



St Michael and All Angels' Church, Galleywood

What's On in December 2024

Follow our website link to watch our 10 am services on Facebook, live or after:
<http://www.stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk/>

Sunday 1st December – Advent Sunday

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion (with Sonlight)
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Jane Harpur – “Be Ready!”
Readings: 1 Thessalonians 3:9 – 13; Luke 21:25 - 36

Sunday 8th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30 am BCP Communion
10:00 am Short Service of the Word (Nativity Rehearsal)
Leader: Geoff Windus
Preacher: Travers Harpur – “Proclamation”
Reading: Luke 3:1 – 6

Sunday 15th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 am BCP Communion
10:00 am Service of the Word with Nativity Play
Leader: Jane Harpur
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “Nativity”
Reading: Luke 1:26 – 38
4:00 pm Carol Service
Leader: Fiona Selden; Preacher: Revd David Cattle

Saturday 21st December

4:00 pm Carols on the Common at the Heritage Centre

Sunday 22nd December – 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 am BCP Communion
10:00 am Service of the Word (with MEGA)
Leader: Cesca Watkinson
Preacher: Geoff Windus – “A Challenge”
Readings: Zephaniah 3:14 – 20; Luke 3:2 – 18

Tuesday 24th December

4:00 pm Christingle Service led by Revd David Cattle
11:15 pm Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Chris Selden

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

10:00 am Family Communion
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Fiona Selden

Sunday 29th December – 1st Sunday of Christmas

8:30 am BCP Service of Morning Prayer
10:00 am Service of the Word
Leader: Geoff Windus
Preacher: Chris Selden – “Living as God’s Chosen People”
Readings: 1 Samuel 2: 18 – 26; Colossians 3: 12 – 17

Services During the Week

Weekly Morning Prayer on Tuesdays via Zoom at 9:30 am, **except Tuesday 24th December.**

Important Dates in December

Tue 3 rd , 12:00 pm	– Clergy Chapter meeting
Wed 4 th , 2:15 pm	– Wednesday Fellowship (Christmas Carols and hot mince pies!)
Fri 6 th , 7:00 pm	– Upwards youth group
Sat 7 th , 10:00 am	– Coffee Morning in Church
Wed 11 th , 9:00 am	– Wednesday Prayer (in Church)
Mon 16 th , 10:00 am	– St Michael's Junior School Carol Service
Tue 17 th , 10:00 am	– Galleywood Infant School Carol Service
Wed 18 th , 9:00 am	– Wednesday Prayer (in Church)
Fri 20 th , 7:00 pm	– Upwards youth group
Sat 21 st , 4:00 pm	– Carols on the Common (Heritage Centre)

Future Dates

Mon 13 th Jan, 7:30 pm	– PCC meeting (in Church)
Mon 20 th Jan, 10:00 am	– Meeting of MLT and Churchwardens (Fiona's house)
Wed 5 th Mar	– Ash Wednesday (service details to follow)
Sun 30 th Mar, 10:00 am	– Mothering Sunday
Sun 20 th Mar, 10:00 am	– Easter Sunday Communion

NOTICES

Christmas Singing Groups

The church singing group will be leading the singing at our Carol Service on Sunday 15th December at 4:00 pm. The final practice will be held on Friday 13th December at 7:30.

We have also been asked to help lead Carols on the Common on Saturday 21st December and lead some communal carol singing at the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch on Friday 13th December (time to be confirmed). If you would like to be part of any of these groups please let Cesca or Janette know.

A Christmas Message from the Vicar

As is my usual practice, I plan to make a donation to charity instead of sending Christmas cards to Church members. This year I will donate to the Christian charity World Vision for their appeal for those suffering the effects of war in the Middle East. May God bless you all this Christmas and in 2025!
David.

Welcome Lunch

We have been delighted to welcome many new faces to St Michael's since the pandemic. We are accordingly planning a special welcome lunch for our new members after one Sunday morning service in early spring. Details will follow in due course.

Churchyard Care

We are so fortunate to have a beautiful churchyard, which is lovingly cared for by our volunteers, paid grounds-team, and those who tend the graves of their loved ones. David, Anne and Travers (the Churchyard Care Team) have recently designed information leaflets, to help people to apply for headstones, reserve burial plots, and place memorial benches. We are also designing signs which will shortly be put up around the churchyard. These things also explain the laws regarding what is allowed to be placed on graves in churchyards in this Diocese. There are currently many items in our churchyard which are not allowed under the law (e.g. borders, loose stones, vases, pots, ornaments, tablets, etc.). We will very soon be sending the new leaflet "The Churchyard Code" to those for whom we have contact details, and we will encourage people to remove those items which are not allowed under the law. Getting the balance right between caring for our grieving families, and upholding the law so that what happens is fair and safe for everyone, is a sensitive and demanding task, as well as being a huge piece of work, and one for which we will, no doubt, be criticised on social media; so please pray for our Churchyard Care Team.

