



## St Michael and All Angels' Church, Galleywood

### What's On in February 2024

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

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



#### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

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: Chris Selden – “The Supremacy of Christ”  
Readings: Psalm 104:26 – 35; Colossians 1:15 – 20

#### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Sunday Next Before Lent**

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook  
Leaders: Fiona Selden and Revd David Cattle  
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “Shining in Our Hearts”  
Readings: Psalm 50:1 – 6; 2 Corinthians 4:3 – 6

#### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Wednesday Communion Service and Imposition of Ashes**

7:30 pm Leader: Revd David Cattle  
Preacher: Revd Stephanie Gillingham  
Readings: tbc

#### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

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 – “A Matter of Death and Life”  
Readings: Psalm 119:17 – 32; Romans 5:12 – 19

#### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8:30 am BCP Communion – in-person only  
10:00 am Service of the Word – in-person and live-stream on Facebook  
Leader: Travers Harpur  
Preacher: Geoff Windus – “The Father of Faith”  
Readings: Psalm 22:23 – 31; Romans 4:13 – 25

## **Services During the Week**

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

## **Important Dates in February**

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> ,	10 – 12 pm	– Coffee Morning in Church
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> ,	9 – 12pm	– Churchyard Tidy-Up and Church Cleaning
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	– MLT Meeting (Fiona's House)
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	– Wednesday Prayer (in Church)
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> ,	9:00 am	– Wednesday Prayer (in Church)
	7.30pm	– Lynchpins meeting (St Luke's, Moulsham)

## **Future dates**

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	– Leadership Away Day (details to be confirmed)
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm	– Homegroup leaders' meeting (the Vicarage)
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> March	– Easter Sunday
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> May	– Annual Church Meetings

## **NOTICES**

### **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 26<sup>th</sup> May. Therefore, we need a new PCC Secretary. If you would like to know more about the role, please speak to Sue.

### **Easter Lilies**

Susan Drumond will be handing out small envelopes on Sunday 17th March for donations towards our Easter Lilies, and also for anyone wishing to have the name of a loved one included on our Easter Lilies remembrance board.

### **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. February's dates: 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. See Sue Kitson for more details.

### **Our Beautiful Churchyard**

We are privileged to have a wonderful churchyard here at St Michael's, which Anne, Chris and our volunteer team work so hard to maintain as a place of beauty, peace and connection with God. The churchyard has rules which are set by the Diocese and are part of English law setting out what is allowed to be left on graves. The Churchyard Care Team (Anne, Travers and David) are in the process of writing a new policy for how we administer the churchyard law, and this will set out how we deal with items on graves that are not allowed to be there. Once the policy is finalised, we will begin a project to publicise the rules more fully, when we will write to families to ask that unlawful items be removed from graves. We aim to get the balance right between two very important things: caring for our families and helping them to remember their loved ones, and upholding the law. This is not easy to get right, so we ask for prayer for wisdom as we care for our churchyard and all its users. More information will be available shortly. If you have any questions about this, please speak to one of us.

### **Does anyone know calligraphy?**

We are looking for someone who knows how to write calligraphy to write names in our Book of Remembrance. If you think you can help with this, or know someone who might be able to, please see Karen Robertson.

## **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 February it's the 10<sup>th</sup>. **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.

## **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 ([janewindus@gmail.com](mailto:janewindus@gmail.com)). 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.) Also, if you would like to ask to become a member of the Prayer Chain, please let Jane know.

## **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](mailto:travers.harpur@gmail.com).

## **Foundation Governor Vacancy at St Michael's Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School**

There is a vacancy for a Foundation Governor for St Michael's School, to join our team of Foundation Governors (Jane Cregan-Bird, Revd David Cattle, Cesca Watkinson, Stephanie Drake, and others). Foundation Governors are Governors who are appointed by the local Church or the Diocese, with a role to:

- be a link between the Church, school and diocese.
- ensure the Christian ethos of the school is maintained and developed.
- play an active role in the school community.
- support the school in its journey of providing an excellent education for all children in an environment that enables them to flourish.

If becoming a Foundation Governor is something you would be interested in, please contact Revd David Cattle ([d.cattle@stmichaels-jun.essex.sch.uk](mailto:d.cattle@stmichaels-jun.essex.sch.uk)) or Chair of Governors Jane Cregan-Bird ([admin@stmichaels-jun.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmichaels-jun.essex.sch.uk)) to find out more. Thank-you.

## Thought for the Month by Revd David Cattle:

### Hiding among the baggage

Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Valentine's Day – I'm sure there is a sermon in that somewhere! One thing I like to do each Lent is reflect on how I can trust God more, and be more courageous in life. Courage is not always easy, for lots of reasons, but I feel that putting my trust in God must help. To know that I am loved and that I am doing what God wants me to do in life – these things are hugely encouraging.

One person who struggled with courage was Israel's first king, Saul. You can read the story of the prophet Samuel gathering the people of Israel together, and publicly choosing and proclaiming Saul as king, in 1 Samuel 10:17-27. Go on, read it!

Saul was a fine, strapping fellow, who was a head taller than everyone else. He looked the part. But when his name was called, he was nowhere to be found. God himself had to tell Samuel where Saul was: "See, he has hidden himself among the baggage"!

It sounds hilarious, but why was Saul hiding? On the one hand, I like the fact that he was a reluctant leader. It is healthy to have some fear of this kind of power and responsibility. Feeling the urge to hide among the baggage works as an antidote to the arrogance and self-deceit that says that we ourselves are wonderful and that people really should bow down to us. (I think we should be very wary of any leader who seems like they never feel the urge to "hide among the baggage"!)

On the other hand, it shows a lack of courage and trust in God. Saul finds it hard to believe that God has chosen him, or that God will give him what he needs in order to do the job well. This is another form of self-deceit. But I don't blame Saul for this – courage is hard.

Where might Saul have found courage? In the word of God given through Samuel, in faith in God's plan and provision, and in the encouragement of those people who shouted out, "Long live the king!"

Where might we find courage today? In the word of God in the Bible, in faith in God's love and plans and provision for us, and in the encouragement of wise people around us.

This Lent, let's take seriously that God's promise to Joshua also applies to us, because we are also people who are loved by the Lord, people for whom Jesus died: "...I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous..." (Joshua 1:5-6).

God bless, David.

The deadline for articles for March is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February. 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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#### Safeguarding:

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#### Evangelism Enabler:

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