



St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

NO SERVICE AT 8AM

10am Parish Communion, in Church

6pm Choral Evensong for the Feast of Holy Cross, in Church

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

Collect for The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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 103. 1-13 *Refrain: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits;

Who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

Who redeems your life from the Pit and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;

Who satisfies you with good things, so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's. **[R]**

The Lord executes righteousness and judgement for all who are oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us, neither will he keep his anger for ever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,

nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. **[R]**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he set our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him. **[R]**

Merciful Lord, as we come from dust and return to dust, show us the face of our Redeemer, that in our frailty we may bless your name and praise you all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

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.

Sunday 13th September 2026

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity



A Gospel reading for today, Matthew 18. 21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

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 short series *Old Testament Kings*, finding out about Hezekiah and Isaiah (2 Kings 20. 1-11).

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.

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 offering choral and organ scholarships for our young people



Last week we found out about how Hezekiah trusted God (2 Kings 18. 13 – 19. 37), and learned to trust God ourselves. We first built a strong wall to surround 'the city', then used the pieces to make Trust God Crowns.



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Choral Evensong, this Sunday 13th September, 6pm – All are warmly invited to our special choral service for the Feast of Holy Cross. If you've not come to an Evensong before, or it's been a while, do come and share in the worship – and why not bring a friend too!

Holy Communion, Wednesday 16th September, 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 on inset days and 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.**

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 19th September, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am on **Sunday 20th September**, then 4th and 18th October.

Tower Tours, Sunday 20th September, 1-3pm – £5 for adults, free for children. More information via bells@saintmichaelweb.org.uk or 07971 138020.

Craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. We next meet on **Monday 21st September** - all welcome!

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.

St Michael's Patronal Festival Celebrations, Sunday 27th September – All are warmly invited to share in our festival worship: with a special **10am Michaelmas Communion Service using the Book of Common Prayer (1662)**. Then, why not join us for a celebratory **Bring & Share Lunch** in the WCC after the service. **Sign up sheets are in the Publicity Area and WCC – all are welcome!**

Giving Season

Please can **any last responses** be given to the Parish Office, or placed in the post box in the corner of the North Porch **by Sunday 27th September**.

Thank you for responses which have come in and for thinking and praying about all the ways in which we can, together, resource and contribute to our Church. Derwyn.



Sunday 13th September 2026

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity



Prayer Ministry – for healing, praise or thanksgiving are offered in the Lady Chapel after worship on fourth Sundays each month, **next on Sunday 27th September**.

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.

Quiet Days in Albury – Days of reflection and contemplation in June's home. We'll be meeting next **on Thursday 1st October**.

TLC Tuesdays, Tuesday 6th October in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm – Join tea and talk and a regular short presentation on wide-ranging interests. In October we are delighted to welcome Patricia Meadmore with her talk, 'Once upon a stage'.

The Children's Society – Thanks to the generosity of the box holders, we have raised **£525.90** for the Children's Society which will help to deliver vital support to many young people. **Thank you so much.**

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. 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

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

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