

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 18th February 2024 First Sunday of Lent



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 #

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

A Collect for The First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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.

Romans reading for today:

Romans 1, 17-2, 1 The wrath of God is revealed.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 6, 1-4

Refrain: Turn again, O Lord, and deliver my soul.

O Lord, rebuke me not in your wrath:

neither chasten me in your fierce anger.

Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am weak;

Lord, heal me, for my bones are racked.

My soul also shakes with terror:

how long, O Lord, how long?

Turn again, O Lord, and deliver my soul; save me for your loving mercy's sake.

All: Turn again, O Lord, and deliver my soul.

Lord Jesus Christ, may the tears shed in your earthly life be balm for all who weep, and may the prayers of your pilgrimage give strength to all who suffer; for your mercy's sake. **Amen**.

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 3. 7-12

When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and

will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he

will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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 on Sunday, continuing the story of Moses from last Autumn – and looking at Moses the Leader. This week we learn about living in the desert, (Exodus 16. 1-17. 7).

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 ioinina. please contact Nathan Collins (stmichaelsbsdom@gmail.com)



Last week we explored the question, "Who is Jesus?" with both the younger and older groups.

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.

Bishop's Stortford Child Contact Centre - The Charities Support Group has invited the Child Contact Centre to offer a brief presentation after coffee this Sunday 18th February. as one of the Charities we support. Come along and find out more about the community based, not for profit, child-focused charity that supports families directly impacted by separation or divorce. They currently offer supported contact and are soon to introduce supervised contact between the child and the parent/family member they don't usually live with, in a safe, neutral, family orientated space.

Church Maintenance, weekdays Monday 19th February-Friday 1st March - Please note that, apart from during Tuesday Lent Reflections and Wednesday Communion, it won't be possible to park in the churchyard, due to work vans needing constant access, whilst Quinquennial plasterwork repairs take place.

Lent Lunch help, 20th February-19th March – Would you be able to provide soup after one of our Lent reflections? Please contact Gill Johnson to fix a day on the rota.

Lent Reflections, Tuesdays from 20th February, 12-12:30pm in the Lady Chapel – All are warmly invited to join these sessions during Lent. This year our theme is Lent Reflections on Everyday Objects, with a reading, reflection, hymn and prayer. We begin this Tuesday 20th February with 'A Safe'. 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. See our Lent flyer on our website for more information; there are a few copies in the Publicity Area too, along with some prayers and devotions which you might wish to use during this season.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 21st February, 10am - A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service are held in the WCC. This Wednesday 21st and next Wednesday 28th February, the services will be held in the Lady Chapel.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 21st February, from 10:45 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 at 11:15am for a short worship.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 24th February, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Home Communion Meeting, Saturday 2nd March, 10am - If you're involved in our ministry offering Holy Communion at home, or are interested in finding out more about this ministry, please come along to this meeting in the Lady Chapel.

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.

TLC Tuesday, 5th March 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! This coming month we welcome Andy Gibson talking about his life as a Met Police dog trainer.

Easter Monday Pilgrimage, 1st April - Every year hundreds of people from across the diocese and beyond journey together to St Albans Cathedral for an Easter celebration: with picnics on the grass, then an informal service of Holy Communion at 3pm led by Bishop Jane. Visit the St Albans Diocese website for more information.

Bereavement Journey Course, Thursdays for 6 weeks from 18th April, 10am-12:30pm - For anyone who has been bereaved at any time and in any way. There is a series of films and discussion groups looking at grief, within a safe space. You are welcome to have a preliminary discussion with a team member: June Knight, Vivienne Emmett, Liz Puller, or email Alison Jordan on alisonfaith1111@gmail.com

Christingle Thank You - "The total amount raised for The Children's Society by St Michael's School and the Church at the Christingle service this year was £416. This is a great total and many thanks to everyone who donated, planned and played a part in the lovely service", Carole Macdonald.

Hyacinth bowls – Did you buy some of Rosemary's lovely potted hyacinths at the Holly Fair? If yours have finished their first (or second flowering if you were lucky), please return the bowl to church so that it can be reused this year.

Lent Red Bucket Appeal from the Charities Support Group - The proceeds will be added to the money raised through the Tuesday Lent Lunches this year. We will split the Lent money between Bishop's Stortford Child Contact Centre and Embrace the Middle East. Embrace is a Christian development charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East. It supports, enables and partners with Christians in the Middle East as they work to transform lives and restore the dignity of the most excluded and marginalised in their communities, through education, community support and healthcare. Further information about the charities and details of online donations to CSG can be found on our website page or ask the Parish Office for a copy.

Sunday/Wednesday Coffees - Would you like to join the coffee rota for Wednesday or Sundays? Please ask Gill or Claire.

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

652173 The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) 07539 058946 Rob Klincke (Reader) 833523

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Scan code for website



