WOODBRIDGE ST MARY with Great Bealings

UNITED BENEFICE e-NEWS

22nd November 2026

Christ the KIng

THE WEEK AHEAD

SATURDAY 21st

10.00-15.00 Quiet Day at **Seckford Chapel.** Tea and coffee provided, please bring your own lunch.

SUNDAY 22nd

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

08.00 Traditional Said Eucharist**, Woodbridge**

10.00 Sung Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**, followed by joint Baptism Anniversary goodies in **SMH.**

MON 23rd

Start of electrical works in **Great Bealings** Church

09.45 Barnabas Pre-School Visit to Church, **Woodbridge**

TUESDAY 24th

10.00 to 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**

10.30 Eucharist, with hymns **Seckford Care**

17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**

19.30 Bellringers' Practice, **Woodbridge**

WEDNESDAY 25th

THURSDAY 26th

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**, followed by coffee

16.00 onwards 'Woodbridge Light's switch on & Late Night Shopping. Our Church Shop will be open and serving gorgeous (Danish) Mulled wine

18.30 Choir Rehearsal, **SMH**

19.15 **Great Bealings** PCC Meeting

FRIDAY 27th

SATURDAY 28th

14.00-16.00 Our Christmas Market in Church, **Woodbridge.** Not to be missed!

SUNDAY 29th

ADVENT SUNDAY

(And our cycle of readings turns to 'Year B')

08.00 Traditional Said Eucharist**, Woodbridge**

10.00 Sung Parish Eucharist and Lighting of Advent Wreath, **Woodbridge**, with refreshments in **SMH**

17:30 Candlelight Advent Service – Taizé style, with gentle meditative prayers, songs and music. Very special, all welcome.
Come along at 5pm if you would like to learn the parts for the Taizé chants we shall be singing. The service begins at 5.30pm.'
Woodbridge

TODAY'S Readings
Sunday 15th November
Christ the King
Ezekiel 34, 11-16, 20-24
Ephesians 1, 15-end
(**Matthew** 25, 31-end)

NEXT WEEK'S Readings
Sunday 29th November
Advent 1
[1]Isaiah 64. 1-9
Psalm 80. 1-8, 18-20
[2] 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9
(Mark 13. 24-end)

NOTICES

BISHOP JOANNE is visiting **St Mary's, Great Bealings** (as part of her whistlestop tour of the Woodbridge Deanery) on Tuesday, 8th December at 2.30 pm, followed by refreshments. This will help her to understand the geographical and social context of the new 'Festival' status, beginning in February next year.

WOODBRIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY have a fabulous concert planned on 5th December at St Mary's, Woodbridge. 7.30 pm will include Handel Dixit Dominus, Schubert Mass in G, Bruckner Motets & Adagio for Strings. Tickets available at £20, with U18 free, from choir members or https://www.ticketsource.com/woodbridge-choral-society/december-concert/2026-12-05/19:00/t-rzpjylk

ROTARY UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS APPEAL - This **Tuesday (24th) is the deadline** for your kind donations for the Rotary Ukrainian Christmas Appeal. Please see the attached letter for details of the Rotary Club's Christmas Appeal, to "provide new and appropriately aged presents for Ukrainian children this Christmas. These will be at cost price from suppliers and taken overland to Ukraine in time for Christmas." Your monetary donation, however small, would be appreciated, ready for the "Wrap-a-thon" at Claydon High School on 28th November.
Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-99-50, Account 66685663, Reference = 'Woodbridge'. THANK YOU!

This **'STIR UP' SUNDAY** is the time to be making those lovely Christmas puds for our Christmas Market …

OUR CHRISTMAS MARKET (WOODBRIDGE) is on **Saturday 28th November**, from **2pm to 4pm**.
Please donate in the boxes in the west end - new gifts - new/good-as-new toys, games and puzzles - Bottles to the Church Shop - Cakes and bakes to the stall on the day.
Raffle tickets are now available at £1 each (in the Shop, and at church on Sunday).
Please display and share our poster wherever you can come along to support; and invite your friends and neighbours! Lots of wonderful stalls, mulled wine, Christmas wreaths, live music and much more!

