



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion, in Church

There is an opportunity for prayers of healing, praise or thanksgiving in the Lady Chapel after the service.

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

Collect for The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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 138

Refrain: Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods will I sing praise to you.

I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

In the day that I called to you, you answered me; you put new strength in my soul.

All: Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,

for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly;

as for the proud, he regards them from afar.

All: Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will preserve me;

you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;

your right hand will save me.

The Lord shall make good his purpose for me;

your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; forsake not the work of your hands.

All: Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever.

*Lord our God, supreme over all things, look upon the humble and lowly
and put new strength into our souls to complete your purpose for us
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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.

Sunday 23rd August 2026
The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity



A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 16. 13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 a short series: *Stories Jesus Told*, finding out about a beautiful pearl (*Matthew 13. 45, 46*).

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

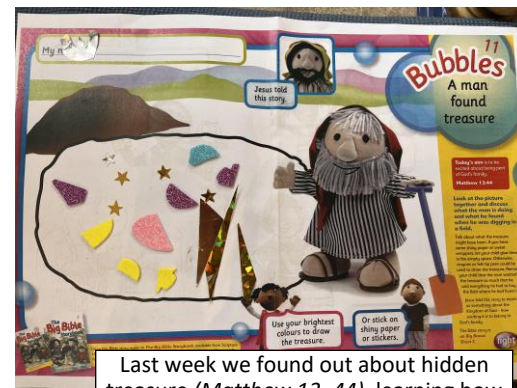
PRAYER, COUNSEL AND SUPPORT

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.



Last week we found out about hidden treasure (*Matthew 13. 44*), learning how wonderful it is to be part of God's family and making treasure chest pictures to take home with us.



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Prayer Ministry – for healing, praise or thanksgiving are offered in the Lady Chapel after worship on fourth Sundays each month, **next on this Sunday 23rd August.**

Holy Communion, Wednesday 26th August, 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 are most welcome in these 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! **We would really value some more helpers ... just to assist once a month. Please speak to Shell if you're interested in knowing more.**

Quiet Days in Albury – Days of reflection and contemplation in June's home. We'll be meeting next **this Thursday 27th August.**

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 29th August, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am **next Sunday 30th August**, then 6th and 20th September.

TLC Tuesdays, Tuesday 1st September in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm – Join tea and talk and a regular short presentation on wide-ranging interests. In September we are delighted to welcome Gavin Minter with his talk, 'Camino de Santiago'.

Holly Fair meeting 6th September – Our first meeting for this year's event (on Saturday 5th December at 10am) will take place after coffee in WCC (upstairs) on 6th September. If you can help in any way with planning, publicity and organisation, please come along. If unable to come to the meeting but happy to run your usual stall then do let us know. Thanks. Val A, Claire C, Carole M, Martyn G, Angela W.

Craft group usually meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. We're taking a short break for summer, returning **Monday 7th September** - all welcome!

Bike 'n Hike 2026, Saturday 12th September 9am-5pm – It would be great to offer a cold drink and a smile to visitors here that day too: so please sign up on the sheet in the Publicity Area if you can help for an hour (or perhaps more!).

Christian Nurture and preparation for Baptism/Confirmation, Saturday 12th September, 10am in WCC – An initial gathering, for anyone who may be interested in this. We'll have a chat over some refreshments, touch base on where people currently are with faith and Christian understanding, and talk about what may work in terms of going forward. I hope this may be helpful. If you can come, please let me know, or if that date isn't possible but you're interested in principle, do email me. With my prayers and best wishes, Derwyn.

Choral Evensong, Sunday 13th September, 6pm – All are warmly invited to our special Choral service for the Feast of Holy Cross.

Sunday 23rd August 2026
The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity



Our recital on Sunday 20th September is CANCELLED – With apologies, and for reasons beyond anyone's control, the Mezzacapo Mandolin Trio recital is cancelled.

Bereavement Journey Course, on seven Saturday mornings from 26th September – For anyone bereaved at any time; with films and discussion groups. It's the chance to explore grief in a safe space. If you are interested and would value a preliminary conversation, please contact Alison Jordan alisonfaith1111@gmail.com. Previous guests have found the course to be supportive in their grief.

Bishop's Stortford Town Council Children's Logo & Tagline Competition – for children/young people up to age 18, to help create a brand-new identity for the town, replacing the current 'Historic Market Town' logo. Deadline 30th September. See more information in Publicity Area.

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.

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 Songs of Praise service on 4th October, 4pm at the URC.**

New PCC Governor for St Michael's School – Would you like to be a school governor? It's a rewarding and important role in a friendly team and we currently have one vacancy for September. There are 7 foundation governors appointed by the PCC at church or St Albans diocese to uphold the Christian ethos of the school as well as taking other responsibilities. See Mark Johnson (chair) or Val Ashwood or email chair@stmichaelsjmi.herts.sch.uk

Could you help A Godly Play once a month? Due to one of our team needing to step down, we **urgently** need some extra help: please speak to Katharine if interested.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar)	899261	Churchwarden: Claire Conquest	07944 431873
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)	652173		
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)	07539 058946	Deputy Churchwardens: T Pigram, P Rixson	
Parish Office	01279 654416	Parish Safeguarding Officer: Dotun Akinde	
		safeguarding@saintmichaelweb.org.uk / 07921 860862	

Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com

Charity Registration No. 1130646

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