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**Happy 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday St Michael's! 1873 → 2023**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 am Holy Communion – in-person and live-stream on Facebook  
Leaders: Cesca Watkinson and Revd David Cattle  
Preacher: Revd David Cattle – “The True Christian”  
Readings: Romans 12:9 – 21; Matthew 16:21 – 28

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

8:00 am BCP Communion – in-person only. **Note the earlier time!**  
10:00 am Service of the Word – in-person and live-stream on Facebook  
Leader: Jane Harpur  
Preacher: Jane Harpur – “The Armour of Light”  
Readings: Romans 13:8 – 14  
4:30 pm Joint Service with Southwest Chelmsford Churches at St John's,  
Moulsham. Theme: “Prayer and Praise”

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September – 15<sup>th</sup> 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: Geoff Windus – “The Weak and the Strong”  
Readings: Genesis 50:15 – 21; Matthew 18:21 – 35

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

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  
Readings: TBC

## Services During the Week

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

## Important dates in September

Fri 1<sup>st</sup>, 7.30pm – PCC meeting (in Church)  
Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> 9.00 am – Coffee Morning in Church  
Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 9 am-12 pm – Churchyard Tidy-Up  
Weds 13<sup>th</sup>, 9.00 am – Wednesday Prayer (in Church)  
10.00 am – Churchyard Care Team meeting (in the vestry)  
5.00 pm – Fundraising Team meeting (via Teams)  
Mon 18<sup>th</sup>, 10.00 am – MLT meeting (Fiona's house)  
7.30 pm – Homegroup Leaders' meeting (Travers and Jane's house)  
Weds 20<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm – Missions Team meeting (via Zoom)  
Fri 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8.30pm – Worship Planning Team meeting (via Zoom)  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup> – Start of our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration week (see later for details)  
Tues 26<sup>th</sup>, 7.00 pm – Rehearsal for Variety Cabaret (in Church)  
Wed 27<sup>th</sup>, 9.00 am – Wednesday Prayer (in Church)  
Thu 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm – Singing Practice for singers for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October

## Future dates

Sun Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 10.00 am – 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration service, with the Bishop of Chelmsford  
Weds 4<sup>th</sup> Oct, 12.45pm – Wednesday Fellowship (Harvest, cost is £3)  
4.00 pm – Website Development Team (via Teams)  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10.00 am – Harvest Festival service  
Thu 19<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10.00 am – St Michael's Junior School Harvest Festival (in Church)  
Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10.00 am – Bible Sunday

## NOTICES

### **PRAYER NEEDED: New Children, Youth and Families Leader**

Please continue to pray that we find the right person to fill this part-time paid role for the Church. It is 8-10 hours per week, depending on the time of year, and pays £13 per hour (which works out as £5,824 per year). We have now had two rounds of advertising, with no applications. David has a meeting soon with one of the Diocesan Youth Advisors for some advice. Please pray for wisdom for the way forward.

### **Singers needed! – 150<sup>th</sup> celebration service, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 10am**

We are looking to get our St Michael's Singers together to lead the singing for the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration service, at which both the Bishop of Chelmsford and the Mayor of Chelmsford will be present. There will be a practice on Thursday 28 September, 7.30pm. If you would like to sing in the group, please contact Janette Gibson or Cesca Watkinson.

### **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.

### **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, and then 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 an easy thing 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**

Do join us if you can for our monthly churchyard tidy-up on each second Saturday, 9 am-12pm. For September it's the 9<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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](mailto:travers.harpur@gmail.com)

### **150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations**

Our Church building was consecrated (set apart for holy use) on the festival of St Michael and All Angels, sometimes called Michaelmas, 29<sup>th</sup> September 1873. This year, 2023, we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday! We have a series of special events planned between Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, as follows. Please do support as many of these events as you can. Many of them are also raising funds for our Building Fund.

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Informal all-age celebration, followed by a lunch and a treasure hunt for families.
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Special assembly at St Michael's school. An evening with Colin Steed – 7.30pm start, a talk including painting two pictures live. Tickets £12:50 (includes cheese, wine and soft drinks) – see Anne Pepper (contact details back page).
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Variety Cabaret (bring your own nibbles and drinks). Tickets £10 – see Beryl Moss, <a href="mailto:berylmoss111@gmail.com">berylmoss111@gmail.com</a> .
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Concert by the Southend Boys and Girls choirs. Tickets £12:50 (includes refreshments) – from Daphne Field, <a href="mailto:thisengland70@gmail.com">thisengland70@gmail.com</a> .
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Beating the bounds (a ramble around the parish boundary), and a 3-hour peal of the Church bells by the Essex Association of Ringers.
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service with Bishop Guli, who will also bless the new cross at the crossroads. The Mayor of Chelmsford, Cllr Linda Mascott will also be in attendance.

## Thought for the Month by Revd David Cattle:

### Happy Birthday!

Our Church building was consecrated on the Festival of Michael and All Angels, 29 September 1873, which means that this month we turn 150! We are having lots of special events to celebrate, and you will find more details on the inside pages.

But what's the point of this? Beyond our instinctive desire to mark a big number, why should we celebrate this milestone in the Church's life?

One reason that occurs to me is this: We celebrate the birthday of a person because it is a way of saying that that person matters – their life is important, we value who they are and the life that they live, and we love them. It's the day in the year when they are reminded that they are loved.

Many people don't like to celebrate their own birthday – they might find it a bit self-indulgent, and it might raise a variety of guilty feelings. But I think it is important to celebrate our own birthday – we remind ourselves that we matter, to people and to God. As Psalm 139 puts it, we are “fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works...”. Each person is God's gift to the world, and it is very healthy for us to remember that fact about ourselves.

Our Church is also a gift to the world. Not just the building, but also the worshipping community that calls this place “home”. We want to thank God for our Church, for those who built it and founded it, those who blazed the initial trail, those who have led it over the years, all of the volunteers who have served here; and for everything that God has blessed us with along the way. We thank God for the worship, and for the way that so many Church volunteers have done fantastic service for our community here in Galleywood and beyond.

A birthday is also a time to take stock, to re-evaluate things, and to re-dedicate ourselves to what really matters. And so, the celebrations will remind us that we are the people of God – those who live to worship the Lord, those who have the wonderful Gospel message to share with others, those who love and serve those around us in the name of Jesus. By our lives and words, we proclaim the cross and resurrection of Jesus, and so we proclaim forgiveness of sins and the promise of new life in the here and in the hereafter.

So, our birthday celebrations will help us to look forward to the future with joy in our hearts, knowing that God is with us and that he has good work for us to do.

May our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday be a time of praise, thanksgiving, re-dedication to mission, and joy!

God bless, David.

The deadline for articles for October is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Please send them to Geoff Windus ([geoffwindus@gmail.com](mailto:geoffwindus@gmail.com)).

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#### Church contact details:

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#### Churchwardens:

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