



NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am An Advent Sequence, in Church

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

Collect for The First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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 122

Refrain: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts.

I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem;
Jerusalem, built as a city
that is at unity in itself.
Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as is decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
For there are set the thrones of judgement,
the thrones of the house of David. **[R]**
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
'May they prosper who love you.
'Peace be within your walls
and tranquillity within your palaces.'
For my kindred and companions' sake,
I will pray that peace be with you.
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good. **[R]**
*God of our pilgrimage,
bring us with joy to the eternal city
founded on the rock,
and give to our earthly cities
the peace that comes from above;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Gospel for today, Matthew 24. 36-44

Jesus said 'But about that day and hour [of the coming of the Son of Man] no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

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



We come to the end of the story of the prophet Samuel (and for older children, the theme of hearing from God) in our Godly Play session today. This week we hear about Saul the King; 1 Samuel 15.

[Children & Young People](#) website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.

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 [Calendar](#) page on our website. Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.



Newsletter and Notices



Sunday 27th November at 10am – The 10am service this Sunday will be a sequence of readings, prayers, hymns and choral music for Advent Sunday. Do join us!!

Travelling Crib, throughout Advent – Our travelling crib will be making its way around the parish during Advent; beginning with a blessing at the 10am service this Sunday, 27th 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. Do chat to Katharine Stanley if you'd like to know more and to sign up for a night, **we've still got places we need to fill!**

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 til 3pm**. There are sign-up sheets on the welcome desk or speak with Peter or Claire.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 30th November, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 30th 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 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 guests 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.

Holly Fair on Saturday 3rd December AT 10AM – Just a week to go until our Holly Fair! Thanks for your donations so far. We would still particularly like more bottles (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) and chocolate for the tombola. Please put in boxes at church after services. Donations of bottle, chocolates and cakes can also be taken to WCC after 2pm on Friday 2nd December when we will be setting up. If you can't be there on the day please buy some raffle tickets. Available from Angela Weeks, Gill Johnson and Claire Conquest.

Charities Support Group Advent Red Bucket appeal – "This year we are supporting Holy Trinity Winter Nightshelter who we support every winter and Meninadança who recently spoke at church. Further details about the charities and donating by bank transfer can be found [here](#). The nightshelter are in need of more helpers to run the shelter this winter and it's a very worthwhile thing to do. Please contact Dave Perry via htnsmanager@outlook.com If you'd like to know more you could also see Val Ashwood, Margaret Fox or Angela Weeks".

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. Do come along! This coming month, we're having a Christmas celebration and celebrating our first birthday!

Can you help Company at Christmas this year? Do you have a car? If so, could you spare some of your time on Christmas Day to transport one or more guests from their homes in and around Bishops Stortford to the Methodist Church Hall for a communal Christmas dinner, and take them home again at 5pm? It will consume maybe one hour of your time. Our guests would otherwise spend Christmas Day alone. If you can help, please contact steve.dale@gmail.com (07769 908777). **ALSO, do sign up to help in other ways if you can! Details in the Publicity Area.**

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.

Giant Christmas Card – Once again the Giant Christmas Card will give everyone the chance to send Christmas Greetings to their St Michael's friends, and instead of incurring postal charges making a donation to The Children's Society. The card will be displayed in the Publicity Area on Sundays and Wednesdays from 4th December. Very many thanks for your support.

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.

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