



St Michael and All Angels' Church, Galleywood

What's On in September 2024

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



Sunday 1st September – 14th Sunday after Trinity – Creation Sunday

- 8:30 am BCP Communion
- 10:00 am All-age Service
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Revd David Cattle
Reading: Genesis 2:4b – 25
- 12:30 pm Picnic in the Copse followed by Prayer Event led by Bishop Adam of Bradwell

Sunday 8th September – 15th Sunday after Trinity

- 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion (with Sonlight)
Leaders: Cesca Watkinson and Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Chris Selden – “Feeding the 5000”
Readings: Exodus 3:16 – 4:11; Luke 9:10 – 17

Sunday 15th September – 16th Sunday after Trinity

- 8:30 am BCP Communion
- 10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and MEGA)
Leader: Fiona Selden
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “Fairtrade”
Readings: Micah 6:6 – 8; Matthew 23:23 – 28

Sunday 22nd September – 17th Sunday after Trinity

- 8:30 am BCP Communion
- 10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and MEGA)
Leader: Geoff Windus
Preacher: Travers Harpur – “Healing a Blind Beggar”
Readings: Psalm 123; Luke 18: 35 – 43

Sunday 29th September – Patronal Festival: St Michael and All Angels

- 8:30 am BCP Communion
- 10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and MEGA)
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Fiona Selden – “St Michael and All Angels”
Readings: Genesis 28: 10 – 17; John 1:47 – 51
- 4:00 pm Joint Church Service in the Copse (start 4:30 pm)

Services During the Week

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

Important Dates in September

Sun 1 st ,	10:00 am	– Creation Sunday
	12:30 pm	– Prayer event with Bishop Adam, and picnic
Wed 4 th ,	7:30 pm	– Missions Team meeting (Travers and Jane's house)
Fri 6 th ,	9.30am	– Safeguarding Team meeting (Vicarage)
	11:30 am	– Finance meeting (Vicarage)
Sat 7 th ,	10:00 am	– Coffee Morning in Church
Mon 9 th ,	10:00 am	– MLT meeting (Fiona's house)
Wed 11 th ,	9:00 am	– Wednesday Prayer in Church
	9:15 am	– Friendship+ restarts (Keene Hall)
Thu 12 th ,	3:30 pm	– Church Care Team meeting (Vestry)
Sat 14 th ,	7:30 pm	– Fundraising event: Quiz Night
Sun 15 th ,	10:00 am	– Fairtrade Sunday
Mon 16 th ,	7:00 pm	– Worship Planning Team meeting (Zoom)
Wed 18 th ,	7:30 pm	– PCC meeting (Church)
Mon 23 rd ,	7:30 pm	– Homegroup Leaders' meeting (Vestry)
Wed 25 th ,	9:00 am	– Wednesday Prayer in Church
Sun 29 th ,	4:00 pm	– Joint Service in the Copse (4:30pm start)

Future Dates

Wed 2 nd Oct,	12:45 pm	– Wednesday Fellowship Harvest Lunch
Sat 12 th Oct,	7–10 pm	– Fundraising event: Murder Mystery Evening
Sun 20 th Oct,	10:00 am	– Harvest Festival
	3:00 pm	– Confirmation Service

NOTICES

Prayer Event on Sunday 1st September, 12.30pm

Bishop Adam Atkinson (the Bishop of Bradwell) will lead a prayer event on Creation Sunday. There will be a bring-your-own picnic at 12.30pm, followed by Bishop Adam speaking on the subject of prayer. There will then be prayer stations around the Church, churchyard and Copse, to allow time for personal prayer. There will also be the opportunity to receive prayer ministry, for those who would like that. The event will finish at 3.30pm. No need to book – just turn up. (This event is being run with our partner churches in South West Chelmsford Churches.)

Upcoming Fund-Raising Activities:

1. **Coffee Morning**, 7th September 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Donations of cakes will be appreciated.
2. **Quiz Night**, 14th September 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm start. £5 entry. 6 to 8 in each team and bring your own drinks and nibbles. There will be a raffle.
3. **Murder Mystery Night**, 12th October. Time 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Tickets £10. Ploughman's provided, but bring your own drink. There will be a raffle.
4. **Christmas Tree Festival**. Please let Beryl know if you plan to provide a tree.

Calling Church Singers!

The church singing group will be supporting the morning service in our Michaelmas service on 29th September, and we would love you to join us! There will be a practice on Friday 27th September at 7.30 pm in the church and we will also meet at 9:20 am on the Sunday for a final run-through. Please speak to Cesca if you would like to join us. There is a new hymn to learn with a lovely Irish lilt.

Parking Next to the Church Front Door.

