

## **Newsletter and Notices**

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 First Sunday after Trinity



# NO SERVICE AT 8AM 10am Parish Communion 12:30pm Holy Baptism 6pm Choral Evensong for the Feast of St Alban

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

#### Collect for The First Sunday after Trinity

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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 Gospel reading for today, Luke 8.26-39

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As Jesus stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me'— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

#### A Psalm for today, Psalm 22. 19-28

Refrain: Be not far from me, O Lord.

Be not far from me, O Lord; you are my strength; hasten to help me.

Deliver my soul from the sword, my poor life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth, from the horns of wild oxen. You have answered me! [R] I will tell of your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation will I praise you.

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; O seed of Jacob, glorify him;

stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.

For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor;

neither has he hidden his face from them; but when they cried to him he heard them.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord shall praise him;

their hearts shall live for ever. [R]

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's and he rules over the nations. [R]

Restless with grief and fear, the abandoned turn to you: in every hour of trial, good Lord, deliver us, O God most holy, God most strong, whose wisdom is the cross of Christ. Amen.

#### **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). Today, we'll be learning about St Alban and hearing how God's love goes on and on (Psalm 136. 1-9).

Our <u>Children & Young People</u> website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.

Last week, we learned about the Trinity and considered *One God, Three persons,* making a special pyramid and a colourful Celtic Knot to remind us.

Our young person's choir - If your child is 7 or

over and interested in joining, please contact Nathan Collins (<a href="mailto:stmichaelsbsdom@gmail.com">stmichaelsbsdom@gmail.com</a>) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people.

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

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Forthcoming Services using the Book of Common Prayer (1662) - This Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 6pm: Choral Evensong for St Alban's Day.

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 this Monday 23rd June.

1995-2025 - A couple of anniversary dates are approaching for me, and the quirks of the calendar mean I'm leading Holy Communion on both of them.:

This Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my priesting, and we'll pray for vocations to ministry, and those approaching ordination, at the 10am service.

St Peter's Day, Sunday 29th June, marks 30 years since the day I first presided at the Eucharist, and we'll mark St Peter's Festival this year too. As on every Wednesday and Sunday all who'd like to gather at the Lord's Table to hear his Word and seek his grace are most welcome to come together to do so! Derwyn.

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 28th June, 9:30-10am - All welcome.

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting Tuesday 1st July in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm -Join tea and talk and a regular short presentation on wide ranging interests. In July, Maggie Groves, a member, will speak to us with her talk entitled "Change of Direction"

Summer Coffee Morning: Saturday, 5th July at 10am - All welcome! Fresh coffee/tea and cakes ... plus a cake stall, toy stall, jigsaws, raffle and good as new/unwanted gift stall. Come and join us for a cuppa! Any helpers and cake bakers most appreciated (please contact Gill).

Forthcoming 8am services - We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am next on **Sunday 6th July**, then 20th July, 3rd and 31st August.

Tower Tours, Sunday 13th July, 1-3pm (last entry 2:30pm) – adults £5, children free. Contact bells@saintmichaelweb.org.uk / 07773 572135 for more information.

Recital with Raymond Burley, Sunday 13th July, 3pm – All are warmly invited to our next recital, featuring classical guitar Please visit our Music at St Michael's website page for a biography on Raymond (along with details of all forthcoming recitals). Free admission (retiring collection), tea and homemade cakes afterwards.

Quiet Days in Albury, next on Thursday 31st July - Places are limited at these days of reflection and contemplation in June's home; contact the Office for more information.

HBW 2025, 'Once upon a time...', Monday 4th - Friday 8th August - Registration is open for both children and volunteers for this year's event; sign up via the HBW website. We have had over 300 children signing up and lots of helpers but we still need more. See the church noticeboard for specific requests.

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.

Electoral Roll - We think a number of regular worshippers may have missed the Electoral Roll renewal, which was started again from scratch this April. Applications can be received at any time, and application forms are available in the Publicity Area.

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.

The Children's Society - Thank you to everyone who has a Children's Society collecting box. Please could you hand it in to me for counting and banking. I can pick them up if necessary. Carole Macdonald.

The church is open each day, from early morning to mid afternoon.

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.

#### 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 below. Thank you.

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

07539 058946 Parish Office 01279 654416

Deputy Churchwardens: T Pigram, P Rixson Pero Deputy Churchwardens: T Pigram, P Rixson

116 Parish Safeguarding Officer: Dotun Akinde safeguarding@saintmichaelweb.org.uk / 07921 860862

Email: <a href="mailto:church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk">church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk</a>

Website: www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk | Scan code

Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbsvicar@gmail.com Charity Registration No. 1130646

Churchwarden: Claire Conquest 07944 431873

for website