



### No Service at 8am

### 10am Parish Communion, in Church

*Please come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the WCC after the 10am service.*

#### Collect for The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 85. 8-end

**Refrain: Show us your mercy, O Lord.**

I will listen to what the Lord God will say,  
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,  
that they turn not again to folly.

Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land. **[R]**

Mercy and truth are met together,  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;  
Truth shall spring up from the earth  
and righteousness look down from heaven. **[R]**

The Lord will indeed give all that is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him  
and direct his steps in the way. **[R]**

*Most holy God,  
when we come to you fearing that truth condemns us,  
show us that truth is one with love in your Word made flesh,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

#### A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 14. 22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

#### 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 session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. **Today, we're continuing our short series on the stories Jesus told with the parable about two house builders (Matthew 7. 24-27)**



Last week's parable about The Prodigal Son

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



# Newsletter and Notices



**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 16<sup>th</sup> August, 10am** – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

**TINY TOTS CONTINUES ALL SUMMER! Wednesdays 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> August, 11 for 11:15am** 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 in the WCC, if you can. **We gather in the WCC and walk across to the Lady Chapel for worship.**

**Prayers for our Community in Church, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 9:30am** – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

**Tours of the Tower after the service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – Please join us in worship at 10am then enjoy tours of the Bell Tower which will take place from approximately 11am to 12 noon. Meet at the door by the bottom of the tower or in the North Porch if it's raining.

**TLC Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 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're having a surprise talk!

**Holly Fair 2023 meeting** – A meeting for anyone interested in being involved in the event will be held on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm** in the WCC. The Holly Fair is on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. If you can come to the meeting it would be lovely to see you. Likewise if you can run a stall or help in any other way but can't attend please give your name to one of the following. Thank you from Mireille Els, Carole Macdonald, Claire Conquest or Val Ashwood.

**Bike 'n Hike 2023, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 9am-5pm** – This is the most important fundraising event for the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust - ride or walk around churches in the area to raise money for the trust, with 50% to our own church. It would be great to offer a cold drink and a smile to visitors here that day too: so please sign up if you can help for an hour or two! Sponsorship packs are also available if you'd like to take an active part.

**St Michael's Bells Restoration** – Donate a headstock for £1,000 and we supply a brass plaque, approximately 7 inches long, which will be fixed to the headstock and inscribed with a suitable approved wording, e.g. "Headstock donated by The Smith Family In memoriam John Smith 1930-2022." For more information contact Claire Conquest or Gill Johnson or alternatively please email: [bells@saintmichaelweb.org.uk](mailto:bells@saintmichaelweb.org.uk)

**A plea for a wheelchair** – Does anyone have a wheelchair at home that they no longer need? It would need to be in good condition and fold efficiently. If you might be able to help, please contact Gill Johnson.

**We have an opportunity for a Governor at our Church School!** Would you be interested or do you know somebody who might be? Please speak to Val Ashwood or Mark Johnson for information ([chair@stmichaelsimi.herts.sch.uk](mailto:chair@stmichaelsimi.herts.sch.uk)).

**An opportunity for outdoor reflection, prayer and meditation** – With, perhaps, some hopeful signs of a few drier days, you might like to wander around the meadow patch in St Michael's Churchyard. Back in the Spring, the Town Council agreed to keep the sloped area towards Apton Road unmowed for the summer, except for a perimeter path and central cross shape. It's not looking quite as good as it did earlier in the season, but do take a moment to contemplate and pray.



## GIVING SEASON THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has responded to this year's Giving Season with new regular donations, increased pledges, one-off donations, by Gift-Aiding your giving, or by sustaining your giving. Thank you too for offers of Time and Talents. If you haven't yet had an opportunity to consider your response, Giving Season envelopes remain available in church.

*Many thanks from the Vicar, Churchwardens and Finance Committee.*

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)	899261	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	
Rob Klincke (Reader)	833523	<b>Parish Office</b>	<b>01279 654416</b>
<b>Vicar's Email: <a href="mailto:stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com">stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com</a></b>		<b>Email: <a href="mailto:church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk">church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk</a></b>	
<b>Charity Registration No. 1130646</b>		<b>Website: <a href="http://www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk">www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk</a></b>	



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