

What's On in March 2023

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

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



Sunday 5th March – 2nd Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Service of Holy Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Geoff Windus
Communion President: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Fiona – “A Seeker At Night”
Readings: Romans 4:1 – 5, 13 – 17; John 3:1 - 17

Sunday 12th March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:30 am BCP Communion – in-person only
10:00 am All-Age Service and Baptism – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Rev David Cattle
Preacher: Jane Harpur – “A Meeting At A Well”
Readings: John 4:5 – 26
4:30 pm Joint (Taizé) Service for South West Chelmsford Churches at St Mary's Widford

Sunday 19th March – 4th Sunday of Lent and Mothering Sunday

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 – “A Mother's Anguish”
Readings: John 19:25b – 27; 2 Corinthians 1:3 – 7

Sunday 26th March – 5th Sunday of Lent – Passiontide

8:30 am BCP Communion – in-person only
10:00 am Service of the Word – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Cesca Watkinson
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “Passiontide”
Readings: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 37:1 – 14

Services During the Week

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

Important dates in March

Wednesday 1 st	2:15 pm – Wednesday Fellowship. St David's Day Craft (Bring and Buy)
Friday 3 rd	7.30 pm – Singing practice for Easter
Saturday 4 th	10.00 am – 12.00 pm – Coffee Morning in Church
Monday 6 th	10.30 am – MLT meeting (Fiona's house)
Wednesday 8 th	9.30 am – Praying Together in Church
Thursday 9 th	7.30 pm – Homegroup Leaders' Meeting (Vicarage)
Saturday 11 th	9.00 am – 12.00 pm – Churchyard tidy-up. 9.30 am – 2.00 pm – Annual Leadership Away Day (Maldon)
Sunday 12 th	10.00 am – Baptism of Alexander Edwards 1.00 pm – Baptism of Emelia Larholt
Monday 13 th	8.30 pm – Missions Team meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday 14 th	6.00 pm – Fundraising Team meeting (Teams)
Friday 17 th	7.30 pm – Rock Choir Concert (see below)
Saturday 18 th	7.30 pm – Stondon Singers concert (see below)
Sunday 19 th	10.00 am – Mothering Sunday service
Wednesday 22 nd	9:30 am – Praying Together in Church
Tuesday 28 th	10.00 am – Galleywood Infant School Easter Service (in Church)
Thursday 30 th	10.00 am – St Michael's School Easter Service (in Church)
Friday 31 st	7.30 pm – Singing practice for Easter

Future dates

Sunday 9th April – Easter Sunday

Sunday 21st May, 11.30 am – the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (in Church, and on Zoom)

NOTICES

Praying Together in Church on a Wednesday

This is an informal time of prayer at 9.00 am in the Church on the second and fourth Wednesday each month. It's a time of quiet reflection listening to God and to each other. All are welcome as we explore together the wonderful mystery of prayer. See Sue Kitson for more details.

Leadership Away Day – Saturday 11th March

Please pray for our PCC and MLT members, together with our lay preachers, as we gather at the Octagon Room at St Mary's Church in Maldon for our annual Away Day, during which we shall pray and worship, and we shall talk about our vision and priorities for the next 12 months. Pray that everything we do may be guided by the Holy Spirit, and that we would all put our hope and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rock Choir Concert, Friday 17th March, 7.30 pm.

This was a great success last year, and this year promises to be just as good! For tickets (£12 including refreshments), contact Beryl Moss or any of the fund-raising team, or call 07510-286598.

Churchyard Tidy-Up

Do join us if you can for our monthly churchyard tidy-up on the second Saturday each month, 9.00 am to 12.00 pm. For March it's Saturday 11th. See Anne Pepper for more details.

Next joint afternoon service – Sunday 12th March, 4.30pm

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

Church Electoral Roll revision

Every year we update our Electoral Roll. This is the official Church membership list, which all Church of England churches need to compile. If your name is already on the Electoral Roll, you don't need to do anything – you will stay on automatically (unless you would like to come off; if so, please contact us). If you are not yet on the Electoral Roll, please do consider joining.

