

What's On in February 2023

Follow the link from our web site for live streamed services:

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



Sunday 5th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

- 8:30 am BCP Communion – in-person only
- 10.00 am Service of the Word – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Fiona Selden
Preacher: Chris Selden – “Salt, Light and the Law”
Readings: Isaiah 58:1 – 9; Matthew 5:13 – 20

Sunday 12th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

- 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader and Communion President: Rev David Cattle
Preacher: Geoff Windus – “Do Not Worry”
Readings: Romans 8:28 – 39; Matthew 6:25 – 34
- 4:30 pm South West Chelmsford Churches Joint Service at St Luke's, Moulsham
(tea and cake at 4:00 pm). Theme: Prayer

Sunday 19th February – 1st Sunday before Lent

- 8:30 am BCP Communion – in-person only
- 10:00 am Service of the Word – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Geoff Windus
Preacher: Rev David Cattle – “The Transfiguration”
Readings: Exodus 24:12 – 18; Matthew 17:1 – 9

Wednesday 22nd February – Services for Ash Wednesday

- 10:30 am St Luke's Moulsham
- 7:30 pm St Mary's Widford

Sunday 26th February – 1st Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 am BCP Communion – in-person only
- 10:00 am Service of the Word – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Rev David Cattle
Preacher: Travers Harpur – “Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ”
Readings: Genesis 2:15 – 17, 3:1 – 7; Romans 5:12 -19

Services During the Week

Weekly Morning Prayer on Tuesdays via Zoom at 9:30 am

Important dates in February

Wednesday 1 st	2.15 pm – Wednesday Fellowship (in Church) 6:00 pm – Standing Committee meeting (via Teams)
Friday 3 rd	7.30 pm – Worship Planning Team meeting (Via Zoom)
Saturday 4 th	10:00 - 12:00 Church Coffee Morning
Wednesday 8 th	9:00 am – Morning Prayer in Church 2:00 pm – Website development meeting (via Teams)
Thursday 9 th	7.30 pm – PCC meeting (in Church)
Saturday 11 th	9.30 am - 3.30pm – Vocations Day, Meadgate Church (see below)
Sunday 19 th	1:00 pm – Baptism of Bobby and Frankie Jones
Monday 20 th	1:00 pm – MLT meeting (Fiona's house)
Wednesday 22 nd	Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent 9:00 am – Morning prayer in Church 10:30 am – Ash Wednesday Service at St Luke's, Moulsham 7:30 pm – Ash Wednesday Service at St Mary's Widford
Sunday 26 th	1:00 pm – Baptism of Freya Hutchison

Future dates

Sunday 12 th March	10:00 am – Baptism of Alexander Edwards
Saturday 18 th March	7.30pm – Stondon Singers concert (see below)
Sunday 19 th March	10:00 am – Mothering Sunday service

NOTICES

Vocations Day – Saturday 11th February, 9.30am – 3.30pm

As the poster says: "Where will your journey take you in 2023?" If you feel that God is calling you to Christian ministry of some kind, but perhaps you're not sure what (or even if you are sure!), this is a special day for you to explore your sense of calling. It is run by the Diocese of Chelmsford, and takes place at Meadgate Church (The Orchards site). There will be workshops covering these roles: Ordained Ministry, Licensed Lay Minister, Pastoral Assistant, Authorised Local Preacher, Churchwarden, and more. Please let David know if you would like to go, for details of how to book a place. (A free lunch is included.)

Next Joint Afternoon Service – Sunday 12th Feb, 4.30pm

The next joint service with our partner churches in South West Chelmsford Churches takes place at St Luke's, Moulsham. The theme is Prayer. There will be tea and cake from 4pm, and the service starts at 4.30pm.

Make Lunch – Wednesday 15th February

Please pray for our next Make Lunch session, which again takes place at St Michael's Junior School under the leadership of Alice Loates.

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 22nd February

There are two Ash Wednesday services taking place in South West Chelmsford Churches this year – 10.30am at St Luke's Moulsham, and 7.30pm at St Mary's Widford. Both services will feature the imposition of ashes on our foreheads, and Holy Communion. David will preach at the 7.30pm service at St Mary's.

New E-mail Address for Safeguarding

Janella Coates who is our Parish Safeguarding Officer, now has a special Church-based e-mail address for any safeguarding queries or concerns. If you need to contact Janella by e-mail, please use this e-mail address from now on: safeguarding@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk Janella will continue to check her old e-mail address for a while, to make sure that nothing is missed. Janella's contact details are on the back page every week.

