



St Michael and All Angels' Church, Galleywood

What's On in January 2024

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

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



Sunday 7th January – Epiphany, 1st Sunday in Epiphany

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: Revd David Cattle – “Epiphany”
Readings: Matthew 2:1 – 12; Isaiah 60:1 – 6

Sunday 14th January – 2nd Sunday in Epiphany

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Geoff Windus – “Glorifying God”
Readings: Psalm 145; 1 Corinthians 6:11 - 20

Sunday 21st January – 3rd Sunday in Epiphany

8:30 am BCP Communion – in-person only
10:00 am Service of the Word – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Jane Harpur
Preacher: Travers Harpur – “The Conversion of Paul”
Readings: Psalm 67; Galatians 1:11 – 16a

Sunday 28th January – Candlemas. Visit of Chris Fox

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: Jane Harpur – “Living Sacrifices”
Readings: Psalm 48; Romans 12:1 – 5
4:30 pm Joint Service with South-West Chelmsford Churches at St Michael's.
Theme: “Praise and Thanksgiving” Refreshments from 4:00 pm.

Services During the Week

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

Important dates in January

Sat 6 th ,	9 – 12 pm	– Coffee Morning in Church
Weds 10 th ,	9:00 am	– Wednesday Prayer (in Church)
	4:00 pm	– Website Team meeting (via Teams)
Sat 13 th ,	9 – 12pm	– Churchyard Tidy-Up and Church Cleaning
Mon 15 th ,	7:30pm	– PCC meeting (in Church)
Mon 22 nd ,	10:00 am	– Joint MLT/Churchwardens meeting (Fiona's house)
	7.30pm	– Lynchpins meeting (St John's, Moulsham)
Wed 24 th ,	9:00 am	– Wednesday Prayer (in Church)
Sunday 28 th ,	4:30pm	– Joint service (Praise and Thanksgiving) (in Church)
Mon 29 th ,	7:00 pm	– Worship Planning Team meeting (via Zoom)

Future dates

Mon 12 th Feb,	10:00 am	– MLT meeting (Fiona's house)
Wed 14 th Feb		– Ash Wednesday (services to be confirmed)
Wed 27 th Mar		– St Michael's School Easter service (in Church)
Sun 31 st Mar		– Easter Sunday
Sun 26 th May		– Annual Church Meetings

NOTICES

A Christmas thank you

A huge thank you on behalf of the Church to all those who worked so hard over Christmas, to put on all of our events and services. We had a tremendous Christmas, and it wouldn't have happened except for the dedication of our many hard-working volunteers. So, thank you!

Hope Explored

These days hope often feels hard to come by but real hope is what the Christian faith claims to offer. "*Hope Explored*" is a three-session series that will start on Thursday 11th January at 7pm. Each session will have two short videos to watch and you can ask questions or just sit and listen. For further details contact Sue (07884-131377 or suekitsn9@gmail.com).

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. January's dates: 10th and 24th. 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.

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 January it's the 13th. **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). 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.

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) or Chair of Governors Jane Cregan-Bird (admin@stmichaels-jun.essex.sch.uk) to find out more. Thank-you.

A 'Strictly' Nativity

Our children and young people put on a magnificent 'Strictly' nativity play on 17th December for which everyone in the congregation gave them a well-deserved '10'! Congratulations also to Clare, who never ceases to amaze us with her creative talent for crafting a topical theme around the familiar narrative! Well done to everyone!



Thought for the Month by Geoff Windus:

The Spiritual Discernment of Simeon

When Jesus was just eight days old, his parents brought him into the Jerusalem Temple to fulfill the law's ceremonial requirements. Simeon also was there at that precise same moment, an old godly man to whom the Holy Spirit had given a special awareness of the baby's significance. Amidst the hustle and bustle of Temple life he stepped forward and approached Joseph and Mary carrying her baby. Simeon then took Jesus in his arms with joy, and I can imagine, with tears running down his face, said:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Then he said to Mary, *"This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword shall pierce your soul too."* (Luke 2:29 – 32)

Simeon's eyes saw Mary's child, but what he said he had seen was *God's salvation*, the long-promised Messiah who would liberate us from the prison and penalty of our sin.

Then he saw Jesus as the *light of the world*, shining brilliantly through the darkness and who would bring not only glory to God's people Israel, but also enlighten the whole Gentile world.

Thirdly, he recognised that Jesus would be *a cause of division*, a rock that would cause men to stumble over, and one that others would build on. He would cause some to rise and others to fall. Confronted by Jesus, neutrality is impossible.

These are all themes that would be picked up and elaborated on in the later ministry of Jesus himself, and also in the teachings of the apostle Paul.

Simeon saw way beyond what his physical senses picked up. He is a lesson to us all in spiritual discernment. As we pass into 2024, may God give us spiritual eyes to see beyond the surface of things and to perceive the deeper reality of Jesus Christ and his resurrected life amongst us.

The deadline for articles for February is Sunday 21st January. Please send them to Geoff Windus (geoffwindus@gmail.com).

Church contact details:

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

Churchwardens:

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

Anne Pepper: sexton@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk; 07703 586537

Safeguarding:

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

Evangelism Enabler:

Sue Kitson: suektsn9@gmail.com; 01245 265443