I would recommend joining the Roll because:

1. It allows you to vote at our Annual Meeting, which takes place on Sunday 21st May this year.
2. It allows you to stand for election to the PCC or Churchwarden.
3. It is about belonging. It is a way of saying, this is my Church family and I belong here.

You can join the Roll if you are:

1. Aged 16 or over.
2. Resident in the parish OR worship with us regularly (or would usually worship with us, but are prevented from coming to Church, perhaps because of age or illness).

There are set dates for the revision of the Roll. The revision opens on Sunday 9th April (Easter Sunday) and closes on Sunday 30th April. There will be forms available during this time for those who wish to join the Roll. Please speak to our Electoral Roll Officer, Jane Dougan, for more details (jmd8@post.com).

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 (janewindus@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

New priest in South West Chelmsford Churches

A new priest has been appointed to St John's Church in Moulsham. This is a half-time post. The other half of the post will be as a Chaplain to Anglia Ruskin University. The Archdeacon of Southend writes: "I am pleased to inform you that the Revd Hannah Robinson, who is currently Assistant Curate at South Shoebury St Andrew with St Peter, has been appointed as Priest in Charge of Moulsham St John the Evangelist and University Chaplain of Anglia Ruskin University (Chelmsford campus)." Hannah's licensing service will take place on 4th May.

Stondon Singers Concert – Saturday 18th March, 7.30pm in Church

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>

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 Revd David Cattle

I'm starving!

We are into the season of Lent. My plan this year is to give up chocolate for the 40 days plus 6 Sundays that make up this season. I made the mistake in Church last Sunday morning of asking if someone could save me a KitKat. I was at the back of Church after the service, about to eat the KitKat, when my 7-year old daughter Sophia reminded me that I have given up chocolate. It's a good job she was there! (Although, it doesn't stop her waving her own chocolate under my nose at every opportunity!)

I am also fasting during one lunch-time each week, and spending that time in prayer. Today, as I write this, it is my fasting day. I have just been for a lovely walk outside – I find walking helps me to pray (maybe it's the exercise, or maybe the fresh air). I am also feeling really hungry, and my mind is wandering to what I feast I can cook for dinner tonight! What's the point of making myself hungry? Fasting is an act of devotion to God. It's not a way to get into God's good books – we are in God's good books because of his love for us, and because of Jesus's death on the cross for us, not because we can impress him or put him in our debt. (God owes us nothing.) His love for us is a free gift, as true love must always be.

Fasting is an act of devotion to God – a way of drawing closer to him. As part of this, it is a way of mastering our desires, practicing self-control, and training our spiritual muscles, so that when temptation comes we are more able to follow God's path, even if that path is hard, and to resist what might feel good but would ultimately be bad for us and for other people. It's good to train our spiritual muscles, because the devil never sleeps.

I was preaching a sermon on the prophet Joel recently, for one of our joint services with our partner churches, and one thing that struck me is that Joel follows a pattern that we often see in the Old Testament prophets: God promises to judge his people Israel, he calls them to repent, and then he promises to restore them, save them and bless them. Since these 3 things – threat of judgement, command to repentance, promise of salvation – occur so often in the prophets, they must be very important to God. And this leads me to think that we should take them more seriously than we do.

(1) The Judgement of God. We must remember that God is good and holy, and sin is a profound problem. (2) God's command to repentance. God wants us to turn from our sin and turn back to him, each and every day and in each and every situation. Pray for forgiveness, and ask for help to do better. (3) God will forgive us and save us. He loves us and wants a friendship with us. He knows all about our sin, he knows we will sin in the future, and still loves us. This is grace – God gives us what we don't deserve and could not earn. Or, as I have heard it described: GRACE = "God's Riches At Christ's Expense". It's up to us what we do for Lent, or whether we do anything at all. But I would urge all of us to do something that brings these 3 things to mind – judgement, repentance and salvation.

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

Church contact details:

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