



St Michael and All Angels' Church, Galleywood

What's On in January 2026

Follow our website link to watch our 10 am services on Facebook, live or after:

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



Sunday 4th January – Epiphany

8:30 am BCP Service of Holy Communion
10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and MEGA)
Leader: Fiona Selden
Preacher: Revd David Cattle
Readings: Psalm 72; Matthew 2:1 – 12

Sunday 11th January – 1st Sunday of Epiphany

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion (with Sonlight)
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Jane Harpur – “The Great Banquet”
Readings: Isaiah 25:1 – 9; Luke 14:15 – 24

Sunday 18th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8:30 am BCP Service of Holy Communion
10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and MEGA)
Leader: Cesca Watkinson
Preacher: Geoff Windus – “The Cost of Discipleship”
Readings: Deuteronomy 6:4 – 9; Luke 14:25 – 33

Sunday 25th January – 3rd Sunday of Christmas

8:30 am BCP Service of Holy Communion
10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and MEGA)
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Chris Selden – “The Shrewd Manager”
Readings: 1 Chronicles 29:10 – 20; Luke 16: 1 – 12

Services During the Week

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

Important Dates in January

Sat 3rd, 10:00 am – Coffee Morning with Fairtrade Stall (Church)
Wed 7th, 9:15 am – Friendship+ restarts (Keene Hall)
Thu 8th, 10:00 am – Churchyard Care Team meeting (Vestry)
7:30 pm – PCC Meeting (Church)
Sat 10th, 7:00 pm – Big Church (for school years 8+) (Church)
Wed 14th, 9:00 am – Wednesday Prayer (Church)
Sat 17th, 10:00 am – Know Why You Believe: “Is the Old Testament Reliable?” (Church)
Mon 19th, 10:00 am – MLT meeting (Fiona’s house)
7:00 pm – Worship Planning Team meeting (Zoom)
Sat 24th, 7:00 pm – Big Church (Church)
Wed 28th, 9:00 am – Wednesday Prayer (Church)
7:30 pm – Lynchpins meeting (St Luke’s, Moulsham)

Future Dates

Wed 18th Feb, 7:30pm – Ash Wednesday Holy Communion service (Church)
Mon 9th Mar, 7:30 pm – Homegroup Leaders’ Meeting (Vicarage)
Sun 15th Mar, 10:0 am – Mothering Sunday service
Sat 21st Mar, 6:00 pm – Pirate Sea Shanty Evening (fundraising event in Church)
Sun 5th Apr, – Easter Sunday
Sun 17th May, 11:30am – Annual Church Meetings

NOTICES

New Preaching Series – “Tough Love in Luke’s Gospel”

On January 1th, we will be starting a new six-part Sunday morning preaching series called “Tough Love in Luke’s Gospel”. Sermons from the team will focus on some of the challenging aspects of following Jesus found through His teaching and His parables. For January’s programme see the front page of What’s On.

“Exploring Hope”

We shall be running another of our Exploring Hope courses in the new year. Hope Explored is a short three session series about the person and work of Jesus, and the hope that can be found in him. It is intended to be an introduction to the Christian faith. If you are interested, do contact Sue Kitson for more details (suektsn9@gmail.com; 07884 131377). If you have been before but would like a refresher, Sue would be pleased to welcome you again! Dates and times to be arranged to suit your convenience.

“Know Why You Believe”

After the Christmas break, “Know Why You Believe” resumes on Saturday 17th January at 10:00 am when Travers will be speaking on the fascinating story of the reliability of Old Testament documents. If you have been unable to attend previously but would like the notes, please email Geoff Windus (whatson@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk). **All are welcome to attend** (even if you have missed the first sessions!).

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, and will let you know when the next organised activity is planned.

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?

If so, do contact our new homegroup co-ordinators Martin (martinwilson03@hotmail.co.uk) or Veryan veryanwilson@hotmail.co.uk for more details:

Safeguarding at St Michael's

We work hard to ensure that St Michael's is a safe place for everyone, and we have adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice. If you don't feel safe, or suspect that someone else is not safe, whether inside or outside the Church, you can talk to our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Janella Coates, our Vicar, Revd David Cattle, or our Churchwarden, Gavin Adlington (contact details are on the back page).

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: prayerchain@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk. All requests are treated with strict confidence 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. If you would like to ask to become a member of the Prayer Chain, please let Jane know.

Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care Team is run by Jane Windus who is 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. If you yourself, or someone you know within our church family, would value a personal visit or a phone-call, please see Jane, or email her on pastoralcare@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk. Included within this ministry, David is also very happy to bring Holy Communion and celebrate it at home or in hospital. Please contact Jane in first instance.

Thought for the Month by Revd David Cattle:

Good and Bad Leaders

It's the start of the new year! I've been reflecting on Psalm 72, which is one of the readings set for Epiphany. It fits with Epiphany because it talks about other nations coming to pay tribute to the true king of the Jews, which is what the Wise Men did for Jesus.

Psalm 72 talks about the king of Israel. If we translate that into our culture, it says 3 things about God's views on leadership – (1) how a leaders should behave, (2) how we should pray for leaders, and (3) how we should respond to leaders.

How should leaders behave? By being people who bring about justice for everyone – there are no favourites, no-one is above the law, everyone has access to justice, and society is fair. And by protecting the vulnerable, rather than letting the powerful oppress the powerless. We know why leaders are tempted to automatically side with the powerful – their voices and their influence are bigger – but this is a sin which should be resisted.

Good leaders should also bring prosperity, be acknowledged by other nations, and have a long-lasting legacy, but the Psalm indicates that they first need to concentrate on bringing justice and protecting the vulnerable, and these other things will take care of themselves.

How should we pray for leaders? That they should be people of justice and righteousness. It's OK to pray for prosperity, respect on the world stage, and a good legacy, but we need to pray for leaders to focus on justice and righteousness first.

How should we respond to leaders? I'm thinking specifically, what should we do if our leaders turn out to be bad leaders? It would be easy to allow them to lead us astray, but we must resist this. If our leaders don't care about justice and truth, we must care even more. If they don't care about the vulnerable, then we must do so even more. If they are greedy, we must be generous. If they treat people with disrespect, we should be work hard at being respectful. If they write off and belittle others, we should recognise the integrity of others and seek blessings for them. If they are aggressive, we should be gentle. Etc.

The Old Testament contains such wisdom. It comes from a very different context to our own, but God speaks through it. Please do read the Old Testament!

At the end of the Psalm, it calls us to praise God: "Praise be to the LORD God of Israel, who alone does marvellous deeds. Praise to his glorious name for ever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and amen!"

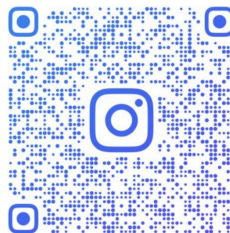
The deadline for articles for February's What's On is Sunday 18th January.

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:

Churchwarden:

Sexton:

Safeguarding:

Evangelism Enabler:

Pastoral Care Leader

Revd David Cattle: vicar@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk; 01245 956953

Gavin Adlington: churchwarden@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk; 07565 888707

Anne Pepper: sexton@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk;

Janella Coates: safeguarding@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk; 07981 419796

Sue Kitson: suektsn9@gmail.com; 07884 131377

Jane Windus: pastoralcare@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk