WOODBRIDGE ST MARY with Great Bealings

UNITED BENEFICE e-NEWS

29th November 2026
Advent Sunday

THE WEEK AHEAD

SATURDAY 28th
14.00-16.00 Our Christmas Market in Church, **Woodbridge.** Come along, bring your friends!

SUNDAY 29th
ADVENT SUNDAY
08.00 Traditional Said Eucharist in Epiphany Chapel, **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

TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER
10.00 to 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**
17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**
17.30 Governors' Meeting Online – St Mary's Primary School
19.30 Bellringers' Practice, **Woodbridge**

THURSDAY 3rd
10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**, followed by coffee
18.30 Choir Rehearsal, **SMH**

SUNDAY 6th
(ST NICHOLAS) Please see further information about toys overleaf.
9.30 Eucharist and Hymns, **Great Bealings**
11.00 Sung Eucharist and Hymns, **Woodbridge**

TODAY'S Readings
Our cycle of readings turns to 'Year B'
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)

NEXT WEEK'S Readings
Sunday 6th December
Advent 2
Isaiah 40. 1-11
(Mark 1. 1-8)

NOTICES

For next week's **TOY SERVICES (Advent 2**) at Great Bealings and in Woodbridge, we kindly ask for donations for distribution to *HOME-START* and *SUFFOLK REFUGEE SUPPORT*. Please think of new presents for teenagers, as well as for the little ones!

OUR THANKS to Andrea Skevington, who led our prayerful 'Quiet Day' and to Seckford Care for hosting us so well.

THANK YOU – to all our shop volunteers, who helped with Late Night Shopping, and for the delicious, mulled wine!

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 the Market on Saturday).
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!

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 fordhttps://www.ticketsource.com/woodbridge-choral-society/december-concert/2026-12-05/19:00/t-rzpjylk

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.

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, which make welcome gifts. Please call in to see what we've got to offer!ng

THE BOUNDARY WALL – The latest news is that we are less than 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.

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.

OUR TOWN MAYOR was filmed in Church this week, Detaisl to follow!

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT HAT? That's easy to answer – from Stanley's fair hands!
Please see the collection of so many more inside our Church Shop. Donations requested.



Photo Courtesy of June Peck

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.

Fr Nigel is co-ordinationg ongoing grant applications and would be pleased to have some hands-on helpers!

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 our PCC Members.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 *Home-Start* and *Suffolk Refugee Council* (in both churches)
Sunday 6th December – Woodbridge Street Market – (Beware the road closures!)
Tuesday 8th December – Next PCC Meeting 7pm
Christmas Services - Please see posters and take them away to display.

AMONG YOUR PRAYERS

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

For our faithful keeping of this holy season, at a time of expectation and hope. Pray that God's justice and judgement may come to bear on all the distractions and difficulties we face…

For our Benefice at a time of transition, for our PCCs and all who volunteer their time and talents…

For our government and all world leaders, that they may lead on the ways of freedom and peace…

For our families and colleagues, neighbours and friends…

Among the Sick, we pray for
Penny Bird, Patti Cottam, Tony Burton, Ann Pickard, Carol Alexander & Chris Burn…

Among the recently Departed
For Doreen Broom, Ann Jordan…

COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service

.

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

Follow us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram