St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 22nd October 2023 The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity



No Service at 8am 10am Parish Communion, in Church 3pm Civic Service

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

Collect for The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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.

Following Jesus: worship themes this October Our worship will centre around themes of discipleship, with readings and hymns chosen to focus.

The readings are distributed with our newsletter each week by email. Please complete a form in the Publicity Area if you'd like to receive weekly emails.

Today we'll be considering *Following Jesus and sharing our faith*Some further discipleship themes will continue into November,
and possibly Lent 2024.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 67

Refrain: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
- 2 That your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for you will judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 Ten shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God, our own God, will bless us.
- 7 God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.
 In the face of Jesus Christ your light and glory have blazed forth,
 O God of all the nations; with all your people,
 may we make known your grace and walk in the ways of peace;
 for your name's sake. Amen.

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 28. 16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

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 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Today, we're continuing our series on Moses: hearing about how God talked to Moses and learning that God chooses people to help Him. (Exodus 3. 1 – 4. 20).



Our <u>Children & Young People</u> website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.

Learning about Moses as a baby last week, and how we can feel secure because God is able to save and protect (*Genesis 42. 1-13*).

We are delighted to announce the recommencement of our young person's choir – If your child is 7 or over and interested in joining, please contact Nathan Collins (stmichaelsbsdom@gmail.com) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people and welcome the support of those who would like to help contribute to these.

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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 25th October, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 25th **October, 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.**

A quiet day at Albury, Thursday 26th October, 10:30am-3pm – These popular days of reflection and contemplation in June's home are offered on a monthly basis. Places are limited, please contact June on 07539 058946 to book, or for more information.

Prayers for our Community in Church, Saturday 28th October, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Autumnal garden and church tidy up, Saturday 28th **October –** Please join us to get the church and gardens ready for the festive season. Bring your gloves, and any time that you can spare between **10am and 12noon**. Refreshments will be served.

Bible Sunday, 29th **October –** At 10am next Sunday we celebrate Parish Communion (there is no service at 8am), then at 6pm we welcome The Rev'd John Chitham, Rector of the United Benefice of Standon, the Mundens and Sacombe as preacher at our Choral Evensong.

Coffee Morning, Saturday 4th November, 10am-12noon – All Welcome! Fresh coffee / tea and cakes ... plus a cake stall, a raffle and a good as new / unwanted gift stall. Come and join us for a cuppa! Any helpers and cake bakers would be most appreciated. Please contact Gill.

Commemoration All Souls' Service, 10am, Sunday 5th **November –** All are welcome to this reflective service, with readings, choral music, prayers and lighting of candles.

TLC Tuesday 7th November, 2:15pm for 2:30pm, WCC – An opportunity 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 our speaker is Tim Weeks.

Holly Fair, Saturday 2nd December – If you can run a stall or help in any other way please give your name to Mireille Els, Carole Macdonald, Claire Conquest or Val Ashwood. The next Holly Fair meeting will be after the 10am service (at about 11:30am) on 29th October in the WCC.

The next St Albans Cursillo Weekend will be from 16th - 18th February 2024, at Pleshey. Cursillo is a movement within the Anglican church which provides a framework for Christians to grow in their faith through prayer, study and action and assists them to share their faith with others. Many members of St Michael's find this helpful, and If you would like to know more, please get in touch with John Emmett (07773 528835).

New Parish Safeguarding Officer – We give thanks for Bill Macdonald's many years of service in this role and are delighted that Dotun Akinde has volunteered to take over his responsibilities. Michelle Durnell kindly continues as PCC Children's Advocate.

Explore the Diocese of St Albans website – to discover a wealth of training and development opportunities for lay people. This can also be accessed through a regular Mission and Ministry Newsletter by registering with their Resource Centre.

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@stmichaelsjmi.herts.sch.uk).

CTBS – A reminder that there are lots of events and courses in our churches locally. Visit the CTBS website or see their Facebook account.

Red Buckets – We'd like to thank the congregation for their generous donations following the recent red bucket appeals. The St Michael's donations following the earthquake in Morocco (£283.38) and floods in Libya (£283.37) have been made via the Red Cross. We also raised £237.62 for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal and this has been sent to the Diocesan appeal.

Bishop's Stortford Child Contact Centre – The work of the Centre is expanding and they are looking to recruit new volunteers. If interested, please contact the co-ordinator (admin@bsccc.co.uk) or you are very welcome to contact Angela Weeks (831404) for an initial chat.

WCC Garden – Our thanks to Martyn Greenwood and Yousef who have been working hard to improve the garden outside the Charnley Hall. Do stop and look!

Details of all services and events are available on the <u>Calendar</u> page on our website.

Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar) The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)

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