

What's On in May 2023

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

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



Sunday 7th May – 5th Sunday of Easter

- 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 – “The Way to the Father”
Readings: John 14:1 – 14; 1 Peter 2:2 - 20

Sunday 14th May – 6th Sunday of Easter

- 10:00 am Family Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Geoff Windus – “The Truth, the Whole Truth and Nothing But the Truth!”
Readings: John 14:15 – 21; 1 Peter 3:13 – 18
- 4:30 pm Joint Service (Celtic style) with Southwest Chelmsford Churches (Refreshments 4:00 pm).

Thursday 18th May

- 7:30 pm Ascension Day Service at St Mary's Widford

Sunday 21st May – 7th Sunday of Easter

- 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 – “Waiting”
Readings: Acts 1:6 – 14; 1 Peter 4:12 – 14, and 5:6 - 11

Sunday 28th May – Pentecost Sunday

- 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 – “Pentecost!”
Readings: Acts 2:1 – 21; John 7:37 – 39

Services During the Week

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

Important dates in May

Wednesday 3 rd 9.00 am-2.00 pm 2.15 pm	– Making the churchyard fit for the king! (see below) – Wednesday Fellowship: Ian Grant – “Looking after Honey Bees!”
Thursday 4 th 7.30pm	– Licensing of Revd Hannah Robinson as Priest in Charge of St John’s Church, Moulsham (at St John’s)
Saturday 6 th 10.00 am-4.00 pm.	– Extended Coffee Morning, including the Coronation being shown on the big screen, in Church
Monday 8 th 10.00 am-4.00 pm	– Big Help-Out day in The Copse
Saturday 13 th 9.00 am-12.00 pm 10.30 am-3.00 pm	– Monthly Churchyard Tidy-up – Table Top Sale, in aid of the Building Fund
Wednesday 17 th 2.00 pm	– Website development meeting, via Teams
Friday 19 th 10.00 am-2.00 pm 7.30pm	– Community Computer Tune-up Day – Singing practice for Pentecost
Saturday 20 th 10.00 am-4.00 pm	– Marriage Day (see below)
Sunday 21 st 11.30am	– Annual Church Meeting (in Church, and on Zoom)
Monday 22 nd 1.00 pm 8.30pm	– MLT meeting (Fiona’s house) – Worship Planning Team meeting (via Zoom)
Friday 26 th 7.30pm	– Singing practice for Pentecost
Sunday 28 th 10.00 am	– Pentecost

Future dates

Weds 7 th June, 2.15pm	– Wednesday Fellowship
Sat 17 th June,	– A summer concert with People of the Green Choir in aid of Building Fund (see below)
Thurs 20 th July, 9.30am	– Leavers’ Service for St Michael’s School, in Church
Sun 24 th September	– Start of our 150 th birthday celebration week

NOTICES

Special services in May

There are two special services in May: Our group of Churches, the South West Chelmsford Churches, is hosting one of our joint services at 4.30pm on Sunday 14th May. It takes place at St John’s Moulsham, and the worship is in the Celtic style. There will be tea and cakes served from 4pm. And there will be an Ascension Day service at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th May at St Mary’s Widford, which David will lead, Stephanie Gillingham will preside at Communion, and Suzanne McAllister will preach.

Table Top Sale – Saturday 13th May 9.30- 3.00 pm

This is in aid of our Building Fund. £10 a stall (bring your own Table). Set up at 9.30, and the sale is open to public from 10.30 - 3pm. Entry is free and tea/coffee with cake is available for a small charge.

Marriage Day – Saturday 20th May, 10am-4pm

Fiona and David will be running our Marriage Day again this year. This is open to everyone who is preparing to get married, those who are just married, or those who have been married for a long time. It is all about helping couples to have the best marriages that they can. The day will include a candle-lit lunch for every couple who comes. There is no charge for the day. If you would like to join, please speak to Fiona or David.

Annual Church Meetings – Sunday 21st May, 11.30am

There are actually two annual meetings happening on 21st May, one after the other: (1) The Annual Meeting of Parishioners is the meeting which elects two Churchwardens. (2) The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is the meeting at which David will share a report on the year just gone and our plans for the next year, other Church members will share updates from various Church activities, the number of people on the Electoral Roll is given, and we will elect up to 12 members for the PCC, up to 3 Deanery Synod representatives, up to 2 Deputy Churchwardens, and up to 3 Lynchpins.

In particular, we are still looking for someone to be our Treasurer. Gavin has done this role over the past year, as part of his Churchwarden duties. He has done a tremendous job, but we really want to find someone else to be Treasurer so that Gavin has more time for the rest of his Churchwarden duties (there’s always plenty for him to do!). If you would like to know more about the Treasurer post, please speak to Gavin, Colin or David.

