



St Michael and All Angels' Church, Galleywood

What's On in May 2024

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

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



Sunday 5th May – 6th Sunday of Easter

- 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: Fiona Selden – “Holiness”
Readings: Psalm 29; Matthew 5:43 – 48

Thursday 9th May – Ascension Day

- 7:30 pm Joint Communion Service with South-West Chelmsford Churches,
St Mary's Widford
Leader: Revd Stephanie Gillingham
Preacher: Revd David Cattle

Sunday 12th May – 7th Sunday of Easter

- 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leaders: Cesca Watkinson and Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “Together”
Readings: Hebrews 3:7 – 19; Matthew 12:46 – 50

Sunday 19th May – Pentecost 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 – “Prayer and the Holy Spirit”
Readings: Ezekiel 2:1 – 3:9; Acts 4:23 – 31

Sunday 26th May – Trinity Sunday

- 8:30 am BCP Communion – in-person only
- 10:00 am Service of the Word – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Travers Harpur – “Trinity”
Readings: Isaiah 6:1 – 8; Romans 8:12 – 17

Services During the Week

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

Important Dates in May

Wed 1st 2:15 pm – Wednesday Fellowship: Sarah Burrell – Guide Dogs for the Blind - with puppies!
Fri 3rd, 10.30am – Churchyard Care Team meeting
Sat 4th, 10-12:00 pm – Coffee Morning in Church
Sun 5th – end of Electoral Roll revision period
Wed 8th, 9:00 am – Wednesday Prayer in Church
Sat 11th, 9-12:00 pm – Churchyard Tidy-Up and Church Clean
6.30 pm – Taste of Sri Lanka, fundraising event
Mon 20th, 10:00 am – MLT meeting (Fiona's house)
7:00 pm – Worship Planning Team meeting (via Zoom)
Wed 22nd, 9:00 am – Wednesday Prayer in Church
4:00 pm – Website Development Team meeting (via Teams)
7:00 pm – Lynchpins meeting (St Mary's, Widford)
Fri 24th, 7:00 pm – Upwards youth group
Sat 25th 9:30am – Annual Marriage Day
Sun 26th 11:30am – Annual Church Meetings

Future dates

Wed 5th June, 5pm – Teenager Confirmation Course starts
7:30pm – Adult Confirmation Course starts
Fri 7th June, 7:00pm – Upwards youth group
Sat 8th June, 7.30pm – Organ Recital by Philip Prior, fundraising event (see below)
Sun 16th June, 10am – Father's Day Family Service
Fri 21st June, 7pm – Upwards Youth Group
Sat 29th June, 12-3pm – Church Family BBQ (Heritage Centre)
Sun 30th June, 4pm – Joint Service (St Luke, Moulsham)

NOTICES

Confirmation courses – starting on 5th June

Confirmation is an important part of someone's journey of faith in the Church of England (other denominations do equivalent things). Confirmation is a service in which someone affirms the promises made during their baptism (either by parents and godparents on their behalf, or by themselves). The service is led by one of our Bishops, who prays for each candidate, "Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit."

For those who would like to be confirmed, or who would like to explore confirmation, we are holding a 3-session preparation course on Wednesday afternoons for secondary-school-aged young people, and a 5-session course on Wednesday evenings for adults, starting in June. We cover lots of aspects of the Christian faith, as well as many contemporary topics, and you can ask the Vicar your hardest questions about faith, the universe and everything! The course is also good for those who are considering being baptised. Please see David for more details.

Alice Urgently Needs Volunteers – Can you Help?

1. Upwards Youth Group

On 24th May, Alice is restarting our Thursday evening Upwards Youth Group for all young people in year groups 6 – 11 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. This will be held on the first and third Thursday in each month starting on 24th May, and Alice would be extremely grateful if you could volunteer (not necessarily each time) to support her.

2. Church Family BBQ, 29th June

Alice is also planning a great St Michael's Family BBQ at the Heritage Centre from 12 pm – 3 pm. It's a free event but donations towards the cost of the food would be gratefully received. Alice seeks volunteers mainly to help with food preparation and cooking the food.

For both of these, please have a chat with Alice to see how you could help.

