St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 30th January 2022 The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)



8am Holy Communion, in Church 10am Holy Communion, in Church

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!
- 2. Join Zoom on your computer (not this Sunday)

When signed in you can 'Join a Meeting' (ID: 846 662 9590 / Passcode: 834900).

3. Join with Audio Zoom via phone (not this Sunday)

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

Collect for The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ 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 84 Refrain: Blessed are they who dwell in your house.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house: they will always be praising you. [R] Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion,

Who going through the barren valley find there a spring,

and the early rains will clothe it with blessing.

They will go from strength to strength and appear before God in Zion. [R]

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; listen, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God, and look upon the face of your anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand. [R]

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God

than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

For the Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory;

no good thing shall the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity.

O Lord God of hosts, blessed are those who put their trust in you. [R]

Lord God, sustain us in this vale of tears with the vision of your grace and glory,
that, strengthened by the bread of life, we may come to your eternal dwelling place;
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Gospel reading for today, Luke 2. 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, his parents brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word: for my eves have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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!

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.



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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 Tuesday 1st February from 2pm, Windhill Churches Centre - 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! The theme this month will be 'love and friendship'.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 2nd February, 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 2nd February, 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 5th February, 9:30am A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Christingle Service with St Michael's School, Sunday 6th February – Please do come and share in our worship in church next Sunday at 10am. This is the one occasion when all members of St Michael's School family are formally invited to join us in worship at church and it would be lovely to see many members of our own church family here to welcome them!

WCC Spring Clean, Wednesday, 16th February – Could you spare some time after Holy Communion/Tiny Tots, Wednesday, 16th February, (half-term) to help Spring Clean our part of the WCC in preparation for Easter? Please join us afterwards for a light lunch in the newly sparkling hall. Very many thanks, Claire and Gill.

Lent Reflections, Tuesdays from 8th March, 12pm in the Lady Chapel – All are warmly invited to join these sessions during Lent. We'll explore feelings (such as Fear, Anger, Love, Isolation) and theologically reflect on them in the light of Christ; through a meditative blend of Scripture, prayer, hymn, music and talks. Hopefully each session will be followed by a light lunch in the WCC, in aid of the two charities supported by our Charities Support Group Lent Appeal this year.

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

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.

Governors needed! Can you help St Michael's Primary School to deliver its Christian vision, by joining our governing body? We must have a majority of church governors but have several upcoming vacancies. Please think about whether you can offer us your time and speak to Katharine in the Parish Office if you'd like to know more. Thank you.

Choir - Have you and/or your child been inspired by the singing recently? 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.

Join our virtual Valentines balloon race for the Bellringing Appeal – Starting from the Trevi Fountain in Rome and lasting for 7 days. Balloons may be purchased online here and the race is tracked on a map. Progress is recorded by using actual weather conditions at the time. Balloons are also available to purchase after the Sunday 10am services, and for those wishing to take part but who don't like to engage in online activities, Anne Brolly can create entries on vour behalf - a bit like selling raffle tickets.

Feedback for Thirst Youth Café - from young people, parents and local residents to help them plan activities for 2022 by completing a short survey. The survey is open to all, but we would particularly encourage young people who attend the café and their parents to share their experiences and feedback on the youth services we provide. The survey can be accessed here. The survey is anonymous and confidential and will close on Monday 31st January 2022.

DIGITAL 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. 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.

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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