



St Michael and All Angels' Church, Galleywood

What's On in February 2026

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

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



"For dust you are, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)

Sunday 1st February – 4th Sunday of Epiphany

8:30 am BCP Service of Holy Communion
10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and MEGA)
Leader: Jane Harpur
Preacher: Fiona Selden – "The Rich Ruler"
Readings: Ephesians 2:1 – 10; Luke 18:18 – 30

Sunday 8th February – 2nd Sunday Before Lent

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion (with Sonlight)
Leader: Cesca Watkinson
Preacher: Travers Harpur – "The Ten Minas"
Readings: Malachi 3:1 – 5; Luke 19:11 – 27

Sunday 15th February – Sunday Before Lent

8:30 am BCP Service of Holy Communion
10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and MEGA)
Leader: Geoff Windus
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – "Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem"
Readings: John 16:25 – 33; Luke 19:41 – 44

Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday

7:30 pm Joint Communion Service with South West Chelmsford Churches
(with imposition of ashes)
Leader Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Revd Stephanie Gillingham

Sunday 22nd February – 1st Sunday of Lent

8:30 am BCP Service of Holy Communion
10:00 am Service of the Word (with Sonlight and MEGA)
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Jane Harpur – "The Temptation of Jesus"
Readings: Psalm 32; Matthew 4:1 – 11

Services During the Week

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

Important Dates in February

Wed 4th, 2:15 pm – Wednesday Fellowship – Talk on Power of Attorney (Church)
Sat 7th, 10:00 am – Coffee Morning with Fairtrade Stall (Church)
Mon 9th, 10:00 am – MLT meeting (Fiona's house)
Wed 11th, 9:00 am – Wednesday Prayer (Church)
Sat 14th, 7:00 pm – Big Church (for school years 8+) (Church)
Mon 16th, 10:00 am – Website Team meeting (Teams)
Sat 21st, 10:00 am – Know Why You Believe: "Did Jesus Really Rise From The Dead?" (Church)
Wed 25th, 9:00 am – Wednesday Prayer (Church)
Fri 27th, 10:00 am – Churchyard Care Team meeting (Vestry)
Sat 28th, 9:30-2:30 pm – Deanery day (Meadgate Church – see below)
7:00 pm – Big Church (for school years 8+) (Church)

Future Dates

Sat 7th Mar, 10:00 am – Coffee Morning with Fairtrade Stall (Church)
Thu 12th Mar, 7:30 pm – PCC Meeting (Church)
Sat 14th Mar, 9:00 am – Leader's Away Day (Venue TBC)
Sun 15th Mar, 10:0 am – Mothering Sunday (all age) service
Sat 21st Mar, 6:30 pm – Sea Shanty Evening (Church) – 7pm start. See Fund-Raising below
Sun 22nd Mar, 4:30pm – Joint Service (St Luke's Moulsham - tea and cakes 4 pm)
Wed 25th Mar, 10 am – Junior School Easter Service (Church)
Thu 26th Mar, 10 am – Infant School Easter Service (Church)
Sun 29th Mar, 10:0 am – Palm Sunday service
Sun 5th Apr, 10:00 am – Easter Sunday service
Sun 17th May, 11:30am – Annual Church Meetings

NOTICES

Ash Wednesday (18th Feb) – a joint service, 7.30pm

We will be joining with our partner churches (St Mary's and Church of the Holy Spirit in Widford, and St Luke's in Moulsham) to mark the start of Lent, with a special service here at St Michael's. We will celebrate Holy Communion, and there will also be an opportunity to receive the sign of the cross in ash on our foreheads, to remind us of our mortality and sin, and of the overwhelming love of God who reaches out to bring us home. Everyone is welcome to this service, as we embark once again on this special season of penitence, fasting, and fresh commitment to the Lord Jesus.

New Preaching Series – "Tough Love in Luke's Gospel"

In February, we will be concluding our 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 February's programme see the front page.

Fund-Raising News

Coffee Mornings: February's coffee morning will be on the 7th February at 10:00 am. The team would very much appreciate any generation contribution of cakes. If you can help, please see Beryl or one of the team. March's Coffee morning will be on 7th March.

Sea Shanty Concert, 21st March 6:30 pm for 7 pm start.: A popular local team from Southend (who have toured widely across the UK and Europe) will be entertaining us. It promises to be a fun-packed and entertaining evening. Bring your own nibbles and drinks. Tables for 6 can be reserved. Sailor dress optional!

Tickets are £12 from Beryl (berylmoss111@gmail.com) or Shirley.