Fund raising Activities:

- 1. Organ Recital.** There will be an organ recital given by Philip Prior on Saturday 8th June at 7:30 pm. Tickets cost £12 and will include a glass of wine or fruit juice. There will also be a raffle. Raffle donations would be gratefully received.

2. **St Michaels School 'Smash Fest', 22nd June.** This is a school event but the church has a tombola table where half the proceeds will go to the school the other half to the Church. Beryl requests offers of tombola prizes.

Bradwell Area Vocations Day – Saturday 18th May, 9.30am, Meadgate Church

Do you think that God might be calling you to some kind of Christian ministry, like Pastoral Assistant, Authorised Local Preacher, Licensed Lay Minister, or even ordained ministry? This Vocations Day is a way of exploring this. Please see David for details.

Annual Church Meeting – Sunday 26th May, 11.30am

Please come to this meeting if you can. It will last about an hour, and we will elect Churchwardens, PCC members, and people to some other posts. Nomination forms are at the back of Church if you would like to stand for one of these positions.

New PCC Secretary needed

Sue Metcalfe has been our PCC Secretary for a number of years, and has done a great job at taking minutes at PCC meetings. We thank Sue for all her hard work for the Church. Sue has decided that the right time for her to step down from this role is the annual Church meetings on 26th May. If you would like to know more about the role, please speak to Sue.

Praying Together in Church on a Wednesday

This is an informal time of prayer at 9.00 am in the Church on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. It's a time of quiet reflection listening to God and to each other. All are welcome. For May, it's 8th and 22nd. See Sue Kitson for more details.

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.

Two dates for your diary linked to volunteering in the Churchyard and Copse:

The Big Help Out was set up by the King for his coronation, it is being run again this year. **Friday 7 June – Sunday 9 June 2024.** We had a great time last year with Anne's campervan providing hot and cold drinks and cakes in the Copse. Save the date. Details to follow – ideas welcome.



Love your Burial Ground Week and **Churches Count on Nature Week** is being held the same week, **Saturday 8 to Saturday 16 June 2024.** We will look at creating some wildflower areas in the Churchyard and Copse, put in more wildlife boxes such as for hedgehogs and start a species count for plants and wildlife.



Churchyard Tidy-Up and Church Cleaning

Do join us if you can for our monthly churchyard tidy-up on each second Saturday, 9 am – 12pm. For May it's the 11th. NB. Church cleaning is now part of the agenda, so if you could help in this area, do please come along. See Anne Pepper for more details.

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.

Thought for the Month by Travers Harpur:

Rogation

Rogation. What's that?

This year the first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday and the three days (7, 8 & 9 May) before Ascension are the Rogation days.

Like many festivals this has old roots; in this case pagan Roman, but incorporated into the Christian calendar, and 'sanitised' or even 'sanctified'.

Long-standing members of St. Michael's may remember a Rogation Service held at the late Henry Wreathall's farm. Traditionally, a feature of Rogation days was the ceremony of beating the parish bounds, in which a procession of parishioners, led by the minister and churchwardens, would proceed around the boundary of the parish, part of our's lies within Henry's farm, and pray for its agricultural prosperity in the coming year.

I have lived my life in urban or suburban confines but I was born in a market town in West Cork and when I first worked in Chelmsford there was an active cattle market close to a 'Corn Exchange'. We are all, whether we are conscious of it or not, dependent on the food our farmers produce. Having acted over the years for farmers I am aware that the weather is normally wrong, usually too wet or too dry, but we benefit from their work and God's provision.

At school, at least the older members, we said grace, sometimes before and after meals and this is still a good reminder that God has provided such and that others are in need. I find it an interesting combination that Rogation is concerned with the earth and its temporal products and then the Ascension lifts us to the heavenly. This thread of true Christianity, the combination of incarnation and the importance of what we do down here and how we do it with God's help, and the future (I leave to others the timetable and geography) combined with the looking ahead to meeting our Risen Lord and all that will involve – as Paul said in a letter to Corinth (1 Corinthians 2:9):

*'What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived' –
the things God has prepared for those who love him – (NIV)*

The deadline for articles for May is Sunday 19th May. Please send them to Geoff Windus (whatson@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk).

NB. Please note the new address going forward for What's On input.

Church contact details:

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: suektsn9@gmail.com; 01245 265443

Children, Youth and Families Leader:

Alice Loates childrenandyouth@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk