

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 6th April 2025 The Fifth Sunday of Lent, Passion Sunday



8am Holy Communion, in Church 10am Service of the Word, in Church & Zoom 6pm Choral Evensong for Passiontide, in Church

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

Collect for The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.

From Ash Wednesday we are using Psalm 1 as a Lenten 'Anchor' psalm for the season. Refrain: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,

nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

Their delight is in the law of the Lord and they meditate on his law day and night.

Like a tree planted by streams of water

bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither,

whatever they do, it shall prosper.

All: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

As for the wicked, it is not so with them;

they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement,

nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish.

All: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

Christ our wisdom, give us delight in your law, that we may bear fruits of patience and peace in the kingdom of the righteous; for your mercy's sake. Amen.

Parish Register for March

We remember in our prayers the families of Beryl Conquest, Graham Savage, Ray Ho, and Daryl Hoare whose funerals took place last month.

We also remember the family of Sylvia Camp, whose ashes were interred last month.

A Gospel reading for today, John 12. 1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Come and share our short session for children and young people during our 10am service EVERY SUNDAY!

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). For the next few weeks our focus moves to Lent and Easter. This week we learn about Jesus in the desert (Luke 4. 1-13).

Thank you to all the children in our church family who created such beautiful floral heart prayers for the ladies in our congregation on Mothering Sunday.

Our <u>Children & Young People</u> website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus this Lent and Easter. We'll also have children's activities and reflections in the Lady Chapel from Wednesday 9th April.

Our young person's choir - If your child is 7 or over and interested in joining, please contact Nathan Collins (stmichaelsbsdom@gmail.com).

Holy Week and Easter Services

Next Sunday 13th April is Palm Sunday and we'll celebrate Holy Communion with Palm Ceremonies at 10am for the start of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday 17th April, 7:30pm – Holy Communion then stripping of the altar. Good Friday, 18th April Churches Together United Service, 10am at St Michael's followed by a Walk of Witness through the town to the Methodist Church, in groups, holding palm crosses.

On Easter Day, 20th April, we'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am and 10am, with an Easter egg hunt after the 10am service.

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.



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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. From this Sunday onwards, there will be an opportunity to journey the 'Way of the Cross', with stations for reflection for all ages.

From 13th April onwards, our reflections will include a special prayer corner if you'd like to pray, light a candle or write a prayer on a paper cross and hang it at the cross.

Forthcoming 8am services - We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am next this Sunday 6th and 20th April (Easter Day). On Palm Sunday, 13th April we'll celebrate 10am Holy Communion with Palm Ceremonies.

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

Lent Reflections, Tuesday 8th April from 12-12:30pm in the Lady Chapel - All are warmly invited to join this last session: our theme is Lent Reflections on Everyday Objects. with reading, reflection, hymn and prayer; followed by a frugal lunch, in aid of the two charities supported by our Charities Support Group Lent Appeal this year.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 9th April, 10am – Refreshments 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 these 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! Special extra session on Wednesday 9th too!

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 12th April, 9:30-10am - All welcome.

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon - Al welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft. We next meet on Monday 14th April.

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

Quiz Night, 3rd May, 7pm in the WCC, for a prompt 7:30pm start – We're raising funds for a Leprosy Mission Project (in addition to the donations we make each year through the CSG) as there is urgent need for further help. Tickets are £15 each, individuals or tables of 8, 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.

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting Tuesday 6th May in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm – Join tea and talk and a regular short presentation on wide ranging interests. Next month, Roy Edwards will be talking to us about First Aid in the Home: 'Something is better than nothing'

APCM. 25th May after 10am service - The Electoral Roll is due to be renewed this year starting on 31st March and ending on 28th 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 4th - Friday 8th August - Registration now open for both children and volunteers for this year's event; sign up via the HBW website.

Postage stamps and foreign currency collections 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! The Charities Support Group has an ongoing collection of currency for Mary's Meals. 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 the money raised through the Tuesday Lent Lunches this year. We will split the Lent money between Supporting Dalit Children and Holy Trinity Night Shelter. 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@stmichaelsimi.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.

A request for small, wrapped Easter Eggs – We're delighted to be able to offer an Easter Egg hunt for the children and young people of St Michael's after the 10am service on Easter Day. We'd be most grateful for donations of small (Creme Egg size) individually wrapped Easter Eggs. Please place them in the box in the Publicity Area, thank you!

In memory or celebration – If anyone in the congregation wishes to contribute to the purchase of Easter lilies, please give your donation to Claire Conquest and complete a dedication card as soon as possible.

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.

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

Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbsvicar@gmail.com

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for website

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