



NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion, in Church

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

12:30pm Holy Baptism, in Church

Collect for The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding; pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 65. 8-13

Refrain: Be joyful in God, all the earth.

You visit the earth and water it; you make it very plenteous.

The river of God is full of water;

you prepare grain for your people, for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;

you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.

You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness

and the hills be girded with joy.

May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep

and the valleys stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing.

All: Be joyful in God, all the earth.

May the richness of your creation, Lord, and the mystery of your providence lead us to that heavenly city where all peoples will bring their wealth, forsake their sins and find their true joy, 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 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.

A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

Jesus went and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!' 'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

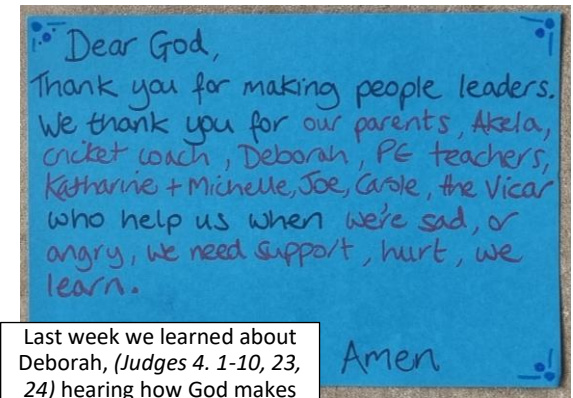
Come and share our short session for children and young people during our Sunday 10am service EVERY WEEK!

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 continue our series from the Old Testament: *Friends of God*, finding out about Gideon and learning that God helps people to be brave (*Judges 6. 11-16, 33-40*).

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 (stmichaelsbdsdom@gmail.com) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people



Last week we learned about Deborah, (*Judges 4. 1-10, 23, 24*) hearing how God makes some people into leaders.



Tower Room work in June and July – Please note that work on the ground floor area of the tower is scheduled to be completed at the end of July.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 15th July, 10am – Derek will be celebrating his 90th birthday on this day and presiding over our Communion Service. In addition, Chris and family from **Church Mission Society** are coming to share our worship and at some point afterwards tell us about their time in Madrid. Do join us for this extra celebratory service and special refreshments afterwards.

Tiny Tots, Thursdays from 12:30-2/2:30pm, WCC – For parents/carers and babies/preschoolers in term time; **plus older children are most welcome in the forthcoming school 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!

Forthcoming events for our Church School – Ms Griffiths and our school community warmly invites you to share in some or all of our forthcoming events. **Music Performance 16th July, 2-3pm; End of term awards celebration/ worship 17th July, 9am; End of Term Church Celebration, 21st July, 11am.** Please come and support our children. And do take a moment to enjoy the latest display at the back of the church.

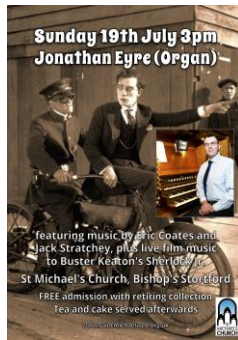
Prayers for our Community, Saturday 18th July, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am on **Sunday 19th July**, then 2nd and 30th August.

Giving Sunday – Please take an envelope from the Cross Aisle and give stewardship some thought at this time. It will be the subject of our worship on **Sunday 19th July.**

Tower Tours, next on Sunday 19th July, 1-3pm – £5 for adults, free for children. Contact for more information via bells@saintmichaelweb.org.uk or 07971 138020.

Organ Recital with Jonathan Eyre, Sunday 19th July, 3pm – Free admission with retiring collection. Tea and homemade cake served afterwards.



Our craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. Next on Monday 20th July – All welcome!

Prayer Ministry – for healing, praise or thanksgiving are offered in the Lady Chapel after worship on fourth Sundays each month, **next on Sunday 26th July.**

Quiet Days in Albury – Days of reflection and contemplation in June's home. We'll be meeting next **on Thursday 30th July.**

TLC Tuesdays, next on Tuesday 4th August in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm – In August, we'll be having a fundraising afternoon for the charity *Prostate Cancer UK.*

Autumn Preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Communion – I've had a few enquiries from folk who've recently started coming to St Michael's, about the opportunity to prepare to receive the Holy Communion. If possible, I'd like to set up a group to do this from September onwards. It will involve exploring Faith in Christ, and preparing for Baptism and/ or Confirmation, as the gateway to church membership and participation in Communion. If you'd like to find out more, do speak to me, or email the Parish Office. Thank you, Derwyn.

Help raise money towards the Tower Room Appeal – by clicking on and signing up to this easy fundraising link and raise money as you shop: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=428546&invite=7sitbt&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=easyfundraising-app&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=copy-link You can also donate through the contactless card machine or by using the form in the Publicity Area.

Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford newsletter – A copy of the latest newsletter can be found on the CTBS website <https://ctbs.org.uk/> **There's lots happening, including a Special Songs of Praise service on 4th October, 4pm at the URC.**

From the Vicar – Please forward to stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com any emails purporting to come from me inviting you to purchase charity e-vouchers (or anything else that sounds suspicious). DO NOT reply or respond directly to the email. I am aware of spoofing attempts via email for the purpose of scamming, so please be advised and alert to this. Thank you, Derwyn.

New arrangements for PCC Invoices and Payments – Please note that all invoices, expenses claims, and claims for re-imburement from the PCC now need to be sent to: invoices@saintmichaelweb.org.uk. The mechanism for processing payments is changing as we go forward from Graziana's retirement, so please be patient as the new system beds in. Thank you!

Red Bucket Appeal for Venezuela – Since two deadly earthquakes struck Venezuela, over 1,700 people have already lost their lives and thousands are missing. The scale of destruction is overwhelming and families are struggling for survival. We're having a Red Bucket Emergency Appeal if anyone would like to donate to the relief effort. Thank You.

The Children's Society – Please could anyone with a collecting box bring it to me or to a church service, so the cash can be counted and banked as soon as possible. Thank you very much. Carole Macdonald.

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