



NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion, in Church

Come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in (or outside) the WCC after the 10am service.

Collect for The Baptism of Christ

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 29

Refrain: *The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters. **[R]**

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox. **[R]**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare;

in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

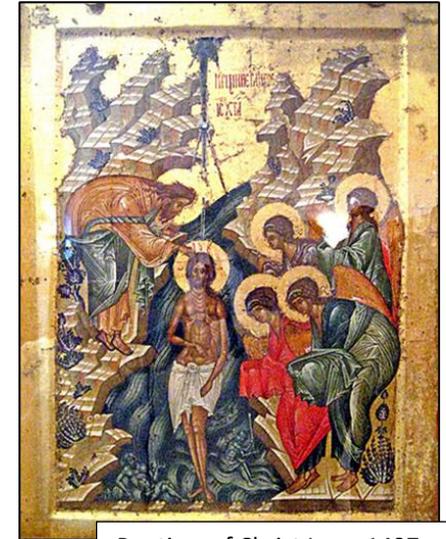
The Lord shall give strength to his people;

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **[R]**

Open our ears, glorious Lord Christ, to hear the music of your voice above the chaos of this world; open our eyes to see the vision of your glory, for you are our King, now and for ever. Amen.

A Gospel reading for today, Mark 1. 4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'



Baptism of Christ Icon, 1497, Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery

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 continue our 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 learn about John baptising Jesus.



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

Last week we learned about Jesus the boy, as he visited the temple and obeyed God, and thought about how we might grow more like him.

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 (stmichaelsbdm@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 17th January, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 17th 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 20th January, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Holly Fair follow-up meeting 21st January, 11:15ish in the WCC – The figures for the Holly Fair are on the CSG board in church but we are having a quick meeting with coffee to feed back any ideas for improvement. We'd like to hear from stallholders and anyone who attended the fair. If you can't be there but have an idea then speak to Val Ashwood, Carole Macdonald, Peter Rixson or Mireille. Thanks again to everyone who supported this year.

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.

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!

Giant Christmas Card – Many thanks to all who used the Christmas Card to pass on good wishes. £292.00 was raised for the work of The Children's Society, with a further £43.50 from Gift Aid, plus whatever was donated directly online. Thank you to all!

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.

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.

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The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)	07539 058946	Deputy Churchwardens: T Pigram, P Rixson	
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