Deanery Day, Saturday 28th February, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm at Meadgate Church.

This event is for all members of all churches in the Chelmsford Deanery. Four key areas for discussion have been pencilled in: (i) Multi-parish work (ii) Financing Church life; (iii) Wellbeing; and (iv) Examples of Unusual Outreach. There will also be break-out group discussions on matters such as finance, youth work, Sunday schools, mission, etc. Everybody is welcome. Please let Gavin know if you are coming. churchwarden@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk

Churchyard Tidy-Up, Saturday 14th March

Saturday Churchyard Tidy-Up recommences after the winter break on the second Saturday of each month. It would be helpful to let Anne know sexton@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk if you plan to come, or ... just turn up! Do bring your own small tools and a kneeler.

“Know Why You Believe”

“Know Why You Believe”, session 4 will be held on Saturday 21st February at 10:00 am when we will be looking at the evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, the foundation for Christian belief. 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 previous sessions!).

Our Churchyard

As winter begins to turn into spring, the daffodils in our churchyard burst into life, and this sacred space looks so beautiful. Our Churchyard Care Team (Anne Pepper, Travers Harpur, and Revd David Cattle) oversee the care of the churchyard, and we would like to thank everyone who cares for the graves of their loved ones, which helps to maintain the beauty of this place. We would also ask that everyone sticks to the rules, which are set by the Diocese, which state that the churchyard should be a natural place (i.e. no plastic ornaments, loose stones, borders, photographs, or plant pots). If anyone has any questions about caring for the churchyard, please ask Anne, Travers or David.

Homegroups – would you like to join one?

If so, do contact our homegroup co-ordinators Martin (martinwilson03@hotmail.co.uk) or Vervan vervanwilson@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 (all 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 confidential 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.

Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care Team is run by Jane Windus who is supported by a small team of Pastoral Visitors. However, pastoral care within our church is as much the responsibility of all of us. If you know of someone within our church family who would value a personal visit or a phone-call, **or you have missed in church recently**, please contact Jane, pastoralcare@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk.

Thought for the Month by Fiona Selden:

Thomas was one of Jesus' twelve disciples who got stuck with the label 'Doubting Thomas'. But is this fair? Who is Thomas? Thomas Didymus, the twin; he is one of two – there is another like him? Truth to tell, there are many like him. Can we see something of ourselves in Thomas?

When the risen Jesus first appears to the disciples – Thomas is not there. Why, and why is he so reluctant to believe the other disciples when they say they have met the risen Christ? Perhaps Thomas was so deeply wounded by Jesus' death that he cut himself off from the others in his grief. Now he is afraid to believe; surely it is too good to be true. Thomas stands with those who are afraid today; those who've been badly let down and wounded by life. And Jesus meets such as these with compassion, gentleness and understanding. Jesus understood what Thomas needed; what would ease his fear.

Thomas was an active questioner, a seeker. At the Last Supper when Jesus says he is going to prepare a place for his friends, Thomas says, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Lord, if you don't give me the destination, how can I sort out a route? I need the address, Lord! Thomas has the honesty and integrity to ask Jesus the question that perhaps was in the other disciples' minds, but which they didn't have the courage to voice. Jesus encourages us all to ask questions, to seek him out ourselves – ask, seek, knock.

A week after making his sceptical response Thomas is there with the other disciples when Jesus appears again. Do we see in the fact of Thomas' presence a stubborn faith? He's not quite sure what he believes, but he's still there. The deep-rooted fact of his faith is still there. And when Thomas does encounter the risen Christ, look at his response: "My Lord and my God". "Doubting Thomas" utters this clearest affirmation of the divinity of Christ that any of the apostles ever gave before Pentecost. And what happened to him after this? Church tradition tells us that he preached in ancient Babylon and Persia, present-day Iraq and Iran, and continued to win disciples to the Christian faith. Then he sailed south to Malabar on the west coast of India in 52 AD. He preached and established churches there. When the Portuguese landed in India in the early 1600s, they found a group of Christians there -- the Mar Thoma Church, established through Thomas' preaching a millennium and a half before. Thomas speaks to those who want their faith to make a difference; those who want others to encounter and know the risen Jesus.

The wounded...the questioners...the unsure...the zealous...Thomas' experience speaks to us all...Thomas is a bit of an Everyman figure. We can all identify with him.

The deadline for articles for March's What's On is Sunday 15th February.

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

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

Anne Pepper: sexton@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk;

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

Sue Kitson: suekitson9@gmail.com; 07884 131377

Jane Windus: pastoralcare@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk