



*Our Benefice church family is welcoming and inclusive to all.
We aim to reach and serve our communities and work lovingly in
friendship and partnership. Together, we ‘travel with’ our Lord faithfully
and sacramentally.*

THE WEEK AHEAD

SATURDAY 7th (St Ambrose)

09.00 Morning Prayer, via Zoom
10.30-12.00 Messy Church in **BP Room**
(1st Floor, **SMH**)
19.30 Woodbridge Choral Society
‘Misatango’ Concert, **St Mary’s,**
Woodbridge

SUNDAY 8th December

08.00 Said Benefice Eucharist,
Woodbridge
10.00 Parish Eucharist, ‘Toy Donation
Service’, (please see below) **Woodbridge**
17.30 Evening Prayer, **Woodbridge**
18.00 Standing Committee, **Seckford**
Room

TUESDAY 10th

10.00 – 14.30 Poppy’s Pantry, **SMH**
10.30 Extended Communion at **Seckford**
Chapel (Carol service at 2pm)
17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**. All
welcome.
19.30 Bell ringers’ practice

THURSDAY 12th

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**,
followed by coffee
14.00 Woodbridge School Carols
14.15 Mothers’ Union, **SMH**
18.30 Choir rehearsal, **SMH**

19.00 Woodbridge School Carols

FRIDAY 13th (St Lucy)

11.15 Prep School Christmas service
12.30 to 14.00 ‘Soup & Sandwich Lunches’
commence, **SMH**. All welcome (see
details below).

SATURDAY 14th (John of the Cross)

09.00 Morning Prayer, via Zoom
10.00 -12.30 Advent Book Discussion
Group, **Seckford Room** with coffee &
sandwich lunch.

SUNDAY 15th December (Advent 3)

08.00 Said Benefice Eucharist,
Woodbridge
10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
10.30 Morning Prayer, Great Bealings
17.30 Compline, **Woodbridge**

TODAY’S Readings
Sunday 8th December
(2nd of Advent)
Philippians 1. 1 - 11
Luke 3. 1-6

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Sunday 15th December
(3rd of Advent)
Zephaniah 3. 14-end
Luke 3. 7-18

NOTICES

THANK YOU for all your kind donations of toys and gifts for our two charities, Suffolk Refugee Support and East Anglia Children's Hospices. Special thanks to Woodbridge Rotary for their huge number of knitted teddies! Our St Mary's Guides will receive them during our opening hymn this Sunday, 8th December, and help gather them up afterwards to sort. Pray for us, St Nicholas!

OUR CHRISTMAS MARKET raised now over £2,000 (final total shortly). Huge thanks to everyone who supported such a happy event!

ADVENT SERVICE THANKS (a message from James) – “Thank you so much for the part you played in making Sunday evening's Advent service such a success - we've had wonderful feedback about the moving content, beautifully sung and read, the atmosphere, the concept and presentation, and it was a big joint effort, for which I'm very grateful.

It's so good to be able to hold special events such as this, although they make greater calls on resources and people's time in preparing and bringing them off; please pass on my thanks to the servers and readers, whose email addresses I don't have.

The next big things will be the carol services at Great Bealings (December 20) and at Woodbridge (December 22), and early next year a very special evensong with period instrument group The Ravenscroft Consort on Sunday 19 January at Woodbridge.

Thank you for all that you do to make these occasions so special and enjoyable.”

WRAP UP WARM in CHURCH! Since the gas boilers at St Mary's have been closed down, we are having an additional electrical installation for now, but it is very expensive to hire and run! Have you got one of Stanley's hats, or two? The Church shop has lots!

ADVENT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP –If you have been reading ‘The Love that Moves the Sun’ please sign the lists in either church to indicate you are joining us to discuss and share our thoughts over a coffee & sandwich lunch on **Saturday 14th December** from **10am to 12.30pm** in the **Seckford Room in St Mary's House**.

CHRISTMAS CARDS POST BOX - Please feel free to post your own cards for other members of our congregations in the box at the back of the church, **between Saturday 7th December and Wednesday, 18th December**. They will be sorted and available for collection from Friday 20th December. (Please include **surnames** on all envelopes).

PLACE OF WELCOME - SOUP AND (TOASTED) SANDWICHES ON FRIDAYS - From THIS FRIDAY 13th December to 28th February and as part of the Church Urban Fund national scheme, we plan to offer simple lunches **from 12.30 to 2.00 pm**. Kind volunteers will run the sessions, but if anyone else could contribute home-made soup on a couple of Fridays, please let Veronica know. Lunch and tea/coffee are free, although donations will be welcome. Put the dates in your diary! Bring your friends!

CHURCHES TOGETHER CHRISTMAS CARDS – Please bring a bag to church with you to take away any bundle(s) of cards that you can deliver. The bundles are labelled with the street addresses (as we used to do with the Inside Out magazine). Thank you for your help.

OUR NEXT SOCIAL – is to be a Benefice-wide 3-course Christmas Lunch (with all the trimmings) in SMH on **Sunday, December 22nd December**, from 12.30 Noon in **SMH main hall**. (Please let us know if you require a vegan alternative?). We have our very own chef for the day, James Francis, who will be looking after us all – please pay on the day - **£10 each (children free). Numbers limited to 60 total, so please be in touch with our Parish Office to reserve yours ASAP**. (Bar provided with £3 donation only per glass of wine). This is very much a social event, and not a fundraiser.

NEW PCC TREASURER (Woodbridge) – “The Churchwardens supported by the PCC want to appoint an enthusiastic Treasurer to help us manage and maximise our funds. This is always a very important role and will suit someone who likes organising and loves numbers. The role involves managing monies raised by the PCC, taking responsibility for compiling the accounts and ensuring the independent examiner’s report is carried out every year and fulfilling the filing requirements. The role does **not include** bookkeeping and Linda in the Benefice Office helps with much of the day to day transactions. If you think you have the skills and might be interested, let Michelle or David (Churchwardens) know. It is a great opportunity to get involved in the work of the church.”
Katharine Turner (PCC Secretary).

CONCERTS MANAGER. Romy Hills has had to step down and we are very grateful for her keen organization over recent years. She is looking for a successor and is happy to let you know what is involved. You get to meet all the great musical guests and see that they have everything they need on the day!

MESSY CHURCH is **THIS Saturday 7th December from 10.30am to 12noon** in the **BP Room** (1st floor in St Mary’s House) with bring ‘n’ share lunch. All accompanied children welcome – please have a word with Liz Prior if you want to join us for some “Messy Stars ‘n’ Stuff”.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

(please [click here](#) for the Diocesan Prayer Diary)

For a calm Advent, despite all the commercial and financial pressures; for all our hard-working charities in Suffolk and all who relieve the needs of the poor and homeless, refugees and prisoners.

For a calmer political world, as we pray for governments in France, South Korea, and Syria; for the gifts of peace and justice throughout the Middle East; for the DEC and all who risk their own lives to save others.

For our Town and Community of Woodbridge and Great Bealings and the 'Churches Together' around us, as we prepare for the coming of the Christ-child, ready to greet, serve and follow Him with calm and gentleness.

Among the sick we pray for: Bridget Fairley and Sue Hubbard (Cavell Manor)

Among the recently departed we pray for: Barbara Glanfield, and John Sanderson, RIP.

THIS WEEK'S COLLECT:

O Lord, raise up we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and
wickedness we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
AMEN.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the
world
and will send him again to be our
judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in
the humility and purity of his first
coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
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

NEXT WEEK: Benefice Office Opening Hours are Tuesday & Wednesday 9am to 12.30pm, and Thursday 9am to 4pm.

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org

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