

## What's On in August 2023

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

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



St John the Apostle – Lindisfarne Gospels

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

- 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: Geoff Windus – “Faith Conquers the World”  
Readings: 1 John 5; John 3:16 – 21

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

- 10:00 am Family Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook  
Leaders: Jane Harpur and Revd David Cattle  
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “Believing and Speaking the Truth”  
Readings: 2 John; Ephesians 4:14 – 16

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

- 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 – “No Greater Joy”  
Readings: 3 John; John 8:31 – 38

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

- 8:30 am BCP Communion – in-person only  
10:00 am Service of the Word – **In the Copse (if fine)**  
Leader: Fiona Selden  
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “Creation”  
Readings: Genesis 1:26 – 31; Romans 8:18 – 23

## Services During the Week

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

## Important dates in August

Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> , 9.00 am	– Praying Together in Church
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> , 9am – 12 pm	– Churchyard Tidy-up
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> , 10.00 am	– MLT meeting (Vicarage)
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> , 10.00 am	– Churchyard Care Team meeting (Vestry)
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 10.30 am	– Churchwardens/Vicar meeting (Vestry)
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 9.00 am	– Praying Together in Church

## Future dates

Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept. 7.30pm	– PCC meeting (in Church)
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 5.00pm	– Fundraising Team meeting (via Teams)
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 7.30pm	– Homegroup Leaders' meeting (Travers and Jane's house)
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 7.30pm	– Missions Team meeting (via Zoom)
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept. 8.30pm	– Worship Planning Team meeting (via Zoom)
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	– Start of our 150 <sup>th</sup> birthday celebration week
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 7pm	– Rehearsal for Variety Cabaret

## NOTICES

### **PRAYER NEEDED: New Children, Youth and Families Leader**

Please continue to pray that we find the right person to be our Children, Youth and Families Leader for the Church. This is a part-time paid role, and consists of between 8-10 hours per week, depending on the time of year. The post pays £13 per hour, which equates to an annual salary of £5,824. It involves working with young people of all ages and their families. More information can be found on our website: <https://www.stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk/in-the-community/job-opportunity>, or please speak to David for more details.

### **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.

### **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 August it's Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>. See Anne Pepper for more details.

### **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 ([janevindus@gmail.com](mailto:janevindus@gmail.com)), who will circulate your request in confidence 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](mailto:travers.harpur@gmail.com)

## 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

Our Church building was consecrated (set apart for holy use) on the festival of St Michael and All Angels, sometimes called Michaelmas, 29<sup>th</sup> September 1873. This year, 2023, we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday! We have a series of special events planned between Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, as follows. Please do support as many of these events as you can. Many of them are also raising funds for our Building Fund.

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Informal all-age celebration, followed by a lunch and a treasure hunt for families.
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Special assembly at St Michael's school. An evening with Colin Steed – 7.30pm start, a talk including painting two pictures live.
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Variety Cabaret (bring your own nibbles and drinks).
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Concert by the Southend Boys and Girls choirs.
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Beating the bounds (a ramble around the parish boundary). And a 3-hour peal of the Church bells by the Essex Association of Ringers.
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service with Bishop Guli, who will also bless the new cross at the crossroads.

## St Michael's Cabaret!

As part of St Michael's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, Dee Mardi is putting together a Variety Cabaret Show in the Church on the evening of Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Dee would like to hear from St Michael's members aged 16 and older who'd like to be considered for inclusion. Please give brief details of the proposed act: whether solo or with others; whether to perform stage and/or table magic tricks, tell jokes or funny stories, dance, sing (name style), act, play an instrument, or some other talent/skill. Please contact Dee on [dee@deemardi.com](mailto:dee@deemardi.com) or text her on 07850 910237 for more details. Do please note the date of it in your diaries and watch out for ticket sales notifications. This promises to be a great night!

## Thought for the Month by Revd David Cattle:

### Let's Build the House!

I recently spent a few days on retreat at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre in Sussex. The retreat was led by the chaplains there, and the theme was "The Minor Prophets".

We don't often read the so-called Minor Prophets. They are twelve books right at the end of the Old Testament. They are called "minor" because they are shorter than other prophetic books in the Old Testament, like Isaiah and Jeremiah, not because they are less important. In fact, they are very important.

I spent some time reflecting on the book of Haggai. Go on, read it for yourself! It's very short and really good. The context is that the Jewish people have come home from exile in Babylon, and they are rebuilding their nation and their religious life. But God is not pleased with them. This is because they have put time into building their own houses while the house of God, the Temple, still lies in ruins. This situation means that their national life is not quite working properly, and God thinks their worship is unclean. So, God wants them to get their act together and rebuild the Temple.

God encourages the people to do this, saying that they need not fear to do this job because he is with them, he abides among them, he is committed to them (as per his covenant with his chosen people), and he is sovereign over the whole earth. And he says that if they start to build, he will fill the house with good things, and the glory of the house will be greater than it ever was, and then the nation will have prosperity! The book is from a particular time and context, but it applies to all time and any context, because it shows us two things: (1) what humans are like (even the best of us are tempted to put our own comfort and protection before worshipping and serving God) and (2) what God is like (he desires a deeper relationship with us and he wants to bless us).

What should we (you and me) do? We should rebuild God's house. This applies to us as a Church and to us as individuals. As a Church, we should attend to the Spirit of God living *amongst* us, and we should prioritise worship with others in Church on Sunday mornings. As individuals, we should attend to the Spirit of God living *within* us, we should never neglect our own devotional life of prayer and Bible reading, and we should constantly strive for a deeper relationship with God.

If we do this work of building, God will be our committed, faithful, covenant partner in the work. Our relationship with him (as individuals and as a Church family) will be better than it has ever been, and God will bless us.

This summer and always, let's build the house!

God bless, David.

The deadline for articles for September is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August. Please send them to Geoff Windus ([geoffwindus@gmail.com](mailto:geoffwindus@gmail.com)).

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#### Church contact details:

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#### Churchwardens:

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Anne Pepper: [sexton@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk](mailto:sexton@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk); 07703 586537

#### Safeguarding:

Janella Coates: [safeguarding@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk); 07981 419796

#### Evangelism Enabler:

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