



8am Holy Communion, in Church

10am Service of the Word, in Church & [Zoom](#)

You are welcome to share in our worship in the following ways:

1. Come to Church

All are welcome!

Remember to bring your order of service for the 10am service.

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 #

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

Collect for The Epiphany

Heavenly Father, you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal you to the world. Forgive us the sins which tear us apart; give us the courage to overcome our fears and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will; 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 72

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]**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute;

the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall do him service. **[R]**

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, the needy and those who have no helper.

He shall have pity on the weak and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,

and dear shall their blood be in his sight. **[R]**

*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.*

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 2. 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



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. **We begin a new series Jesus starts work:** as a new year begins, we can have the expectation that God will meet us and help us, as he equipped Jesus for his ministry. This week we think of Jesus the boy.

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

We are delighted with the recommencement of our young person's choir – If your child is 7 or over and interested in joining, please contact Nathan Collins (stmichaelsbdsdom@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.



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

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 10th January, 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, Saturday 13th January, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Clarinet and Piano Recital, Sunday 28th January 2024, 3pm – It's with great pleasure that we welcome back Andy Mellor and Angela Novy for a Clarinet and Piano recital. Visit the [Music at St Michael's page](#) on our website for programme notes and more information on other forthcoming concerts.

TLC Tuesday, 6th February in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm – 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! Our own James Hellis will be playing the guitar for us.

The next St Albans Cursillo Weekend will be from 16th-18th February, 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)

Food Bank Plea – Increased costs of living continue to hit foodbanks hard. Do consider whether you can donate: details on our [website](#) and church noticeboard.

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.

We are collecting used postage stamps for charity – Please cut off your address leaving an inch border of envelope and place in the bucket in the Publicity Area. Any questions to Christine or Samuel Solway.

Holly Rings – If you bought a Holly Ring at the Holly Fair, please could you return just the wire ring and pine cones to be recycled to help save expenses for next time. Thank you.

Travelling Crib sheep – We hope that you and your families enjoyed sharing in the Crib during Advent! If you have held onto your sheep over Christmas, would you be good enough to return it to Katharine (or put it in the porch post box) as soon as possible? Many thanks!

Thank You in huge measure to all who contributed to our Advent and Christmas worship in December: to wardens and sidespeople, singers, bellringers and musicians, all who cleaned the church and those who arranged hospitality, flowers, the crib and the tree. Thank you to everyone who contributed to worship to praise God at this special time. Thank you too from the Clergy for all our Christmas cards, messages and gifts. Blessings for the new year, Derwyn.

DIGITAL GIVING TO ST MICHAEL'S

We know that fewer people carry cash, and whilst our donations in the collection plates and offertory box are much smaller, the costs of running our parish remain. Please consider using our **Card-Giving facility (contactless or with PIN)** 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 Season envelopes from our most recent Stewardship renewal, in the Welcome Area.

Thank you for considering your giving to St Michael's at this season.

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| 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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