



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

# Newsletter and Notices

## NO SERVICE AT 8AM

### 10am Parish Communion, in Church

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

We'll celebrate Mothering Sunday at our 10am service this Sunday. Children in our Godly Play session will be helping to finish small gifts of flowers to give to ladies in our church family.

### A Collect for today

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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.

### Psalm 127

**Refrain: The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in.**

1 Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labour in vain.

2 Unless the Lord keeps the city,  
the guard keeps watch in vain.

3 It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early  
and go so late to rest, eating the bread of toil,  
for he gives his beloved sleep.

**All: The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in.**

4 Children are a heritage from the Lord  
and the fruit of the womb is his gift.

5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
so are the children of one's youth.

6 Happy are those who have their quiver full of them:  
they shall not be put to shame

when they dispute with their enemies in the gate.

**All: The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in.**

*Lord, you are ever watchful and bless us with your gifts;*

*as you provide for all our needs, so help us to build only what pleases you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### PRAYER, COUNSEL AND SUPPORT

If parishioners would value the prayers, counsel and support of the church, in time of need for themselves or others on their hearts, please do reach out to the ministry team. Do speak to us in person at church services and events, or use contact details on the next page. Thank you.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday



### A Gospel reading for today, John 19. 25-27

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

### An anthem for today, 'A Gaelic blessing'

**John Rutter (b. 1945); Text, words adapted from an old Gaelic rune**

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.

Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the light of the world to you.

Deep peace of Christ to you.

### 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). **This week we continue our series, Jesus promises.** This Mothering Sunday, we explore the theme *Loving others*: finding out how Jesus loves us and wants us to love others (*John 15. 12*). We'll be putting that into practice as we make our special gifts.

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

**Our young person's choir** - If your child is 7 or over and interested in joining, please contact Nathan Collins ([stmichaelsbdom@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelsbdom@gmail.com)) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people.

**The church is open each day, from early morning to mid afternoon.**  
*An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection.*



Last week we began a new series, 'Jesus promises'. We started with 'Asking Jesus': remembering to trust Jesus (*John 14. 13, 14*). We learned about Jesus' special meal with his friends then shared our own time with bread and 'wine'.



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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.

**Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon** – All welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft. We next meet tomorrow, **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March**.

**Lent Reflections, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 12-12:30pm, THIS WEEK IN THE WCC** – All are warmly invited to join these sessions. This year our theme is *Lent Reflections on Everyday Objects*, with a reading, reflection, hymn and prayer. 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.

**TLC Tuesdays, next meeting this Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April in the WCC, 2:15pm** – Join tea and talk and a regular short presentation on wide ranging interests. Martin Pettitt will be our speaker next month with his talk, 'The French Peasant and the Welsh Princess'.

**Holy Communion, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 10am** – Refreshments after the service.

**Funeral of Dick Prime, this Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1:30pm** – Pat has asked us to share the date of Dick's funeral, and adds, "All are welcome to join us in the hall after the service".

**Tiny Tots, Thursdays from 12:30-2/2:30pm** – Held weekly in the Windhill Churches Centre, Tiny Tots is for parents/carers and babies/preschoolers in term time; and older children are very welcome during inset days and school holidays. We start with playtime and tea/coffee, then songs, stories, activities and a prayer. There's easy buggy access and baby change facilities, and you're welcome to bring a packed lunch if you like. It's also ok to be late, we understand! We look forward to welcoming you soon!

**Prayers for our Community, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 9:30-10am** – All welcome.

**Forthcoming Holy Communion services** – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at **8am next on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Day)**. On Palm Sunday, **13<sup>th</sup> April** we'll celebrate **10am Holy Communion with Palm Ceremonies**.

**Forthcoming Services using the Book of Common Prayer (1662)** – 6<sup>th</sup> April, 6pm: Choral Evensong for Passion Sunday; 18<sup>th</sup> May, 11:15am: Eastertide Prayer Book Communion; 29<sup>th</sup> May, 7:30pm: Ascension Day Sung Prayer Book Communion; 22<sup>nd</sup> June 6pm: Choral Evensong for St Alban's Day.

**Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April** – Places are limited at these days of reflection and contemplation in June's home; contact the Office for more information.

**Quiz Night, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 7pm in the WCC, for a prompt 7:30pm start** – We're raising funds for a Leprosy Mission Project, as there is urgent need for further help. Tickets are £15 each, including a fish/chicken and chip supper. There will be a raffle too! Please see Rosemary asap for details/tickets, after Sunday and Wednesday services. We can accommodate individuals or tables of 8.



Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday

**APCM, 25<sup>th</sup> May after 10am service** – The Electoral Roll is due to be renewed this year starting on 31<sup>st</sup> March and ending on 28<sup>th</sup> April, if you'd like to join our electoral roll and/or nominate for PCC election. **The old Roll will be discarded and everyone who wishes to be on the new Roll will need to fill in an application form.**

**HBW 2025, 'Once upon a time...', Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August** – Registration now open for both children and volunteers for this year's event; sign up via the [HBW website](#).

**Postage stamps for charity** – Save your used stamps for the bucket in the Publicity Area. Stamps must have a one inch paper envelope border, or they can't be used!

**Mary's Meals, foreign currency collection** – The Charities Support Group has an ongoing collection. A further amount can be sent once we have 2kg of currency.

**Lent Red Bucket Appeal from the Charities Support Group** – The proceeds will be added to money raised through the Tuesday Lent Lunches this year. We will split the Lent money between **Supporting Dalit Children** and **Holy Trinity Night Shelter**. Dalits are also known as 'untouchables', or 'outcasts'. The children are 'poorest of the poor' in India; many have lost one or both parents, and all the children work from a young age to help supplement the family income. 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.

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

**Are you interested in joining a home group?** Perhaps you'd like to find out about what they can offer? Contact Derwyn in the first instance if you'd like to know more.

**Archivist** – We are looking for someone to take on the church archiving. It is an interesting, important and creative role, which you can make your own, and do in your own time. Please see Gill for details.

**Consultation shaping the Statement of Needs for the next Bishop of St Albans** – The diocese is keen to hear from people, please respond online [here](#) asap, it will guide the discernment process. Contact the Parish Office if you'd like to print/post the form.

**Easter flyer distribution** – Please help us spread the Easter message by posting our flyer to homes in Stortford Fields or St Michael's Hurst. They are in bundles at the Cross Aisles in church. Any queries, please speak to Katharine Stanley.

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	
<b>Parish Office</b>	<b>01279 654416</b>	Parish Safeguarding Officer: Dotun Akinde	

Vicar's Email: [stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com)

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