St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

# **Newsletter and Notices**

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Third Sunday before Lent



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

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 then #, then enter Meeting Passcode then #

#### Collect for the Third Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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 1

Refrain: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

Blessed are they who have not walked

in the counsel of the wicked,

nor lingered in the way of sinners,

nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

Their delight is in the law of the Lord

and they meditate on his law day and night. [R]

Like a tree planted by streams of water

bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither,

whatever they do, it shall prosper.

As for the wicked, it is not so with them;

they are like chaff which the wind blows away. [R]

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement,

nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked shall perish. [R]

Christ our wisdom, give us delight in your law, that we may bear fruits of patience and peace in the kingdom of the righteous; for your mercy's sake. Amen.

## A Gospel reading for today, Luke 6. 17-26

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

## 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!



St Michael's School last week

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.

**Holy Communion, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 10am –** A service of Holy Communion, in church and **via Derek's Zoom (ID: 927 480 8728 / Passcode 889123).** You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page.

**Tiny Tots, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**WCC Spring Clean, Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February –** Could you spare some time after Holy Communion/Tiny Tots, Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

Prayers for our Community in Church, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 9:30am A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

**TLC Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 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!

**Ash Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March** will offer Holy Communion with option of imposition of ashes, at 10am and 7:30 pm. There will be hymns and music at both services.

#### **Lent Reflections**

How are you feeling? - Meeting God in our emotion Tuesdays from 8th March, 12pm in the Lady Chapel

All are warmly invited to join these sessions during Lent. We'll explore feelings and theologically reflect on them in the light of Christ; through a meditative blend of Scripture, prayer, song, music and talks.

8th March - Isolation

15th March - Anger

22<sup>nd</sup> March - Love

29th March - Fear

5<sup>th</sup> April - Hope

Hopefully each session will be followed by a frugal lunch at 12:30pm in the WCC, in aid of the two charities supported by our Charities Support Group Lent Appeal this year.

Flower Festival for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – More details next week but don't forget to save the date!

**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 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.

An opportunity to join the management group of the Portland Child Contact Centre – one of the charities supported by St Michael's and Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford. For more information see the Notice Board or our website.

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.

**Lent Lunch helpers –** Would you be able to provide a small, frugal lunch for after one of our Lent reflections? In the past we've offered soup but it could be cheese and bread if you'd prefer. If you can help please contact Pam Johnson-Cook on 504012 or Rosemary 758389 to fix a day on the rota.

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

#### **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.

More 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.

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

The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) 65
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) 77

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