



NO SERVICE AT 8am

10am Parish Communion, in Church

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

A Collect for The Second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 136. 1-9, 23-26

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 4 Who alone does great wonders,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 5 Who by wisdom made the heavens,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 6 Who laid out the earth upon the waters,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 7 Who made the great lights,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 8 The sun to rule the day,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 9 The moon and the stars to govern the night,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 23 Who remembered us when we were in trouble,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 24 And delivered us from our enemies,
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 25 Who gives food to all creatures,
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his mercy endures for ever.

Remember us, O God, and shape our history, form our inward eyes to see the shadow of the life-giving cross in the turbulence of our time; for his sake who died for all, Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel for today, Matthew 6. 25-34

Jesus said, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

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 also have an older group breakout on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month. **This week we conclude our series about Paul, and the theme 'Good News', learning that God is with us everywhere.**

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



Our Christingle service with St Michael's School last week. Prayers written by Year 6

Lord God,
We pray for the work of The Children's Society and for wisdom for all who seek to help.
For an end to the pain of injustice and the courage to stand up for others.
For those who feel unloved, unsafe and like they just can't cope.
We pray that we may hear the voice of all who cry for help
And that we may nurture the gifts and potential of all children.
We pray that our community, our nation, and our world may be a place where all may know your love.
Amen.



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 15th February, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 15th February, 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, WCC – A space for Ukrainian guests and hosts to meet weekly, along with language lessons. We offer a light lunch / refreshments for adults and children and whatever other support we can.

Quiet Day, now Thursday 16th February – Please note the change of date for this popular event at June's house in Albury.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 18th February, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Next Sunday's services, 19th February at 8am and 10am – We're delighted to welcome back The Archdeacon of Hertford, The Venerable Janet Mackenzie. She will be presiding at 8am and preaching at both 8am and 10am.

Ash Wednesday, 22nd February 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.

TLC Tuesday 7th March, 2:15pm for 2:30pm, WCC – An opportunity to be able to join in with tea and talk and a regular 10/15 minute presentation on wide ranging interests ... 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 month we welcome a Guide Dogs volunteer (and her pup!), to talk about her experience as a Guide Dogs Puppy Raiser and the onward journey.

Help needed! Please would you be able to help with our Lent lunches, either as server or soup provider? If so, please sign up (list in Publicity Area) or speak to Gill Johnson.

Lent Reflections: P.R.A.Y.

Tuesdays from 28th February, 12-12:30pm in the Lady Chapel

All are warmly invited to join these sessions during Lent. We'll explore excerpts from Pete Greig's book, *How to Pray*, framed with hymns, silence, and prayer.

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: Bishop's Stortford Youth Project (incorporating Thirst Café) and Hope and Homes for Children, who are working in Ukraine.

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.

HBW 'Superheroes' 7th-11th August 2023: We need you to be a tent leader! Will you be a superhero and help the children of our town learn about Jesus and his love for us? You don't have to be an expert because we have people willing and able to help you lead a fun and exciting week for the children. You won't be alone in the tent. All you need is an openness to let God use you to help the children have a great time during this super week! Please contact: davidholidaybibleweek@gmail.com

Tesco blue tokens for Bells restoration project – We have been successful in our application for the Tesco Community Grants Scheme. Please consider using your blue tokens (in Stortford, Stansted and Elsenham Tesco branches) for our Bells Appeal, until the end of March. Winning vote wins £1500.

Could you help us as a funeral verger? Contact the Office if so, (although Katharine will be on holiday next week). It's not an onerous role and training will be given.

Coats for local asylum seekers – Care4Calais would be grateful for men's puffer/waterproof warm coats in S, M, L XL with hoods if possible (no leather or wool). Please check they are clean, no rips or stains and that the zips work and take them to Mione Goldspink at 9 Avenue Road, Bishop's Stortford. They may be left in the porch in a bag or phone 656634 to arrange a time. Thank you in advance.

Charities Support Group news – Following our finance report, we want to thank the congregation for their generosity through the Advent Appeal (£582) and the Holly Fair (final profit-£2952). We've donated £800 each to Meninadança and Bishops Stortford Night Shelter. The rest of the Holly Fair money was distributed to our regular charities including Mary's Meals where there was matched funding on January donations. We'd like a few new members If you'd be interested in joining the group: please speak to Val Ashwood, Peter Rixson, Angela Weeks, Carole Macdonald or Gavin Mintern.

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.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar)

The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)

The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)

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