ST MARY'S CHURCH SHOP - *As far as possible Fair Trade, Sustainable or Local*
Extra stock ready for Advent and Christmas continues to arrive. We have plenty of Christmas cards, including St Mary's own, of course, as well as Advent candles and calendars. Just in is our wider range of 'edibles' too, including chutneys, jams, smoked almonds, extra virgin olive oil and new chocolate flavours, which make welcome gifts. We have 'Stanley's hats', other locally produced crafts and many other delightful items. Please call in to see what we've got to offer!ng

THE BOUNDARY WALL – The latest news is that we are only two weeks away from completion of the south side. The remaining works to the entrance etc is for another day depending on available Council funds. (Our thanks to Frankie Wildmun, for last Wednesday's talk on her recent archaeological finds!)

BELL TOWER NEWS - At the recent AGM, we noted with sadness that Peter Maye , our Tower keeper, has had to step down after so many years of faithful care. Robin Townley has kindly stepped in to take on this important role, for which our sincere thanks.

ST MARYS HEATING UPDATE
Following a detailed tender process, the PCC has approved the appointment of G&H to install our new air-source heat pump heating system. The cost has risen considerably above our original expectations, to around £350,000, but the main installation costs are now established, with some additional work to the pews, flooring and woodwork still to be finalised.
We are also pleased that all the necessary permissions are now in place, including Diocesan approval for the internal alterations and planning approval from East Suffolk Council for the external equipment. Considerable work has taken place behind the scenes to secure these approvals, resolve technical questions and address potential obstacles before they could cause further delays.

Unfortunately, the specialist heat pumps have a lengthy manufacturing and delivery lead time. Work is therefore expected to begin on site in the second week of January, with completion and commissioning scheduled for 22 March 2027. While this means another winter relying on our temporary electric heaters, we now have an agreed contractor and a clear programme for restoring permanent heating to St Mary's.

Can you help us keep St Mary's warm in the meantime? We hope to make better use of our temporary heaters by operating them more regularly, particularly ahead of services and during the day. We would welcome a few volunteers to help switch them on and off at agreed times and monitor the church temperature. Full instructions will be provided, so no technical knowledge is needed. If you can spare a little time, please speak to one of the Churchwardens.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we work towards a warmer St Mary's.
David Sharples

A NEW TREASURER is sought for Great Bealings when Will Self steps down at the end of the year. This would preferably be someone who lives in the village, whether they attend church or not. Prayers, please.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY leaflets from last week are readily available if you missed out. Please have a word with Jeremy Hawksley if you have any further questions or suggestions of how we can improve our communication of this vital issue?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Thursday 26th November – Market Hill lights switch on 6pm
Sunday 29th November – Candlelit Advent Service Taize style, in St Mary's, Woodbridge 5.30 pm (Please see posters)
Saturday 5th December – Woodbridge Choral Society concert in St Mary's, Woodbridge 7pm
Sunday 6th December – 'St Nicholas' Toy services in aid of Homestart and Suffolk Refugee Council (in both churches)
Sunday 6th December – Woodbridge Street Market
Tuesday 8th December – Next PCC Meeting 7pm
Christmas Services - Please see posters. More details next week.

AMONG YOUR PRAYERS

*(**Intercessors**, please click here for the Diocesan Prayer Diary)*

We give thanks for the kingship of Christ, who rules our hearts and guides our lives… for our Diocese and Deanery, as we draw close to Advent… for our Benefice family.

For our King, Nation and Commonwealth and all who govern. Give them wisdom in times of uncertainty or trial… and the gift of peace in every conflict.

We pray for our local leaders in civic, community and business life, for all affected by the cold and especially for the homeless and all rough sleepers.

Among the Sick
Ann Pickard, Carol Alexander, Chris Burn, Patti Cottam, Penny Bird,
Tony Burton

Among the Departed
For all who have recently died, including Jean Green and Doreen Broom.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

COLLECT

God the Father,
Help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end,
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Stir up, O Lord,
The wills of your faithful people,
that they plenteously bringing forth
the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

AMEN

Please contact the Benefice Office for all Baptism, Wedding and Funeral enquiries, and enquiries regarding bookings for the church or St Mary's House, on 01394 388820 or parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org

Benefice Office Opening Hours are Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9am to 12.30pm, Thursdays & Fridays 9am to 4pm

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org
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