Please make it a priority to attend this meeting. And if you would like to consider standing for any of the roles mentioned, there are nomination forms at the back of Church. Please see David for more information, and he will direct you to the right person to speak to.

Pentecost (28th May) – singers needed!

Like we did at Christmas and Easter, we are getting together our group of singers to lead the singing for the Pentecost service, which takes place at 10am on Sunday 28th May. There are two practice dates planned: Fridays 19th and 26th May at 7.30pm in Church. You are still welcome to sing on the day even if you can't make the practices. Please speak to Janette Gibson or Cesca Watkinson for more information.

A Churchyard Fit for a King!

Wednesday 3 May 9am to 2 pm. We need as many people as possible with their petrol lawn mowers and trimmers or edge cutters to come ready to cut the grass in the churchyard. Tea/coffee and cakes will be provided! Just turn up or email Anne (sexton@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk) for further info.

'The Big Help Out' Day

Monday 8 May 10am-4 pm is our 'Big Help Out' Day in The Copse. Bring your own gloves and small tools and Anne's campervan will be on hand in the copse serving tea/coffee and cakes. Do come and join the fun!

Community Computer Tune-up Day

Computers for Charities (CfC) will be coming to St Michaels Church on Friday May 19 – between 10 am and 2 pm. CfC is a Sussex based charity supporting churches & charities in the area of IT. They will be providing a tune-up and clean-up service, free of charge. So if your laptop or desktop needs attention, bring it along! Please also see their web-site (www.computersforcharities.org). They also clean up old computers you no longer want and give them to people that need them. For more details, see Gavin.

Summer Concert with People of the Green Choir – 17th June

Our summer concert on 17th June at 7.30 pm is in aid of our Building Fund. Tickets are £10 and can be obtained from Beryl Moss (berylmoss111@gmail.com). More details in due course.

Friendship+ needs a new Leader!

Friendship+ is our group for carers and toddlers, which meets in the Keene Hall every Wednesday morning during school term-time. It is a project run by the Church, and it is one of the ways in which we bless our community. It is also a way of helping people to connect with our Church at a deeper level. David attends most weeks, and it is planned that our new Children's worker (when they are appointed) will also attend. Carole Evans has led the project for a number of years, and has now decided that this summer is the right time for her to step down. We thank Carole for everything she has done over these years – she has done an amazing job.

We now need a new Leader for the project (or perhaps two people working together). If you would like to know more about the role, please speak to Carole or David, and we can let you know what is involved.

Prayer needed: New Children, Youth and Families Leader

Please pray that we find the right person for this post, which is so important to the life of the Church. We need someone who has a passion for the Gospel, and also a passion for the children, young people and adults that we serve.

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 May it's Saturday 13th. 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 (janewindus@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, 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.

Thought for the Month by Fiona Selden

This month sees the coronation of King Charles III. All of the pomp, ceremony and deep reverence that will be part of the Coronation Ceremony reminds me of how much more Jesus, our King of all kings is deserving of all of our praise, honour and obedience. On the Sixth of May, we are all being asked to declare our allegiance to King Charles, and he in turn will pledge his life in service for all the people of Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Jesus gave his life to save and to serve us, and he asks us to trust in him and follow him; to give him our eternal allegiance.

Those who trust in Jesus become his brothers and sisters, and as it says in John Chapter 1, verse 12: "to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God". As brothers and sisters of Jesus, and children of our Father God... we become royal children. As part of his new reign, Charles has decided to pare down the number of working Royals, those who work as his representatives in the UK and the Commonwealth. But our Father God wants more workers for the harvest; He wants all of His royal children to go out, serving and helping others in his 'harvest fields'.

I remember when I was first a Christian in the 1980s, and many worship songs were being rewritten so that the language was more gender inclusive. I remember in particular the song with the refrain: "Now I am his son, I am adopted in his family"; this was changed to: "Now I am his child". There is nothing wrong with this, but we can lose some of the original significance of being a 'son of God', whether we are male or female. In the original context, Jewish fathers would only give the title 'son' to some of their adult sons. These would be sons who had proven themselves mature and reliable, and who would then have the right to use the title of 'Son of' (or 'bar' in Hebrew). Hence the titles in the Bible such as 'Simon bar Joseph' – that is Simon, son of Joseph. Sons who were given this title, were able to conduct business in the market place on behalf of their father, in their father's name. This is rather like the particular trust that Charles III has given to the working royals as opposed to the more extended royal family. God wants to send all his children, all his 'sons' out into the world to do his kingdom business on earth, as it is in heaven.

The deadline for articles for June is Sunday 21st May. 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: suekitson9@gmail.com; 01245 265443