



St Michael and All Angels' Church, Galleywood

What's On in March 2024

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

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

Sunday 3rd March – 3rd 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: Fiona Selden
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “Knowing Christ”
Readings: Psalm 11; Philippians 3:4b – 14

Sunday 10th March – 4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

- 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leaders: Cesca Watkinson and Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Fiona Selden
Readings: 1 Samuel 1:20 – 28; Luke 2:33 – 35

Sunday 17th March – 5th Sunday of Lent – Passiontide

- 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: Chris Selden
Readings: Jeremiah 31:31 – 34; John 12:20 – 33

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday

- 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: Travers Harpur
Readings: Philippians 2:5 – 11; John 12:12 – 16

Special Holy Week Services:

- Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th 7:30 pm – Compline (Evening Prayer) – on Zoom
Wednesday 27th 7:30 pm – The Way of the Cross – in Church
Maundy Thursday 28th 7:30 pm – Service of Holy Communion – St Mary's Widford
Leader: Rev Stephanie Gillingham,
Preacher: Revd David Cattle
Good Friday 29th 8:00 am – Meditation on the Cross – in Church
11:00 am – High Street Open Air Service – in City Centre
Walk of Witness starts at 9:15 am, Church of the Holy Spirit

Sunday 31st March – Easter Sunday

- 5:45 am Dawn Service at St Michael's (followed by tea/coffee and Danish pastries!)
Leader: Revd David Cattle, Preacher: Revd Stephanie Gillingham
10:00 am Service of Holy Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Jane Harpur
Readings: John 20:1 – 18

Services During the Week

Weekly Morning Prayer on Tuesdays via Zoom at 9:30 am, but NOT in Holy Week (26th). Evening Prayer (Compline) at 7:30 pm (Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th) will be held instead on Zoom.

Important Dates in March

Sat 2nd, 9.30 am – 1:00pm – Leadership Away Day (Stock Village Hall)
10:00 – 12:00 pm – Coffee Morning in Church
Mon 4th, 7.30 pm – Homegroup leaders' meeting (the vicarage)
Wed 6th, 7.30 pm – Missions Team meeting (Travers and Jane's house)
Sat 9th, 9:00 – 12:00 pm – Churchyard Tidy-Up and Church Cleaning
Mon 11th, 10:00 am – MLT meeting (Fiona's house)
Wed 13th, 9:00 am – Wednesday Prayer (in Church)
4:00 pm – Website Team meeting (on Teams)
Fri 15th, 7.30 pm – Singing practice for Easter (in Church)
Mon 18th, 7:00 pm – Worship Planning Team meeting (on Zoom)
Thu 21st, 7.30pm – PCC meeting (in Church)
Tue 26th, 10:00 am – Galleywood Infant School Easter service (in Church)
Wed 27th, 10:00 am – St Michael's School Easter service (in Church)

Future dates

Sat 11th May – A Taste of Sri Lanka (see below)
Sat 25th May – Annual Marriage Day
Sun 26th May – Annual Church Meetings

NOTICES

Easter Lilies

Please see Susan Drummond 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.

A Taste of Sri Lanka

We are holding an evening in church celebrating Sri Lankan culture on Saturday 11th May. Doors open at 6 pm for 6:30 – 9:00 pm. The evening includes a Sri Lankan meal with a glass of wine, and afterwards singing and dancing! There are just 75 tickets at £15 each available from Beryl Moss (berylmoss111@gmail.com). Beryl would also be grateful for any large table cloths you might be able to donate for the evening.

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 26th May. If you would like to know more about the role, please speak to Sue.

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. March's date is 13th. There will be no meeting on the 27th as it is Holy Week. See Sue Kitson for more details.

Church Electoral Roll revision

Every year, we update our Electoral Roll. This is the official Church membership list, which all Church of England churches need to compile. If your name is already on the Electoral Roll, you don't need to do anything – you will stay on automatically (unless you would like to come off; if so, please contact us). If you are not yet on the Electoral Roll, please do consider joining.

We would recommend joining the Roll because:

1. It allows you to vote at our Annual Meeting, which takes place on Sunday 26th May.
2. It allows you to stand for election to the PCC or Churchwarden.
3. It is about belonging. It is a way of saying, this is my Church family and I belong here.

You can join the Roll if you are:

1. Aged 16 or over.

2. Resident in the parish OR worship with us regularly (or would usually worship with us, but are prevented from coming to Church, perhaps because of age or illness).

There are set dates for the revision of the Roll. The revision opens on Sunday 14th April and closes on Sunday 5th May. There will be forms available during this time for those who wish to join the Roll. Please speak to our Electoral Roll Officer, Jane Dougan, for more details (jmd8@post.com).

Our Beautiful Churchyard

We are privileged to have a wonderful churchyard here at St Michael's, which Anne, 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 March it's the 9th. **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.

Clocks go forward...on Easter Sunday!

Don't get caught turning up at Church an hour late on Easter Sunday (March 31st)! The clocks go forward by 1 hour into British Summer Time early Sunday morning.

Thought for the Month by Fiona Selden:

What is our identity? This seems to be a core concern for people in the 21st-century. 'Be true to yourself' is the key message of many films, TV programmes and songs. The over-arching narrative is that to be heroic means to be yourself, and that we must not let anything or anyone get in the way of us finding and expressing that identity. The Bible teacher and author, Tim Keller gave a series of talks at a conference in London in 2018, entitled 'Identity in Christ.' These fantastic talks really help to explain the difference between modern identity formation and Christian identity formation. I commend these talks to you; they are all available online. Tim Keller, with a twinkle in his eye, gives one example of this heroic modern identity narrative. Elsa in 'Frozen': "No right, no wrong for me; I've got to be free". Even though it's going to freeze over my whole country and people are going to die of starvation – I've got to be me! Keller asks: "Why are we cheering her; she's killing people – but she does look so fabulous!" In the end, other people have to save everyone else from her self-expression.

Modern identity formation is highly individualistic and not community focused. It is a self-centred and inward-looking approach to finding our identity. As disciples of Jesus, we must come to him empty-handed – laying down any fixed ideas we have about our own identity. It is only in Jesus that we can find our true God-given identity. And as we reflect during this season of Lent on the sacrifice of Jesus; as we consider how he came to serve and not be served – our identity and purpose will flow out of his example. We are called to pour ourselves out in service to others. Jesus is the one who can tell us our true name and identity in God. And that identity is rooted in serving others and joining in with God's kingdom purposes. Simon was renamed Peter, because he was the Rock on which Jesus would build his Church. The Jewish Saul was given the Roman name Paul, because Paul was called by Jesus to be an apostle to the Gentiles. Barnabas did not receive a new name, but his name means 'son of encouragement' – and his name reveals his purpose and identity within the church community.

We are not called to be individualistic; we are called to be part of God's family, a community of grace. We are called to pour ourselves out in service for others and worship of God. Let us find our true identity in him.

The deadline for articles for April is Sunday 24th March. Please send them to Geoff Windus (whatson@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk).

NB. Please note the new address going forward for What's On input.

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