Church, Churchyard and Copse Tidy-Ups

We are pausing the 2nd Saturdays' tidy-ups for the winter. There will still be jobs to do outside - mainly leaves. For inside the main emphasis will be cobwebs on windows, window sills, and high up as well as mopping and hoovering the creche room floor. If you find yourself wanting to pop up and do something it would be so welcome - just drop Anne Pepper an email or text (sexton@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk; or 07703 586537). We will let you know when an organised activity is planned.

Prayer Chain

The Church has a small, trusted group of committed members ready and willing to support you in prayer. If you have a prayer request for yourself, someone else, a group of people, or a situation, please let our Prayer Chain Co-ordinator Jane Windus know on the new prayer chain address: prayerchain@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk. Jane will then forward your request by e-mail to Prayer Chain members. Prayer requests will remain confidential within the Prayer Chain membership. If asking for prayer for an individual, please obtain their consent, or the consent of a parent or guardian for prayer for those under 18. (Consent is not needed for information already in the public domain.) If you would like to ask to become a member of the Prayer Chain, please let Jane know.

Home Visits

If anyone can't get to Church at the moment, for whatever reason, and would like David to visit, please let David know (contact details on the back page). David is also very happy to bring Holy Communion and celebrate it at home or in hospital.

Homegroups – would you like to join one?

Lots of our Church members are already part of a homegroup. Homegroups are small groups that meet in people's homes, perhaps once or twice each month, where we study the Bible, pray, support each other, and enjoy ourselves with friends. They are places where people grow in faith, and find encouragement for the journey of life. We have a variety of styles of homegroup – some lean more towards serious Bible study, while others more towards friendship and support. Everyone is welcome to join a homegroup, and if we need to start more homegroups we will do so. Travers Harpur is our homegroup co-ordinator. If you would like to think about joining a group, please contact Travers for more details: travers.harpur@gmail.com.

Safeguarding at St Michael's

Here at St Michael's we take safeguarding seriously. We work hard to ensure that this Church is a safe place for all, and we have adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice. All of our volunteers who have significant roles with children, young people or vulnerable adults are DBS-checked, trained to spot abuse and respond well to disclosures of abuse, and follow best working practice. We also recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you don't feel safe, or if you suspect that someone else is not safe, whether inside or outside Church, you can talk to our Parish Safeguarding Office, Janella Coates, our Vicar, Revd David Cattle, or our Churchwardens, Gavin Adlington and Anne Pepper (contact details are on the back page).

Thought for the Month by Jane Harpur:

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie...

A favourite carol sung by many in the Christmas season. The author, Phillips Brooks spent Christmas 1866 in Bethlehem and wrote this 2 years later for his Sunday School.

David was anointed King in Bethlehem. His job as the youngest son was to look after the sheep in the fields there. It is not surprising that he wrote the 23rd Psalm- the Lord is my shepherd.

The shepherds in the fields at Bethlehem were the first to hear the Angelic Announcement that Jesus, the Saviour had been born and they hurried to find him lying in a manger; as a result, they praised and glorified God.

Bethlehem was crowded that night as we know there was no room in the inn. It then suffered destruction when Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70 by the Romans. When Emperor Constantine was converted he commissioned the building of the Church of the Nativity and grotto. After it was destroyed by fire Emperor Justinian reconstructed it in the 6th century and it has been used for worship ever since. When Phillip Brooks went there in 1866 it would have been a very sleepy place under the Ottomans.

When we were there in 1977, it was full of tourists and pilgrims on Christmas Eve, wanting to look into the grotto, and people singing carols 'We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell. O come to us abide with us our Lord Emmanuel'.

What about now with the war in Israel, Gaza and Lebanon still going on? Bethlehem is now in the West Bank with a largely Moslem population but there are still some Christians living and working there. Our Bethlehem Carol Sheets support 'Embrace the Middle East'- a Christian charity involved in education, health care and community projects. The Palestinian Bible Society is working there. The SAT-7 (Christian satellite ministry) reminded me there is a Bible College there and Bethlehem students are spreading Christ's fragrance. Local Bethlehem children are still acting out the nativity scene. Yes, Bethlehem will still be a lot quieter this Christmas as the tourists will not be there but the Gospel message is still going out. Pray for the people living there and for the message that goes out from SAT-7 with a schedule of Christmas programmes that points viewers to the Prince of Peace.

The deadline for articles for January's What's On is Sunday 22nd December.

Please send them to Geoff Windus (whatson@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk).

Church contact details:

Website: <http://www.stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk/>

Instagram:



@ST.MICHAELS_CHURCH_GALLEYWOOD

Vicar: Revd David Cattle: vicar@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk; 01245 956953
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Safeguarding: Janella Coates: safeguarding@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk; 07981 419796
Evangelism Enabler:
Sue Kitson: suekitson9@gmail.com; 01245 265443
Children, Youth and Families Leader:
Alice Loates: childrenandyouth@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk