



NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Service of Thanksgiving for the Bells with the Bishop of St Albans, in Church

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in 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

When signed in you can 'Join a Meeting' (ID: 927 480 8728 / Passcode: 889123).

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 Second Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A Psalm for The Second Sunday of Advent, Psalm 72. 1-7, 18-19

Refrain: The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.

Give the king your judgements, O God, and your righteousness to the son of a king.

Then shall he judge your people righteously and your poor with justice.

May the mountains bring forth peace, and the little hills righteousness for the people.

May he defend the poor among the people,

deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor. **[R]**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, like the showers that water the earth.

In his time shall righteousness flourish, and abundance of peace

till the moon shall be no more. **[R]**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful things.

And blessed be his glorious name for ever. May all the earth be filled with his glory.

Amen. Amen.



*May your kingdom come, O God,
with deliverance for the needy,
with peace for the righteous,
with overflowing blessing for all nations,
with glory, honour and praise
for Christ, the only Saviour. Amen.*

Gospel for today, Matthew 3. 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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.



There's actually no Godly Play this week since we thought it would be wonderful for our whole church family to share in thanksgiving together! Next week, we begin the theme *God is Love* and the amazing news of Jesus' birth.



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 this 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 ... and tell your friends too! This coming month, we're having a Christmas celebration and celebrating our first birthday!

Holy Communion, Wednesday 7th December, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 7th December, 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 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.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 10th December, 9:30am – All are welcome!

The Harmonaires Choir Family Concert, Saturday 10th December, 11am – Do come and join us at this concert, suitable for all the family. Proceeds to the Shelter charity.

Advent and Christmas Services at St Michael's – All details are on our website and on flyers in the Publicity Area but note our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm on Sunday 18th December, Crib Service at 3:30pm and Midnight Service at 11pm (with Choir Carols from 10:30pm) on Christmas Eve. We'll celebrate Parish Communion at 10am on Christmas Day.

Carol Singing, Friday 16th December, 4-6pm in Jackson Square – Come and join members of *Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford* for Carol Singing, at the top of the travelator, in Jackson Square!

#FollowTheStar 2022, The Great Invitation – We invite you to sign up now for the Church of England's 12 days of reflections, starting 24th December: cofe.io/FollowTheStar Each day, read or listen to a Bible passage, short reflection and prayer, in the way that suits you: by app, email, smart speaker or phone.

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 is displayed in the Publicity Area on Sundays and Wednesdays. Very many thanks for your support.

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".

Travelling Crib, throughout Advent – Our travelling crib is making its way around the parish during Advent. 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 eight places we would love to fill!**

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.

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.

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.

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