St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 10th May 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

NO SERVICE AT 8AM
10am Parish Communion, in Church

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

Collect for The Sixth Sunday of Easter

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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 66. 7-18 **Refrain:** ***All the earth shall worship you, O Lord.***

Bless our God, O you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
Who holds our souls in life and suffers not our feet to slip.
For you, O God, have proved us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the snare; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; but you brought us out into a place of liberty.
All: All the earth shall worship you, O Lord.
I will come into your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows,
which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices with the smoke of rams;
I will sacrifice oxen and goats.
All: All the earth shall worship you, O Lord.
Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.
I called out to him with my mouth
and his praise was on my tongue.
If I had nursed evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me,
But in truth God has heard me;
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.
Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld his loving mercy from me.
All: All the earth shall worship you, O Lord.

How generous is your goodness, O God,
how great is your salvation, how faithful is your love;
help us to trust you in trial and praise you in deliverance;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Gospel reading for today, John 14. 15-21

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

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 most weeks.** This week we finish our series, *Jesus Cares*, hearing about how Jesus gives life *(John 11. 17-44).*

Last week we learned about how Jesus feeds, with the story of the loaves and the fishes *(John 6. 1-15).* We had a 'picnic', shared the story, and made our own fishy prayers: fishing for our name then fishing for Jesus who cares for us.

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

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

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 the contact details on the other page.

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

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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Christian Aid Week is 10th-16th May – There will be Red Buckets in church during the services for anyone who would like to make a donation. The Gift Aid envelopes and poster explain how your support can help urban farmers to fight hunger and grow hope. Donate faster at caweek.org or call 08080 006 006. Thank you.

Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. Next on this Monday 11th May – All welcome!

Holy Communion, Wednesday 13th May, 10am – Refreshments afterwards.

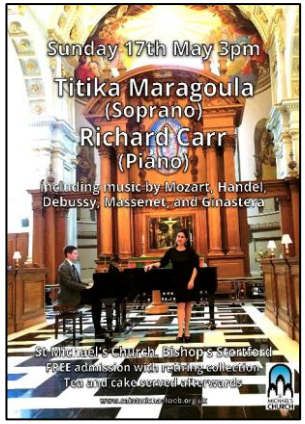
Tiny Tots, Thursdays from 12:30-2/2:30pm, WCC – For parents/carers and babies/ preschoolers in term time; plus older children in the holidays. Playtime, tea/coffee, songs, stories, activities and a prayer. Buggy access and baby change available, and you're welcome to bring a packed lunch if you like. It's also ok to be late, we understand!

Ascension Day, this Thursday 14th May, 7:30pm – All are warmly invited to join our special Choral Service of Holy Communion, with music, anthem and hymns for Ascension Day.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 16th May, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Fabric and grounds working party session, next Saturday 16th May, from 10am – All are welcome to help until noon, or whatever time you have available. Please meet in the south porch. We shall be looking at what we can do to keep the church in good repair, and the grounds tidy in the warmer season. Refreshments afterwards.

Tower Tours, next Sunday 17th May, 1-3pm – £5 for adults, free for children. Contact for more information via bells@saintmichaelweb.org.uk or 07971 138020.



Forthcoming Recital, next Sunday 17th May, 3pm – We are delighted to welcome Titika Maragoula (Soprano) and Richard Carr (Piano). Free admission, retiring collection, tea and homemade cakes after.

Quiet Days in Albury – Days of reflection and contemplation in June's home. We'll be meeting next **on Thursday 21st May.**

A Pentecost Prayer Breakfast, St Barnabas Centre, Thorley, Saturday 23rd May, 10am-12noon – Organised by Churches Together, this is an opportunity to discover more about, and pray for, several of the charities St Michael's supports (including the Child Contact Centre, Street Pastors, the Night Shelter and Thirst Youth Cafe) plus many other local initiatives. The event will conclude with worship and prayer from 11:30am. The session is free; tea, coffee and pastries are available, and all are welcome to drop in and stay for as long as they like.

Pentecost Barbecue, Sunday 24th May – All are warmly invited to join us after our 10am service. Sign up in the Publicity Area to give us an idea of numbers. Donations of salads / puds warmly welcomed!

Healing Prayers – are offered in the Lady Chapel after worship on fourth Sundays each month, **next on Sunday 24th May.**

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am on **Sunday 31st May**, then 7th and 21st June.

APCM, 31st May after 10am service – If you'd like to consider coming onto, or returning to the Parochial Church Council (PCC), or offering service as a Churchwarden or Deanery Synod Representative, do speak to one of the current PCC, or Wardens' Team, or the Vicar. Nomination forms are in the Publicity Area. Thank you. Over the coming weeks the APCM documentation will be published on the website from the Home and PCC pages.

There won't be a TLC session in the WCC on Tuesday 2nd June – A reminder that on Tuesday 2nd June, our TLC regulars are enjoying a trip out for a cream tea at a surprise venue. We'll be back on 7th July.

Love Stortford '26, Monday 15th – Saturday 20th June – The Churches Together event is taking place again. Would you like to join the carnival procession on 20th June, or organise your own project? For inspiration, see Love Stortford 2025 video on YouTube.

Holiday Bible Week 2026: 'Rescue!', 3rd-7th August (Herts & Essex High School) – HBW has had 356 applications for places this year! They've been able to offer places to most, but still have 31 children on the waiting list. If you'd like to help, please sign up as soon as possible. Each new adult volunteer enables up to 8 more places. **They're especially keen to hear from anyone with an interest or experience in supporting children with special educational needs.** Further information, and a sign-up form, is available on the HBW website. And visit our website for a sneak video preview of all the fun that happens each year!

Communion Music – To help with congregational singing at communion, the Sidespeople have melody versions of all settings available for worshippers.

Treasurer Role - Church Finance Administration – Graziana, our long-serving Treasurer is standing down from 30th June 2026, after 11 years in post. If you have accountancy/bookkeeping/finance administration skills, could you be part of a team of people who can help in some way with the work of our Finance operation? Sharing the tasks seems a more realistic plan than expecting one person to take everything on. If you might contribute to this, please speak to Claire Conquest, Peter Rixson or the Vicar, to let us know and find out more. Thank you.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar) 899261
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) 652173
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) 07539 058946
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