

What's On in November 2023

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

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



Sunday 5th November – “All Saints” – 4th Sunday before Advent

10.00 am Service of Holy Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leaders: Cesca Watkinson and Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Jane Harpur
Readings: Matthew 24:1 – 14; Revelation 7:9 – 17

Sunday 12th November – Remembrance Sunday – 3rd Sunday before Advent

8:30 am BCP Communion – in-person only
10:15 am Service of the Word – in-person and live-stream on Facebook
Leader: Revd David Cattle
Preacher: Geoff Windus – “Be Prepared!”
Readings: 1 Thessalonians 4: 1 – 13; Matthew 25:1 – 13
4:30 pm Joint Service for Southwest Chelmsford Churches. Theme: Celtic Worship

Sunday 19th November – 2nd Sunday before Advent

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 “How Can We Be Ready for the Second Advent?”
Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5:1 – 11; Matthew 25:14 - 30

Sunday 26th November – “Christ the King” – Sunday Next Before Advent

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 – “Christ the King”
Readings: Ezekiel 34:11 – 16, 20 - 24; Matthew 25:31 – 46

Services During the Week

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

Important dates in November

- Sat 4th, 10.30 am – Coffee Morning and Craft Fayre (in Church)
Tues 7th, 8.00 pm – “Wit and Wisdom” concert by Stondon Singers (in Church)
Sat 11th, 9 – 12 pm – Churchyard Tidy-Up
10.45 am – Council Remembrance Day Service (outside Keene Hall)
Sun 12th, 10.15 am – Remembrance Sunday Service in Church (note start time)
Fri 17th, 7.30 pm – Carol Service singing practice (in Church)
Sun 19th, 11.30 am – PCC meeting, after the service (in Church)
Weds 22nd, 5.00 pm – Fundraising Team meeting (via Teams)
Sun 26th, 3.00 pm – Service to licence Revd Stephanie Gillingham as Priest in Church of St Luke’s, Moulsham
Mon 27th, 7.00 pm – Worship Planning Team meeting (via Zoom)

Future dates

- Fri 1st Dec. 7.30 pm – Carol Service singing practice (in Church)
Sat 9th Dec – Christmas Tree Festival
Fri 15th Dec 7.30 pm – Carol Service singing practice (in Church)
Sun 17th Dec 10 am – St Michael’s Nativity
4.00 pm – Carol Service
Mon 18th Dec 10am – St Michael’s School Carol Service (in Church)
Sat 23rd Dec 4pm – Carols on the Common (outside the Heritage Centre)
Sun 24th Dec 4pm – Christingle
11.15pm – Midnight Communion
Mon 25th Dec 10 am – Christmas Day Family Communion

NOTICES

Stondon Singers concert in Church – Tuesday 7th November, 8pm

The concert is entitled “Wit and Wisdom”, and features musical jokes, wise words, and ‘sound’ advice from Bach, Lassus, Hildegard of Bingen, Boyce and many others. The Conductor is Hilary Punnett, and the organist is Laurence Lyndon-Jones. Tickets are £12 (or £6 for under 16s), and can be reserved by phone (01277 886769) or email (stondonsingers@gmail.com).

Christmas Tree Festival, 9th December

A day for all the family, packed with items of entertainment, tombola, and refreshments, all in aid of our Building Fund. To display a tree contact berylmoss111@gmail.com. Further details, next month.

Carol Service – Sunday 17th December, 4pm

We are looking for singers to join our singing group to lead the singing at our Carol Service. It is always a joyful event, which is well supported and appreciated by our local community. If you would like to join the group, please speak to Janette (jan.gibson@outlook.com) or Cesca (watkinson@blueyonder.co.uk). It is important to know names in advance, so that we can ensure consent forms are signed for the live-stream. Three practices have been set, and it is important that members attend as many as they can: Fridays 17th November, 1st and 15th December (all 7.30pm).

Singers needed for Christmas other events

We also need singers to lead the carol singing at two other Christmas events – the Senior Citizens’ Christmas Lunch at the Keene Hall on Friday 15th December (singing starts at 2pm) and the outdoor Carols on the Common at the Heritage Centre on Saturday 23rd December at 4pm. If you would like to join for either or both of these, please see Janette or Cesca (contact details above).

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.

PRAYER NEEDED: New Children, Youth and Families Leader

We have now advertised twice to find a new Children, Youth and Families Leader, but we haven't had any formal applications. Please could you pray for this post to be filled, as we think about what to do next. If you do know anyone who might be interested in this post, please ask them to contact David. The role involves 8-10 hours per week, depending on the time of year, and pays £13 per hour (which works out at £5,824/year).

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.

Revd Stephanie Gillingham – new appointment

Revd Stephanie Gillingham, a former Curate at St Michael's, who is Rector of Widford and Chaplain for the Deaf Ministry, is also soon to be appointed as Priest in Charge of St Luke's Church in Moulsham. Congratulations to Stephanie! Stephanie's licensing service will take place at St Luke's on Sunday 26th November at 3pm. Everyone is welcome to the service.

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 Tree Maintenance

Please note that major tree work in the churchyard is booked for 20th – 22nd November. For the three days, footpaths will be closed and there will be very limited access to the church itself during the day, which will not be open to the public.

Churchyard Tidy-Up

Do join us if you can for our monthly churchyard tidy-up on each second Saturday, 9 am-12pm. For November it's the 11th. 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 them, please let David know (contact details on the back page). David is also very happy to bring Holy Communion and celebrate it with someone at home or in hospital.

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 in confidence 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

Thought for the Month by Jane Harpur:

Remembrance

The 1st, 5th, and 11th November are all important dates that we need to remember!

The 1st November is All Saints Day, but more on that later!

The 5th is the day when Guy Fawkes attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605.

There is a poem which some of you may remember:

*'Remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot:
for there is a reason why gunpowder and treason should ne'er be forgot.'*

I often want to be out of the country on the 5th as I cannot cope with all the loud bangs which seem to go on for about two weeks these days – I also feel sorry for all the animals.

The 11th is so important, as on the 11th hour of the eleventh month in 1918 the guns finally fell silent (Armistice Day). I was in Ypres on two occasions this year, to walk round the many cemeteries in a wide area around Ypres, to see the reconstruction of some of the trenches, where so many thousands were killed sometimes just to advance a few metres in some places, to see so many grave stones where there was no body, and the destruction of villages and towns which have now largely been rebuilt. We really need to pray that this will not happen again today. With the war in Ukraine we have been told on BBC news that there have now been more amputations (15,000) in Ukraine in the first half of this year than in the UK during the six year period of the 2nd World War when 12,000 service men and women lost limbs. Of course, things were awful too in Russia, Ukraine and Poland as well as with the Holocaust itself, – not to mention so many other countries worldwide. And since I wrote this article we have seen the horror of what is going on right now in Israel and Gaza.

The Bible encourages us to pause at regular times when we can remember. The most famous, of course, is the Passover when the first born in every family was saved if the head of that house placed the blood of a sacrificial lamb on the lintel and side posts of the door. At his last Passover meal with his disciples, before he was crucified, Jesus took the bread after the meal, broke it in pieces and said "This is my Body, broken for you", and then with the cup of wine, "This is my Blood shed for you – do this in remembrance of Me."

Two of the Eucharistic prayers say that we do this in the company of all the saints in heaven, and of course we especially remember this on 1st November- All Saints Day

The deadline for articles for December is Sunday 19th November. 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