

What's On in July 2023

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

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

Sunday 2nd July – 4th 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: Geoff Windus
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “Stewardship”
Readings: 2 Corinthians 9:1 – 15; Matthew 6:1 – 4

Sunday 9th July – 5th Sunday after Trinity

- 10:00 am Family Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leaders: Cesca Watkinson and Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “God is Light”
Readings: 1 John 1; John 8:12 – 20
- 4:30 pm Grown-Up Wild Worship! Joint service with Southwest Chelmsford Churches in St Michael's Copse.

Sunday 16th July – 6th 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: Fiona Selden – “Walking in the Light”
Readings: 1 John 2; Matthew 5:14 – 16

Sunday 23rd July – 7th 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: Fiona Selden
Preacher: Chris Selden – “Children of God”
Readings: 1 John 3; Romans 8:12 – 17

Sunday 30th July – 8th 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: Travers Harpur
Preacher: Jane Harpur – “God is Love”
Readings: 1 John 4; Romans 8:31 – 39

Services During the Week

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

Important dates in July

- Sat 1st, 10.00am – Coffee Morning
- Sat 8th, 9am –12pm – Churchyard Tidy-up
- Sun 9th July, 4.00pm – Grown-up Wild Worship (a Southwest Chelmsford Churches service, in St Michael's Copse)
- Mon 10th, 10.30am – MLT meeting (Fiona's house)
- Tues 11th, 7.30pm – Lynchpins meeting (St Mary's)
- Wed 12th, 9.00 am – Praying Together in Church
- Sat 15th, 7.00pm – Quiz Night (in Church)
- Sun 16th, 11.30am – Meeting of 150th Planning Team (in Church)
- Tues 18th, 8.30pm – Worship Planning Team meeting (via Zoom)
- Weds 19th, 4.00pm – Website Development Team meeting (via Zoom)
- Thurs 20th, 9.30am – Leavers' Service for St Michael's School, in Church
- Wed 26th, 9.00 am – Praying Together in Church
- Sun 30th, 4.00pm – Confirmation Service (St Paul's Church, Loftin Way)

Future dates

- Fri 1st Sept, 7.30pm – PCC meeting (in Church)
- Sun 24th Sept – Start of our 150th birthday celebration week

NOTICES

PRAYER NEEDED: New Children, Youth and Families Leader

We are currently advertising for a new 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. And please do pray that we find the right person for the role. The closing date for applications is Sunday 30th July.

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 July it's Saturday 8th. 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), who will circulate your request 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

150th Celebrations

Our Church building was consecrated on the festival of St Michael and All Angels, sometimes called Michaelmas, 29th September 1873. This year, 2023, we celebrate our 150th birthday! We have a series of events planned between Sunday 24th September and Sunday 1st October, including a concert by the Southend Boys and Girls choir, a cabaret featuring homegrown talent (see below), an art evening with Colin Steed, a walk around the Parish boundary, a special 3-hour peal of bells by Essex Association or Ringers, a treasure hunt for children, and a special service with Bishop Guli at which she will bless our new cross at the crossroads! It will be a very special week of celebration for the life of our Church, and a renewal of our commitment to be faithful to God. Please mark this week in your diary.

St Michael's Cabaret!

As part of St Michael's 150th anniversary celebrations, Dee Mardi is putting together a Variety Cabaret Show in the Church on the evening of Wednesday 27th September. Dee would like to hear from St Michaels' 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 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 Travers Harpur

Trees

This year is the year our oak has its quinquennial haircut! Seeing the denuded oak (see below left – it soon reverts to a full canopy!) set me thinking of trees in scripture – from the trees in the garden of Eden (Genesis 2:9, *“The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”* (NIV)) to the reappearance of the tree of life in Revelation 22:14.

‘Tree’ makes 201 appearances (‘trees’ 157) using my concordance of the AV. We find plenty of olive trees as well as fig trees (Mark’s gospel is all fig!). Cedar, fir, sycamore-fig, bay, palm and even pomegranate also feature.

I would like to reflect on an unidentified tree in Psalm 1 –

‘That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.’

A tree has no control over where it grows – it is planted, or the seed is blown by the wind, or the acorn falls (see below right). We have, by contrast, to some extent at least, a control over where we live, and particularly where we seek sustenance, what we read, what we hear and what influences us. So, where am I nourished and where do I put down my roots?

My tree yielded its fruit in season – however the drought last year has led some of my trees and shrubs to shown little sign of fruiting this year. Have I suffered a spiritual drought?

What does my fruit say regarding my condition?

Trees *really* can teach us!



The deadline for articles for August is Sunday 23rd July. 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:

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