zoom
(Zoom for these services: 927 480 8728 /

889123)

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 #

A Collect for today

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our 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 98 Refrain: The Lord has made known his salvation.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory. [R]

The Lord has made known his salvation;

his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel,

and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. [R]

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music. Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King. [R]

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it.

Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity. [R]

Lord God, just and true, you make your salvation known in the sight of the nations; tune the song of our hearts to the music of creation as you come among us to judge the earth; through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Children's Activities in the Lady Chapel at Christmas - Come and see our very own Nativity 'festival' with lots of different Nativity Scenes ... from the one we made in Godly Play, to TLC, to St Michael's School. There's a craft area to make the Wise Men to

complete your own scene, or perhaps you might like to make another character, especially if you missed a week of Godly Play in Advent. There are also lots of fun puzzle activity sheets.

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 prayer /

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



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Christmas Day, St Stephens Day and Second Sunday of Christmas



BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE CLERGY AND CONGREGATION OF ST MICHAEL'S

Throughout this Christmas Week: The Christmas Story, a reflective journey - We invite you to look at the flower arrangements as you make your way around the church. They tell the Christmas story, with suggestions for reflection and prayer. At the Crib, do light a Candle, say a prayer, and write a prayer to place on the Christmas Tree. There are also activities in the Lady Chapel, especially suitable for families.

St Stephen's Day service, 26th December - Many will be engaged with travel, hosting, family etc., but this is just to say there will be a simple 9am said Holy Communion in the Chancel for any who wish to keep St Stephen's Day on 26th December.

Holy Communion, Wednesdays 29th December and 5th January, 10am - A service of Holy Communion, in church and via Zoom (Derek on 29th, ID: 927 480 8728 /Passcode 889123; Derwyn on 5th, ID: 846 662 9590 / Passcode: 834900). You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page.

Tiny Tots, Wednesdays 29th December and 5th January, 11 for 11:15am - A new style of worship for babies/toddlers and their parents / carers. Older children are welcome too! 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 8th January, 9:30am A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

A Godly Play returns on Sunday 9th January! 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).

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.

DIGITAL GIVING TO ST MICHAEL'S - CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND.

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. Please consider using our digital giving facility to support St Michael's. To give by phone: text STMIC (then a number from 2 to 20, e.g. STMIC7 or STMIC15) to 70085.

The most efficient way to give is by Standing Order direct from your bank account: please see the Giving Sunday envelopes from our most recent Stewardship renewal, in the Welcome Area. Thank you for considering your giving to St Michael's at this season.

The church is open each day (apart from 27/28 December), from early morning to mid afternoon.

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

Congregation Giant Christmas Card - Do take time to look at all the greetings in the card shared amongst our congregation this Christmas. It is not too late to add your good wishes and either put your donation to The Children's Society in the box, or if you are able to Gift-Aid, use one of the envelopes provided. Thank you for all your support for this charity's important work during 2021. The card is on display in the Publicity Area.

Charities Support Group Advent Red Bucket appeal - The Red Bucket Advent Appeal has raised more than £500 for the Holy Trinity Night Shelter (and more has been paid directly into the bank too!) We continue to pray for the Night Shelter and all the volunteers and helpers, quests, trustees, and all those who work at East Herts Rough Sleeper Unit. May we also offer a huge thank you to Peter Rixson and the team for making and selling 50 wreaths which raised another £500 for Mary's Meals.

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? Please contact Claire Conquest on 07944 431873.

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.

Choir - Have you and/or your child been inspired by the singing this Christmas? Might you like to join our Choir? We would welcome interest from possible singers, adults or children in Year 4 or above. For more information on the Choir see the website or contact the Parish Office.

Would you be interested in managing the stock of our information booklets? This small role would involve the occasional update of information and translation leaflets and their stock and displays. Do contact the Parish Office if you're interested in volunteering.

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.

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

Rob Klincke (Reader)

652173 Deputy Churchwardens: 771756 C Conquest, G Johnson, T Pigram, P Rixson

899261 Churchwarden: Rosemary Thomson

833523 Parish Office 01279 654416 Email: church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk

Scan code for website

758389





Website: www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk