



## St Michael and All Angels' Church, Galleywood

### What's On in December 2025

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

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

**NB. Holy Communion this month will be held on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am,  
Christmas Eve at 11:15 pm, and Christmas Day at 10:00 am**

#### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:30 am BCP Communion  
10:00 am Short Service of the Word (Nativity Rehearsal)  
Leader: Jane Harpur  
Preacher: Travers Harpur – “Proclamation”  
Reading: Matthew 3:1 – 12

#### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:30 am BCP Communion  
10:00 am Service of the Word with Nativity Play  
Leader: Revd David Cattle  
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “Nativity”  
Reading: Matthew 11:2 – 11

#### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

4:00 pm Carols on the Common at the Heritage Centre

#### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion  
Leader: Travers Harpur  
Preacher: Fiona Selden  
Readings: Psalm 80:1 – 7; Matthew 1:18 – 25  
4:00 pm Carol Service  
Leader: Geoff Windus: Preacher: Revd David Cattle

#### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

4:00 pm Christingle Service led by Revd David Cattle  
11:15 pm Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion  
Leader: Cesca Watkinson  
Preacher: Revd David Cattle

#### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

10:00 am Family Communion  
Leader: Revd David Cattle  
Preacher: Chris Selden

#### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

8:30 am BCP Service of Morning Prayer – led by Travers Harpur  
10:00 am Service of the Word  
Leader: Fiona Selden  
Preacher: Geoff Windus – “The Power and the Glory”  
Reading: Matthew 2: 1 – 23

## Services During the Week

Weekly Morning Prayer on Tuesdays via Zoom at 9:30 am, **except Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December.**

## Important Dates in December

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2:15 pm – Wednesday Fellowship (Christmas Carols and hot mince pies!)

Thu 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Galleywood Christmas Light-Up (see below)

Sat 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – Coffee Morning + Fairtrade Stall and Craft Fayre (Church)

Tue 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am – Stables Nursery Christmas Visit

Wed 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – Wednesday Prayer (in Church)

Fri 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm – Christmas Choir Practice (Church)

Sat 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm – Big Church (Church)

Tue 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – Galleywood Infant School Carol Service

Wed 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – St Michael's Junior School Carol Service

Thu 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:45 pm – Thriftwood School Christmas Visit

Fri 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm – Christmas Choir Practice (Church)

Sat 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm – Big Church (Church)

## Future Dates

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Jan – Epiphany

Thu 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 7:30 pm – PCC meeting (in Church)

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10:00 am – Know Why You Believe: "Is the Old Testament Reliable?" (Church)

## NOTICES

### Church Christmas Cards

This year, St Michael's will have both an on-line Christmas card, and a large Christmas card. Both of these are for anyone to sign, to wish others in the Church a Happy Christmas! Details of the on-line card have been circulated.

### Galleywood Christmas Light Up – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 5 – 7pm

This year, at the Galleywood shops on Watchouse Road, Santa is switching on Galleywood's Christmas lights! There will also be carol singing by local school children. The event will also feature a live reindeer!

### Know Why You Believe

It has been great to see such good attendances at our first two sessions. We are having a break in December, but will resume on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:martinwilson03@hotmail.co.uk)) or Veryan [veryanwilson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Travers Harpur:

### “Falling Buildings”



I am writing (November 2025) at the time of a visit to Novi Sad, Serbia where a station canopy collapsed a year ago killing 16 people. This month there have been demonstrations against the Serbian government relating to the collapse.

Nearly 2000 years ago Jesus said (Luke 13:4/5) “...Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

Whether it is 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jerusalem, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Serbia or some tragedy in our life we often ask why did it happen, who was at fault? Sometimes it remains a mystery, sometimes there is a clear culprit, be it a corrupt builder, a negligent designer or penny-pinching implementation. There may be contributing factors, wind, earthquake, rain. When bad things happen to us we wonder what did we do wrong; sometimes there is a link and at others none. Jesus clearly didn't think the people on whom the tower fell were more guilty and in the case of the man born blind:

John 9: “As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”” Jesus replied, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”” The first part is clear, but the sting is in the tail.

The demonstrators in Novi Sad blame the government. I seek to answer, “‘why me’, what did I do?” all my attention on me or sometimes ‘us’. But in John 9 the message was about God. There is a problem of suffering linked to a loving God. There is a full session on this subject in ‘Know Why You Believe’ next year but meanwhile I need to alter my balance and stop forgetting that there is a ‘God side’ to the issue.

**The deadline for articles for January’s What’s On is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December.**

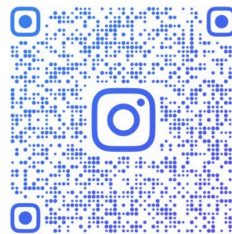
Please send them to Geoff Windus ([whatson@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk](mailto:whatson@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk)).

---

### Church contact details:

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

**Instagram:**



@ST.MICHAELS\_CHURCH\_GALLEYWOOD

<b>Vicar:</b>	Revd David Cattle: <a href="mailto:vicar@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk">vicar@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk</a> ; 01245 956953
<b>Churchwarden:</b>	Gavin Adlington: <a href="mailto:churchwarden@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk">churchwarden@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk</a> ; 07565 888707
<b>Sexton:</b>	Anne Pepper: <a href="mailto:sexton@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk">sexton@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk</a> ;
<b>Safeguarding:</b>	Janelle Coates: <a href="mailto:safeguarding@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk">safeguarding@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk</a> ; 07981 419796
<b>Evangelism Enabler:</b>	Sue Kitson: <a href="mailto:suekitson9@gmail.com">suekitson9@gmail.com</a> ; 07884 131377
<b>Pastoral Care Leader</b>	Jane Windus: <a href="mailto:pastoralcare@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk">pastoralcare@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk</a>