



Sunday 18 December
8am Holy Communion
10am Service of the Word
6pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 21 December
10am Holy Communion
11am Tiny Tots

Saturday 24 December
10am-3pm Church open for prayer,
all ages welcome:

Come and see the Christmas Crib
Write a prayer and hang it on
the Christmas Tree

Enjoy the fresh floral displays
Children's activities (Lady Chapel)

3:30pm Crib Service for all
Children welcome to dress as a character
from the Nativity

11pm Choral Midnight Mass
with Carols by the Choir from 10:30pm

Sunday 25 December
10am Christmas Parish Communion

Open for prayer every day
Windhill, Bishop's Stortford
www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk



8am Holy Communion, in Church
10am Parish Communion,
in Church and via [Zoom](#)
6pm Nine Lessons & Carols, 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Gospel for today, Matthew 1. 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Come and share our short session for children and young people during our Sunday 10am service EVERY WEEK! This week, we begin the theme God is Love and the amazing news of Jesus' birth.

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.



A Psalm for The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Psalm 80

Refrain: Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock;

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,

before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation. **[R]**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears; you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,

and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **[R]**

Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,

the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

And so will we not go back from you; give us life, and we shall call upon your name. **[R]**

*Faithful shepherd of your people, as we look for the light of your countenance,
restore in us the image of your glory and graft us into the risen life of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Children's Activities in the Lady Chapel at Christmas – We'll be having our very own Nativity 'festival' with lots of different Nativity Scenes ... from Godly Play, to TLC, to St Michael's School. There will also be puzzle activity sheets, plus craft materials to make the Wise Men to complete your own scene.



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

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

Advent and Christmas Services at St Michael's – All details are on our website and on flyers (see other page) but note our **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm this 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.** Do go to [YouTube](#) for some lovely choral audio recordings from last year's Service of Nine Lessons.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 21st December, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 21st 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. This is the last session until Wednesday 4th January.

#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.

DIGITAL GIVING TO ST MICHAEL'S – ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND.

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 at this season.

TLC Tuesday 3rd January, 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! Rosemary has written a reflection/plans for 2023 [on the website](#) so do take a look.

Bishop's Stortford Youth Project – "We're delighted to let you know that we are now offering FREE hot food at Thirst Youth Café for secondary school children (11-18's) on Wednesdays from 3.30pm (and Thursdays from Jan 2023) as part of the "Warm Spaces" initiative. Food available whilst stocks last. Menu changes weekly."

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. Many members of St Michael's would recommend: do speak to the Ashwoods, the Emmetts, the Hinges, Claire Conquest, Pam Johnson-Cook and Audrey Smith.

Charities Support Group Advent Red Bucket appeal – "This year we are supporting Holy Trinity Winter Night Shelter 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 night shelter 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".

The Charities Support Group would like to thank everyone who worked hard and to make the Holly Fair such a success. There was a lovely atmosphere, and we hope everyone enjoyed the occasion. The total so far is £2850! **There are still a few more items to sell, for example there are some fresh floral table centres and holly rings in the south porch.**

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.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar)	Churchwardens: Claire Conquest 07944 431873	
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) 652173	Gill Johnson 07912 432221	
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) 07539 058946	Deputy Churchwardens: T Pigram, P Rixson	
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