



*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

FRIDAY 7th

12.30 to 14.00 'Place of Welcome' Soup & Toasted Sandwiches, **SMH**. All welcome.

17.00 Standing Committee, **The Rectory**

SATURDAY 8th February

09.00 Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please contact Alison Davis for further details.

SUNDAY 9th (4th before Lent)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge, in the Pitman Memorial Chapel**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

17.30 Evening Prayer, **Woodbridge, in the Pitman Memorial Chapel**

MONDAY 10th

08.30 Hot drinks at **St Mary's CE Primary**

10.00 Time to Reflect, **Seckford Room**

TUESDAY 11th

10.00 – 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**

14.00 Time to Reflect Planning Meeting, **Seckford Room**

17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**

19.30 Bellringers' Practice

THURSDAY 13th

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

14.15 Mothers' Union Corporate Communion, **Woodbridge**

18.30 Choir rehearsal, **SMH**

19.30 CTWA (Churches Together), **Warwick Avenue Church**

FRIDAY 14th

11.30 Communion at **Grove Court**

12.30 to 14.00 'Place of Welcome' Soup & Toasted Sandwiches, **SMH**. All welcome.

SATURDAY 15th February (St Sigfrid)

09.00 Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please contact Alison Davis for further details.

16.00 to 18.00 Building Oversight Group, **SMH**

SUNDAY 16th (3rd before Lent)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

17.30 Evening Prayer, **Woodbridge**

TODAY'S Readings
Sunday 9th February
1 Corinthians 15. 1-11
Luke 5. 1-11

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Sunday 16th February
1 Corinthians 15. 12-20
Luke 6. 17-26

NOTICES

THOMAS SECKFORD EVENSONG – Thank you to all who attended, and we are pleased to let you know that a total of **£258.30** was raised in donations, half to go towards our Building Project Appeal, and half to The Seckford Foundation.

CARLOW'S DOLE - Our warmest thanks to David and Sarah Clarke from The Bull for again hosting this annual Candlemas 'tradition' for some of our local children. In the picture you will see Fr Nigel and Year 4 from St Mary's Primary listening to the story of giving out 'bread to the poor' with a 20 shillings legacy 'for ever'... we like legacies like that, or so say our Churchwardens!!



'FEEDING MINDS & SOULS' – We are hoping to again have house groups for LENT this year. It would be good to have a list of nearby homes in Great Bealings or Woodbridge (i.e. hosts) on offer, and the best morning, afternoon, or evening times which suit. That way, people will have more choice of which groups to attend. It is just for five consecutive weeks. Thank you to those who have so far offered an afternoon and evening group.

THIS YEAR'S LENT COURSE entitled 'I believe' (CREDO) celebrates the 1700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed and the resources [here](#) come from the Diocese of Chichester. N.B. Each week is self-contained (so it doesn't require a leader as such, just a little reading 'homework' beforehand). It will also be very suitable and encouraging for those thinking about adult Confirmation...

LIVING
HOPE

'LIVING HOPE' is this year's CofE theme for Lent and Easter, and daily devotion booklets are just £2 each from our Church Shop. It is hoped there will be one for every home, and a great encouragement to see Lent through a more positive and prayerful lens!

OUR SINGAPORE EVENING raised the wonderful total of **£1,283** so thanks again to Helena Lim-Poole and family for all their hard work and donation to our Building Project Appeal, including Helena's application for match-funding for a further £1,000.

OUR PARISH SHARE figures are late coming out from the Diocese, and our target figure for 2025 is £80,734, of which Great Bealings will pay 15% for the immediate future. **Please help us** by joining our Parish Giving Scheme in either Church, for paperless weekly or monthly giving!

PHILIP RYDER-DAVIES – The Thanksgiving Service for this much-loved Vet will be at **St Mary's, Woodbridge**, on **Tuesday 18th February** at **2pm**, and our Choir will be taking the musical lead. A very full church is expected!



CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS – These have recently been revisited and updated by the Chancellor of the Diocese, so they are now posted in the porch of St Mary's, Great Bealings. Have you seen the lovely snowdrops sprouting everywhere in our beautiful (Benefice) churchyard?

Photo from April 2021

A PASTORAL END NOTE FROM FR NIGEL – “I fully appreciate that in Woodbridge St Mary's right now there is concern about our lack of heating, and our wanting to know more about what kind of Eco-options are suitable for an historic Grade 1 listed and large Church space, such as ours. I can say that I have already met several times with our Inspecting Architect, Nick Jacobs, and our Diocesan Net Zero Officer, James Rolls. So, under Simon Morris' guidance, he is preparing a document with myself and David Sharples so that the right prospective choices and costs are made as transparent as possible. This will take some weeks of research, especially learning from other Churches about what might work best for us, practically and economically. We must make informed decisions – and not rush them - for our long-term future.

Similarly, there is a need to set out more clearly where we are up to with our Building Project Appeal, and why we are working so hard behind the scenes with issues of prospective funding and Grants, with your help.

Stephen Cole is preparing a Q&A sheet to help us map out our common aims and objectives, as well as to clarify any ‘false information’ out there. I am so grateful to all the voluntary help around in the pews, in very challenging times, from everyone who is willing to ‘share the load’ in the months ahead. This week's post communion prayer is very timely and welcome!”

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

- Pray for next week's General Synod, and for racial justice in all our local Churches and communities; we give thanks for all working for greater harmony, and an end to racism.

- For all in the world who are oppressed by prejudice, war, displacement, or hunger

- For our young people, their mental health, and all affected by knife crime; for their families and leaders

Among the sick and recovering from recent operations we pray for: Cath Eaden, Bridget Fairley, and Andrew Bullard

Among the recently departed we pray for the souls of Frances Stewart, Jane Stafford, Donald Mackenzie, Ann Banister, and Valerie Wadeson

COLLECT

Merciful God,
you are righteous and love justice:
stir the hearts of your people that,
rejoicing in our diversity,
we may repent of the wrongs of the past,
and, by your grace, seek the peaceable
kingdom of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and or ever.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Go before us, Lord, in all we do
with your most gracious favour,
and guide us with your continual
help,
that in all our works
begun, continued and ended in
you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally by your mercy receive
everlasting life;
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, and Thursdays and Friday 9am to 4pm.

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org

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