

*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 13th

****Road closures 10am to 9pm for Shire Hall anniversary event****

09.00 Morning Prayer **via Zoom**

09.00 – 17.00 Annual Ride 'n' Stride event, **Suffolk Churches (including St Mary's Woodbridge & Great Bealings)**

12.00 Wedding of Rachael Clark & Michael Staines, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

12.00 – 17.00 '450th Anniversary of the Shire Hall' event, **Market Hill**

SUNDAY 14th (Holy Cross Sunday)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

TUESDAY 16th

10.00 – 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**

10.30 Morning Prayer at **Seckford Chapel**

17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**

18.00 Standing Committee Meeting, **Seckford Room**

19.00 New Learners' bellringing, followed by Bellringers' Practice

19.30 Churches Together Woodbridge Area (CTWA) Meeting, **SMH**

THURSDAY 18th

08.45 Woodbridge School Prep Assembly, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

18.30 Choir rehearsal, **SMH**

FRIDAY 19th

11.30 Communion at **Grove Court**

SATURDAY 20th

09.00 Morning Prayer **via Zoom**

13.30 Wedding of Harriet Sylvester & Peter Cox, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

19.00 'Tom Rogerson & Friends,' part of the Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival, **St Marys, Woodbridge**

SUNDAY 21st (St Matthew)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.30 Morning Prayer, **Great Bealings**

TODAY'S Readings Sunday 14th September Holy Cross Sunday

Numbers 21. 4-9

Philippians 2. 6-11

(John 3. 3-17)

Readings for NEXT WEEK Sunday 21st September St Matthew

Proverbs 3. 13-18

2 Corinthians 4. 1-6

(Matthew 9. 9-13)

NOTICES

THANK YOU FROM GREAT BEALINGS "...to all our visitors from Woodbridge for their support of our Patronal Service and for their wonderful contributions to the Bring and Share lunch. Also for bringing along the early autumn sunshine. The errant calf was seen again in the churchyard on Monday, so it was good that it didn't happen on Sunday. Despite Fr Nigel's best efforts, none of the extra white wine turned miraculously red, but, in the event, no-one chose red anyway!" (Norman Porter, Churchwarden)



Photos courtesy of Janice Poulson

THANK YOU TOO to all who came along to the special concert by [Lacock](#) on Friday, and those who helped on the day and afterwards. They really enjoyed their week in St Mary's, Woodbridge, and produced some fabulous choral music for us to enjoy. A grand total of £570 was raised through the retiring collection, in aid of our Building Project Appeal.

ARCHDEACON'S LETTER OF SUPPORT is now posted on the south wall – for our replacement 'eco' heating system. The final contractor met Fr Nigel this week, so we await cost estimates soon.

SUFFOLK HAS OVER 500 churches - Please support the annual **'Ride & Stride'** on **Saturday 13th September** from **9am to 5pm**.

Sponsor forms available from Jonathan Keer (Great Bealings) on 07962 114378 or Tony Waller (Woodbridge) on 01394 386786 or anjwaller@uwclub.net

TOGETHER WE ARE



If you'd like to support our riders & recorders for this event, there will be a bucket in church 'on the day' and on Sunday 14th for quick-fire donations, of which 50% will come back for our own church building funds (as with all sponsorship).

450 YEARS OF THE SHIRE HALL - On **Saturday 13th September**, Woodbridge will celebrate the 450th anniversary of its historic Shire Hall with a free, Elizabethan-themed event **from 12pm to 5pm on Market Hill**. Part of National Heritage Week, the festivities honour this iconic building, a civic landmark since the reign of Elizabeth I. Visitors can step inside the Shire Hall and explore its legacy, including rare access to the first-floor courtroom. Activities include art and music from the Woodbridge Festival (Friday evening), costumed actors recreating Tudor street scenes, interactive storytelling, jesters, and a traditional dance workshop. 'Pearl in the Egg' will perform Elizabethan music throughout the afternoon (Saturday).

Food and drink will include a subsidised hog roast, pie and mash, heritage ice cream from The Galley Creamery, and drinks from The Kings Head pub.

450 YEARS OF THE SHIRE HALL

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

12 NOON - 17:00 PM | MARKET HILL WOODBRIDGE

Join us to celebrate this remarkable milestone with:

Living history displays, Interactive performances,
Traditional music and dance workshops,
Immersive art sessions, Free giveaways,
Subsidised traditional Hog Roast and Pie and Mash.

Lots of fun and entertainment for the whole family.

FREE ENTRY

Woodbridge TOWN COUNCIL



WOODBIDGE AMBIENT MUSIC FESTIVAL – Now an annual event, there are a huge range of events taking place over the weekend of Friday 19th to Sunday 21st September, full details of which can be found on their [website](#) (where you can also buy tickets). We are delighted to be hosting **‘Tom Rogerson & Friends’** again, as part of this event, on **Saturday 20th September** at 7pm in **St Mary’s, Woodbridge**.

