St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

# **Newsletter and Notices**

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Christ the King



### 8am Holy Communion, in Church 10am Parish Communion, in Church 6pm Choral Evensong, in Church

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the WCC after the 10am service.

#### Collect for Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; 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 46

Refrain: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble;

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,

and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;

Though the waters rage and swell,

and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her;

therefore shall she not be removed;

God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken,

but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away. [R]

Come and behold the works of the Lord,

what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.

He makes wars to cease in all the world;

he shatters the bow and snaps the spear

and burns the chariots in the fire.

'Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations;

I will be exalted in the earth.' **[R]** 

God of Jacob, when the earth shakes and the nations are in uproar, speak, and let the storm be still; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Gospel for today, Luke 23. 33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

**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've lost a few of our helpers recently and sadly we can't offer our fortnightly breakout session for older children/young people BUT WE CAN DO SO ONCE A MONTH!! There's a display in the Lady Chapel, if you'd like to find out more! Our Children & Young People website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.



We continue the story of the prophet Samuel (and for older children, the theme of hearing from God) in our Godly Play sessions for the next few weeks.

This week we learn about Samuel and Saul. 1 Samuel 8, 9, & 10.

### The church is open each day, from early morning to mid afternoon.

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

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.



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Choral Evensong for Christ the King, this Sunday 20th November at 6pm - This is our first opportunity to share Choral Evensong in nearly three years! All are warmly welcomed to this special reflective and celebratory service for Christ the King.

The Entertainer toy shop in Jackson Square is again matching in value any toy you purchase from them for the Salvation Army's Christmas Toy appeal. This offer ends on Monday (21st November), but you still have a few days to get your purchase in!

Holy Communion, Wednesday 23rd November, 10am - A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 23rd November, 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 - St Michael's is providing space at the WCC for Ukrainian quests and host families to meet together, along with informal language lessons, once a week. St Joseph's Hall is open too, as extra space for teaching or play. We are offering a light lunch / refreshments for adults and children and whatever other support we can.

A Quiet Day at Albury, Thursday 24th November, 10:30am-3pm - A day of reflection and contemplation in June's home. Places are limited, please contact June on 07539 058946 to book, or for more information.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 26th November, 9:30am - All are welcome!

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 27th November. Hosting the figures for a night is a wonderful chance to share 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. Do chat to Katharine if you'd like to know more and please sign up for a night. WE ONLY HAVE ONE NAME SO FAR!

Urgent appeal, before Monday 28th November - The people in Ukraine are facing a freezing cold and very difficult winter with lack of water, lack of electricity, lack of medicines and scarcity of food. There is a humanitarian lorry taking goods to Kiev in Ukraine in the last week of November. Please could you donate whatever of these items you can spare: tinned meat, baked beans, tinned fruit in syrup, tinned rice, pudding. Also torches with batteries, candles and matches. Finally, over-the-counter medicines such as Paracetamol, aspirin, Cough mixture, disinfectants, Elastoplast and Sanitary products. Please bring items to the Methodist Church.

Holly ring making - We're starting our holly ring making in preparation for the Holly Fair. Ring making 28th, 29th November and 1st December from 9am. There are sign-up sheets on the welcome desk or speak with Peter or Claire

Holly Fair on Saturday 3rd December 10am-12:30pm - All offers to help with stalls would be useful, (even help for an hour rather than the whole time!) We'd particularly welcome people to help with some children's activities to make this a family friendly event. All profits go to local charities and those overseas including those whom we have recently welcomed in church. Do contact Val Ashwood or Claire Conquest for more information.

Service of Thanksqiving for the Bells, Sunday 4th December at 10am - We are delighted to be welcoming the Bishop of St Albans to our morning service and warmly encourage as many of our church family as possible to attend. The new ring of 12 bells will sound in celebration during and after the service. Cake and prosecco will be served in the WCC afterwards, as well as tea and coffee.

TLC Tuesday 6th December, 2:15pm for 2:30pm, WCC - An opportunity 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. This coming month, we're having a Christmas celebration and celebrating our first birthday!

St Albans Cursillo weekend 10th-12th February - "Cursillo is a movement of the Church providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share God's love with everyone". Our next weekend will take place at Pleshey (near Chelmsford). It's not a traditional retreat and more explanation is at www.stalbanscursillo.com including a YouTube video explaining more. Many members of St Michaels congregation would recommend: speak to Mike & Val Ashwood. John & Viv Emmett, Claire Conquest, Derek & Pauline Hinge, Pam Johnson-Cook and Audrey Smith if you would like to know more.

Please keep Derwyn in your prayers, for which he is very grateful. He continues to recover from an episode of ill health. As part of his recovery, it has been agreed with the Diocese and Derwyn's medical professionals for him to begin a gradual re-entry into parish worship and ministry. This will be on a part time basis at first. Please continue to direct communications about parish activities to June, Derek or the Parish Office, for the time beina.

Food Bank Plea - Increased costs of living are hitting foodbanks hard. Do consider whether you can donate: details on our website and church noticeboard. You might also wish to consider the 'reverse Advent Calendar' – donating every day in Advent.

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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Website: www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk