



St Michael and All Angels' Church, Galleywood

What's On in January 2025

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



The Adoration of the Magi – Peter Paul Rubens

Sunday 5th January – Epiphany

8:30 am BCP Communion
10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and MEGA)
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Jane Harpur – “Epiphany”
Readings: Ephesians 3:1 – 12; Matthew 2:1 - 12

Sunday 12th January – 1st Sunday of Epiphany – The Baptism of Christ

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion (with Sonlight)
Leaders: Cesca Watkinson and Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Geoff Windus – “The Perfect Man for all Men!”
Readings: Hebrews 4:14 – 16; Matthew 3:13 – 17

Sunday 19th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany – ‘Leprosy Sunday’

8:30 am BCP Communion
10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and Mega)
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Matt Henderson (Leprosy Mission)

Sunday 26th January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8:30 am BCP Communion
10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and MEGA)
Leader: Fiona Selden
Preacher: Revd David Cattle
Readings: John 15:12 - 17; Colossians 1:1 – 12

Services During the Week

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

Important Dates in January

Sat 4 th , 10:00 – 12:00	– Coffee Morning in Church
Wed 8 th 9:00 am	– Wednesday Prayer in Church
9:15 – 11:00	– Friendship + recomences (weekly)
Fri 10 th 7:00 pm	– Upwards Youth Group
Mon 13 th , 7:30 pm	– PCC meeting (Church)
Wed 15 th , 7:30 pm	– Lynchpins meeting (St Michael's)
Mon 20 th , 10:00 am	– Meeting of MLT and Churchwardens (Fiona's house)
Wed 22 nd 9:00 am	– Wednesday Prayer in Church
Fri 24 th 7:00 pm	– Upwards Youth Group

Future Dates

Wed 5 th March	– Ash Wednesday
Sat 22 nd March, 6 pm	– 'Country Evening' with sausage supper (Fundraiser – details to follow)
Sun 30 th March	– Mothering Sunday
Sun 20 th April	– Easter Sunday Communion

NOTICES

A huge thank you!

Thanks are due to all those people who helped to run the Christmas services. As always at Christmas time, hundreds of people (adults and children) came to our services, in Church, School, and Heritage Centre, and everyone was told the real meaning of Christmas. Without volunteers, these events would not happen, so thank you to everyone who gave their time for this important ministry.

Hope Explored

Hope Explored is a three-session series about the person and work of Jesus and the hope that can be found in him. An introduction to faith and an opportunity to ask questions. This will be held in January 2025. For further details speak to Sue Kitson or email at suektsn9@gmail.com

Pastoral Care

We are pleased to announce that Jane Windus will shortly be undertaking a new role within the church as Pastoral Care Team Leader, once safeguarding and DBS checks are completed. Jane will be supported by a small team of Pastoral Visitors. Please pray for Jane and her team as they fulfil this vital role in the life of our church.

A Big Thank You!

Further to our 2024 Harvest, we received the following message from Sandress Msiska, Senior Pastor at Capital City Baptist Church, Lilongwe, Malawi:

"Christmas greetings from Capital City Baptist Church in Lilongwe, Malawi. We rejoice in the love the Father has shown us by sending His Son to be our Saviour. In addition, we are also so grateful to God for the generous gift of £2302 which your church gave and has been sent to us so that we should buy food for families that are suffering food shortages and for those at Kamuzu central hospital. We shall buy the maize and make distributions as soon as people get back from holidays. We shall then give you the report of the whole exercise."

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 Chris Selden:

Potential

With the excitement and busyness of Christmas completed, we turn towards the New Year. In our house, that means replacing 'the family calendar' we use to capture birthdays and the various things that different members of the family are getting up to (college term dates, dentist appointments, nights-out or evening meetings that one or more of the family is due to have, the shifts our children are working at the restaurant, who is doing what at church, etc.). The calendar tends to get very busy once the New Year gets started.

But when the wrapper first comes off, the calendar is very blank. We see a fresh set of pages, not knowing yet what will fill them up. Of course, some years bring a sad reminder that the death of a family member means there is one less birthday to write into the new calendar – and my condolences go to everyone who is beginning 2025 aware of the loss of a loved one.

Yet a new year brings potential; so many days ahead and we will doubtless get many surprises as the year goes along. Yes, we will make our plans – when we want to go on holiday, and to what destination; who we will go to visit; when should we do that repair job around the house – but we also know that our plans can be knocked by ill-health or financial problems.

So, while we know the potential of the new year, there might also be unease at what the year might bring to us. A faith in God is helpful when trying to manage these concerns. Having a relationship with God doesn't hide us inside some bubble and prevent problems from impacting us – but it does offer two important helps when we face such worries.

Firstly, faith in God gives us a better perspective; it helps me remember that while I make so many plans about my own life, the world does not revolve around me – and that 'life' is not limited to the years we spend on this planet.

Secondly, we do not face those worries alone. As God's people we are supported by His promise "I will never leave you nor forsake you". God adds us into His family (the church), so that we can also be helped and supported by other Christians. Just a collection of different people with different experiences, but who are seeking to live our lives in line with God's wisdom and direction – helping each other in those tough times, and there is always room. So whatever 2025 might hold for you and your family, I pray that you may find God an important part of it.

The deadline for articles for February's What's On is Sunday 19th January.

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
Churchwardens: Gavin Adlington: churchwarden@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk; 07565 888707
Anne Pepper: sexton@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk; 07703 586537
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