Pastoral Care

Karen Robertson has been our Pastoral Assistant for the last 7 years, and has now decided, for personal reasons, to step down from this role. She will still be an active member of the Church and says: "I have enjoyed and felt blessed by the people I have met over the last 7 years and there has

been a lot of fun and laughter as well as sadness and tears; but all seasons come to an end and after a lot of thought and prayer I believe it is time for a change.”

Karen has made a huge contribution to the life of St Michael's, and we thank her for 7 years of service, and for everything that she is still doing for the Church.

Pastoral work at St Michael's continues – we are a caring Church. Much of this pastoral work happens informally in friendship groups, or in homegroups. We also have our Prayer Chain (a group who receive confidential e-mails to pray for people or situations), and our Prayer Ministry after the 10am Sunday service. And if anyone would like a visit from David, please let him know.

Home Communion

If anyone can't get to Church, for whatever reason, and would like David to visit them in their home for Holy Communion, please let David know (contact details on the back page).

Prayer Chain

If anyone has an urgent need, please be aware the Church has a small group of committed members ready and willing to support you in prayer. Please contact Jane Windus, the Prayer Chain Coordinator (jane.windus@gmail.com), who will circulate your request amongst the team.

Furthermore, if you would be willing to join the team and commit to supporting others in this important and privileged ministry, again please contact Jane.

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 that. 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

Hire of Church Building

Our beautiful church building is a priceless asset within our local community, which we would like to proactively offer for hire to outside groups and organisations. This would build bridges to those outside and also have the benefit of bringing in much needed revenue to support the work of God in the parish. We are seeking a volunteer to be a coordinator for this important role who would act as the focal point between the church and outside groups. If you are interested in taking this on, or would like more information first, please speak to Gavin, our Churchwarden.

Stamps and The Leprosy Mission

We are very grateful to everyone who has saved their used stamps on behalf of the Leprosy Mission. Since stamps are now barcoded it is unfortunately no longer possible to use them. Pam Chapman would be grateful to receive your final stamp donations in early February.

Stondon Singers Concert – Saturday 18th March, 7.30pm

This concert is called “Songs of Farewell”, and will feature choral music by Perry, Vaughan, Williams, Byrd and Howells. Tickets are £12. To book, either call 01277 886769 or e-mail <mailto:stondonsingers@gmail.com>

Pilgrimage to Walsingham – September 2023

Some members of the Widford churches are spending a weekend retreat at the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk, and would like to offer the opportunity to others from our group of churches to join them. The dates are Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd September 2023. The price is £149 for meals and accommodation (excluding lunch on the Saturday), or £89.40 for children. If you would like to know more about this trip, please contact Jess Wiseman on <mailto:dogsrdabestsaysjess@msn.com>

Tile Kiln Church Seek a Preschool Manager

Tile Kiln Church are seeking to appoint a Preschool Manager, for 30 hours per week starting in September 2023. For more information, please see the poster on the noticeboard at Church, or speak with David.

Thought for the month by Geoff Windus:

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
(1 Corinthians 1:3)

When you are looking for a card to send someone, a glance along the shelves indicates the choice is almost limitless – so many different pictures and as many different forms of words, but in the end only one might seem right for you and your friend or loved one! All you just want to say is “Happy Birthday” or “Get well soon”. How come it is so difficult to get it right? These days, the inside is often left blank so you can write your own words. That’s much easier!

For the New Testament writers sending their letters (Paul, Peter and John), there was only one form of words they used in sending their greeting, and I’ve put it as my title. We usually conclude our services with a similar form of words as a short closing blessing, and this is not meant to be a mere formality. The words are not magic, they do not communicate grace by their own power. But when they are spoken and received by faith, it is God’s Spirit that conveys life to us all.

A passage in the Old Testament was probably in the minds of Paul and his fellow apostles when they wrote down their greeting. Of all the beautiful verses and passages in the Bible, this one for me is right up there!

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24 – 26

His face is *always* turned towards us (never, ever His back!), and it shines with immense pride and pleasure. There is a smile of love and reassurance, and His grace is overflowing and never-ending, more than sufficient for any need. And the result? An inner peace that no one, nor any circumstance that we can ever endure, can ever take away! How does all this come about? How come we are so privileged? It’s simply because of God’s love so vividly and supremely demonstrated in the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus, our Lord.

So then, sit at the feet of His Cross, look up, and let it all soak in!

The deadline for articles for March is Sunday 19th February. Please send them to Geoff Windus (geoffwindus@gmail.com).

Church contact details:

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