‘PRACTICAL MYSTICISM’ COURSE - This six-week course was run at St Mary’s about 10 years ago. We will be running a slightly revised version again. The course is based on a book by Evelyn Underhill published in 1915 describing how Mysticism can be made practical in everyday life. It is a restating of the path followed by the traditional mystics including Julian of Norwich to find and unite with what is true and real. The course will run in the hall at **St Mary’s house** on **23rd & 30th September, 7th, 14th, 28th October, and 4th November**, starting at 7pm. Please email John Davis on jkdavis2312@gmail.com if you would like to join.

CLASSICAL COLDPLAY TRIBUTE BY CANDLELIGHT – On **Friday 26th September** in **St Mary’s Woodbridge**, featuring a String Trio. There will be two performances, at **7pm and 9pm**. This is organised by [Lumos Experiences](#), who hold these events all over the country, so we are delighted that they have chosen our beautiful church to host this one. You can see more details and [book tickets here](#).

SWELL ENGINE - Many organs have a set of pipes located in a box with shutters that can be open or shut by the organist by means of a foot pedal. Use of the swell mechanism allows these pipes to be used expressively or made very quiet thanks to a piece of machinery called the swell engine. The swell shutters were replaced a few years ago and the remaining work, to enhance control of the shutters, has now been completed. Although invisible, the swell engine does a valuable and appreciable service: the next time that you feel the power of the organ increasing it is the swell engine that is making that happen, and to a greater and more musical degree than was possible before. Essential organ works are often costly, and the PCC maintains an organ fund for the upkeep and tuning of the organ; donations towards the full completion of this project, which will be £4,380, or to the fund in general will be very gratefully received. The fund enables the church's beautiful organ to lead worship to the best possible standard - thank for your generosity in this vital part of our ministry.

ST MARY’S SHOP - Two new books have arrived in the Shop. The first is 'The Children of God Storybook Bible' written by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. In this beautiful illustrated book, he retells over 50 Bible stories especially for young readers. The second is 'The Greatest Story Ever Told' by Bear Grylls. A number 1 Sunday Times bestseller, it tells the story of the man we know as Jesus, through the eyewitness accounts of those who knew him best. More titles are due to arrive soon! **We are hoping to keep the Shop open on Saturday afternoon (13th) whilst the ‘450 years of the Shire Hall’ event is taking place on Market Hill (subject to Volunteer availability).**

CONGRATULATIONS & OUR PRAYERS FOR ERIN (our recent Confirmation candidate) who is to read Theology at Christ Church, Canterbury.

PIPE REPAIR IN ST MARY'S HOUSE – The repairs to the water pipe to fix the recent leak was not a simple job, and took plumbers two days to complete. The cost of this was £1,464.

ST MARY'S 'GARDENING GROUP' – Rita will address the congregation on Sunday about how we can better maintain and plan together greater biodiversity for our Woodbridge Churchyard. We will need willing hands and bodies, say, once a month during the growing season...

GREAT BEALINGS CHURCHYARD CLEAR UP - Join us on **Saturday 4th October**, starting around **8.30am** and finishing at lunchtime. Mid-morning coffee and lunch will be provided on site, as usual, as a thank you. You don't have to commit to the whole morning, any help is greatly appreciated, even if it's just an opportunity to deal with a specific grave, do come and tend it in good company. Inside 'tidy-uppers' also very welcome. All sorts of implements useful, particularly rakes, strimmers, secateurs, shears, bonfire kit. The main jobs are grass strimming, raking and burning, hedge control, path clearance, and some grave maintenance. Please contact Norman Porter: nhp@rillcott.co.uk

NEW ADDITION TO THE RECTORY family in Church Street: 'Here's looking at you, kid!' She is a Fen Spaniel called 'Peggy.'



AMONG YOUR PRAYERS

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

- We give thanks today (Sunday) for the triumph of the Holy Cross over all suffering and evil, and the promise of redemption...
- In our Benefice, for the success of our building projects and fundraising...
- For our Churchwardens, Michelle, David & Norman...
- For our Church Shop volunteers
- Give thanks for Rachael & Michael Staines getting married this weekend; to all taking part in the Ride 'n' Stride, and the ongoing work of Suffolk Historic Churches Trust

Among the sick: for Margaret Lowe and Betty Richardson

COLLECT FOR THIS WEEK

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of
Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Faithful God,
whose Son bore our sins in his body
on the tree
and gave us this sacrament to show
forth his death until he comes:
give us grace to glory in the cross of
our Lord Jesus Christ,
for he is our salvation, our life and our
hope,
who reigns as Lord, now and for ever.
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
Usual Benefice Office Opening Hours are Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9am to 12.30pm, and
Thursdays & Fridays 9am to 4pm.

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org
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