NB. Please can the three spaces available be left for lone drivers with mobility issues. Anyone else please drop off your passenger or heavy items at the door and then move the car to the main car park. One person was very distressed recently when they were unable to park properly.

Churchyard Tidy-Up

We are so fortunate to have a beautiful churchyard. We are grateful to those families who lovingly tend the grave of their loved ones. We are also grateful to our volunteers and paid grounds-team, who work so hard to care for this beautiful place. David, Anne and Travers (the Churchyard Care Team) are currently drafting helpful leaflets which explain the laws of the churchyard, and which help people to apply for headstones, reserve burial plots, and place memorial benches. We are also working on signs that can be displayed in the churchyard. There are currently many items on graves that are not allowed under the law (e.g. borders, loose stones, vases, pots, tablets, ornaments, etc.). So, over the summer we plan to send the new leaflet "The Churchyard Code" to families for whom we have contact details, and we will encourage people to remove those items from their loved one's grave which are not allowed. Getting the balance right between caring for our grieving families, and upholding the law so that what happens is fair 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 for on social media; so please pray for our Churchyard Care Team.

Praying Together in Church on a Wednesday

This is an informal time of prayer at 9.00 am in the Church usually 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 September, it's the 11th and 25th. 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.

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 Fiona Selden

It's that time of year again – the school summer holidays are over and the new academic year is here. Families have returned from their holidays and those who do not need to consider school holidays, may well be heading off to enjoy some remaining good weather and a quieter time in all those popular holiday hotspots. In all of our travels over the years, our family has never visited Malta. Have you?

When the apostle Paul visited or rather crashed on the shores of Malta in the first century A.D. he and his fellow travellers found that inhabitants of Malta were lovely people (you can read the account in Acts Chapter 28). If you have been on holiday there, did you find the same?

The people of Malta seem to be blessed with a godly culture. We see qualities of kindness, hospitality and generosity in their culture. However we also see in the reactions of the island people of Malta evidence of theology that is rooted in superstition and extremes. When they witness Paul being attacked by a snake from the fire, they believe that the goddess justice is punishing him. However when he shows no ill effects from the snake bite, they veer to the opposite extreme; they change their minds and decide that he must be a god.

Having said this, we have no evidence in the passage that Paul sought to challenge their beliefs and views about what has happened. When we engage other people with the gospel, it is usually not the right time to get into a theological debate and challenge people by contradicting their views and beliefs. We can tell people our story and share our faith in Jesus. But when we engage with people and seek to share the gospel, we should predominantly be focused on showing God's love and care through acts of kindness and service.

How do we see Paul doing this in Acts 28? First of all he gets stuck in with everybody else collecting firewood; he is not afraid to get his hands dirty and he doesn't wait around to be looked after by his hosts, even though they were trying to build a fire to warm the sea drenched shipwreck victims. Paul was one of these victims and could have rested and allowed himself to be taken care of, but instead he gets involved and helps out. Secondly he stays calm in the face of crisis, in this case being bitten by a snake. He has faith in God's promises and his response and God's protection of him really impresses the people gathered there. And later when he is with Publius' family, a member of the wider household is healed through prayer and the laying on of hands. Paul's attitude is, and indeed our attitude should also be, how can I serve or bless the people I am with right now in their day-to-day lives? We sow seeds of faith through sharing the gospel and acts of love and service in Jesus name.

There is a time for teaching theology and renewing minds, and this time comes when we are disciples who are committed to following Jesus and have the gift and strength of the Holy Spirit to enable this to happen. We need to not metaphorically put the cart before the horse.

There is an excellent church minister and teacher called Sam Allberry and I was listening to some of his teaching recently; the title of his talk was somewhat strikingly entitled 'Why does God care about who I sleep with?' Sam is often approached by a variety of people on difficult life issues like this. He made an interesting observation that he never says anything to somebody who is asking him questions that he would not say to anyone. When he is speaking with someone who is seeking faith, he doesn't focus on the individual life circumstances or choices that the person has made, but talks to them about Jesus' love, concern and salvation for them. He makes sure that there is a level playing field – we are all fallen and we all need God's grace and love.

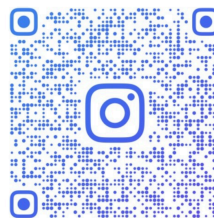
Our hearts toward other people and our practices of hospitality and kindness to others should always be rooted in the humble knowledge that we also have infirmities and sin; we too need the healing touch of Jesus in so many ways and we too rejoice in the place of refuge that God is in our lives. And so we offer to others out of the blessings that we have received. Salvation is a process and we all need the patience of God and one another.

The deadline for articles for October is Sunday 22nd September. Please send them to Geoff Windus (whatson@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk).

Church contact details:

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

Instagram:



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