St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 22nd November 2026

Christ the King

NO SERVICE AT 8am

10am Parish Communion

There is the opportunity for Healing Prayers in the Lady Chapel after the service

12:30pm Holy Baptism

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

Collect for Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; 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 95. 1-7

Refrain: Come, let us worship and bow down.

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms.
3 For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.

All: Come, let us worship and bow down.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
6 Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
7 For he is our God;
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

All: Come, let us worship and bow down.

Lord God, the maker of all,
as we bow down in praise this day, make us attentive to your voice
and do not test us beyond our enduring; through 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 25. 31-46

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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 focus on the Christian Year and, from our Lectionary readings recently, hear the parable of the talents, *(Matthew 25. 14-30)* and praise our wonderful God, Christ the King *(Psalm 95).*



Last week we heard the parable of the ten bridesmaids from our Lectionary readings recently, *(Matthew 25. 1-13),* playing a game filling a lamp with 'oil' and making our own lamps.

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

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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 22nd November.**



Recital with Fumi Otsuki (Violin) and Gisela Meyer (Piano), this Sunday 22nd November, 3pm – Free admission, retiring collection. Tea and homemade cake afterwards. Programme information and biographies on our website (Music at St Michael's page).

Holly ring making – We're starting our holly ring making in preparation for the Holly Fair. Mossing up from 9am on 24th November, Ring making all day 30th November, 1st, 3rd (and afternoon of 2nd) December. Sign-up sheets on the welcome desk or speak with Peter or Claire.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 25th November, 10am – All are warmly welcome to this special service which we share with pupils from our own St Michael's School. Refreshments in the Windhill Churches Centre afterwards.

Quiet Days in Albury – Days of reflection and contemplation in June's home. We'll be meeting next **on Thursday 26th November.**

Tiny Tots, Thursdays from 12:30-2/2:30pm, WCC – We are in need of volunteers to assist with this important community outreach for babies/young children and their parents/carers. Every week we join in a joyful time of worship, learning, prayer and fellowship, led by Derwyn. Without a minimum of two registered helpers, the session cannot go ahead. Please consider offering your time for this rewarding church ministry! Speak to Lucie if you're interested in knowing more.

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 28th November, 9:30-10am – All welcome.

Forthcoming 8am services – We'll celebrate Holy Communion at 8am on **Sunday 29th November,** 6th, 20th and 27th December.

Advent Service, Sunday 29th November, 10am – We would welcome volunteers to read at this service, speak to Derwyn if interested.

Craft group meets on alternate Mondays in the WCC, 10am - 12noon. We next meet **on Monday 30th November -** all welcome! We might bring along our own current crafting hobby and sometimes one of the group shares a craft. We usually prepare items for sale at the Holly Fair.

Travelling Crib for ALL our church family – Our travelling crib will be making its way around the parish during Advent; **beginning with a blessing at the 10am service on 29th November**. Hosting the figures for a night is a wonderful chance to share the anticipation of Christ's birth and fellowship with your family and others as the crib is passed on ... and a moment of stillness in an otherwise busy Advent. Please chat to Katharine if you'd like to know more about it and to sign up for a night.

TLC Tuesdays, next meeting on Tuesday 1st December in the WCC, 2:15pm for 2:30pm Join tea and talk and a regular short presentation on wide-ranging interests. This month we are delighted to welcome children from St Michael's School who will be singing carols to and with us.

Holly Fair (and Tower Tours too!), Saturday 5th December, 10-1pm – If you know anyone who could donate a raffle prize please speak to Carole Macdonald or Angela Weeks. We'll make Holly Rings as usual the week before the fair. If you would like to make any donations, there are boxes in church at services for the gifts stall, the bottle and chocolate tombola and for any raffle prizes. There will also be a list for donations for the raffle hampers. Any contributions will be greatly received; thank you very much. All proceeds go to charities.

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 including **our End of Term Service in Church on Thursday 17th December at 11am.** Please come and support our children. Also, please do visit St Michael's School page on our website for a couple of really interesting articles on the school vision and our language of spirituality. Finally, please take a moment to admire and reflect on the **new school display at the back of the church.**

New Governors 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 **two vacancies for church Governors.** There are seven 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

Charities Red Buckets – Following the Harvest Appeal we have sent £321.50 to our CMS Partner Chris who lives in Madrid but works regularly in the Middle East. He was able to join remotely for the Harvest Service. Our recent Nepal Flash Floods Red Bucket raised £378.31 and was sent to Hope and Homes for Children who have been working to rescue and rehome children in Nepal. Thanks to everyone for your kind donations.

A wide range of Charity Christmas cards are on sale in the WCC on Sundays and Wednesdays, together with the usual Greetings Cards. All profits are going towards the Holly Fair. Many thanks, Rosemary Thomson.

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