

THE WEEK AHEAD

FRIDAY 7th

14.30 World Day of Prayer service, **St John's, Woodbridge**, followed by generous refreshments! All welcome.

SATURDAY 8th March

09.00 Lenten Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please contact Alison Davis if you would like to join in from your own home.

SUNDAY 9th (1st of Lent)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
18.00 Standing Committee, **Seckford Room**

MONDAY 10th

10.30 1st Lent House Group commences

TUESDAY 4th

10.00 – 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**
17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**
19.00 PCC Meeting, **SMH**
19.30 Bellringers' Practice

WEDNESDAY 12th

15.00 2nd Lent House Group commences

THURSDAY 13th

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
14.15 Mothers' Union, **SMH**
18.30 Choir rehearsal, **SMH**
19.00 3rd Lent House Group commences

FRIDAY 14th

11.30 Communion at **Grove Court**
12.30 Our first Ecumenical Lent Lunch, **SMH**
14.00 Shop Management meeting, **Seckford Room**
18.00 Stations of the Cross, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**. All welcome.

SATURDAY 15th March

09.00 to 12.00 Church Spring Clean. Volunteers required. Lots of fun!

SUNDAY 16th (2nd of Lent)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
15.00 Nota Bene Chamber Choir concert, **St Mary's, Woodbridge** (in aid of our Building Project Appeal)



Theme of this week's sermon

NOTICES

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED for the following (please see sign up sheets at the back of church, Woodbridge):

- **Saturday 15th March** – 9am to 12noon – Church Spring Clean
- **Sunday 16th March** – Cake Makers (in advance) and volunteers to serve tea & cakes after concert (which ends around 4.15pm)
- **Saturday 22nd March** - Cake Makers (in advance) and volunteers to serve tea & cakes during Spring Equinox mini festival – from 2pm to 6pm

BOOKS FOR HMP WARREN HILL - Many thanks for the splendid collection of donated books that appeared at the back of church. I'm sure that Ian the librarian and the prisoners will be very glad to have these additions to the book stations that are being set up around the prison. (*Alison W*)

TIME TO REFLECT, END OF AN ERA – the very last meeting of 'Time to Reflect' took place on 3rd March. Many thanks to Diane Milan and Sandra Schur & all the Team who have supported over so many years.

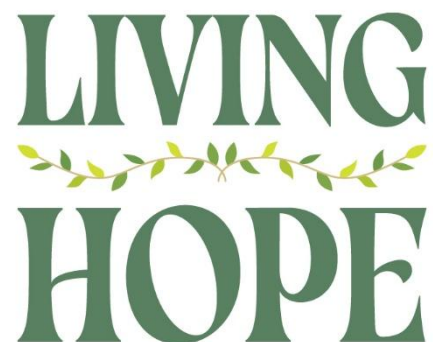
VESTRY CHEST FOR VESTMENTS (WOODBRIDGE) – a BIG THANK YOU TO Sally Wade-Geary for organising and treating us to its recent glorious restoration!

LENT COURSE entitled 'I believe' (CREDO) - which is being studied within our Lent House Groups, but is also available to study individually - celebrates the 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Five commentators explore big themes from the Creed with bible readings and questions to help individuals and groups. The whole Lent Course is now available [here](#) with PDFs, audio versions and MP4 files to download for each week (all resources from the Diocese of Chichester).

'LIVING HOPE' is this year's CofE theme for Lent and Easter, and daily devotion booklets are just £2 each from our Church Shop. Lots of nice colour pictures too! Just slips into your pocket, on the train, you name it.

OUR BENEFICE LENT PROGRAMME (with 'Living Hope' theme) is now available to read and download from our website. [Click here](#) for the Lent 2025 page. There will also be a few printed copies to pick up from the back of either church. This season is all about growth & fellowship.

**LIVING
HOPE**



LENT LUNCHES will be on **Fridays**, from **14th March to 4th April**, from **12.30pm to 2pm** in the main hall at **St Mary's House**. Soup, roll, cheese and tea/coffee will be on offer. Donations to be made to our Lenten Charity for 2025, Tearfund's 'Toilet Twinning' scheme, worldwide.

ONLINE LENT COURSE – organised by St Edmundsbury Cathedral on **Wednesdays at 7pm**, from **12th March through to 9th April** entitled “Unforgivable? Exploring the Limits of Forgiveness,” and based on the book of the same name (on sale now in our Church Shop) by the Dean of King's College, Dr Stephen Cherry (Bloomsbury) – with guest experts in their subjects. What does it mean in different situations / contexts, including slavery, war, infidelity, and religion? Just £10 for this course. To book: [details available here](#). Fr Nigel will be there!

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LENTEN 'MESSY CHURCH' for children and their parents / carers on **Saturday 29th March** from **2pm to 4pm** in the **hall at St Mary's House**. Includes tea, cake, and games.

OUR LENTEN CHARITY – Please save up at home and bring your donations on Easter Sunday. We hope to be supporting 12 different underdeveloped countries (with the help of Tear Fund) if we can manage a new toilet for each (@£60 each). Good luck everyone!

MOTHERS' UNION - Our next meeting is on **Thursday 13th March** at **2.15pm** in **SMH**. 'How to beat the Scammers' a talk by 'Able Community Care'. A topic that we are all having to be aware of and need to know what to look out for to prevent being scammed. All are very welcome to come to our meeting if it is something that concerns you. We look forward to seeing you.

STEWARDING - We will be starting stewarding in church again as **from 1st April** and more volunteers are needed to meet and greet our many visitors. If you feel you would like to do this and take a two-hour slot, Monday to Friday, morning or afternoon, then please contact Peter Shipley by email peter.shipley2467@btinternet.com Basic training is available if required.

EVENING PRAYER – There will be no more Evening Prayer on Sundays until further notice.

NOTA BENE CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT – ‘A Renaissance Journey’ is on **Sunday 16th March** at 3pm in **St Mary’s, Woodbridge**. They have kindly offered to share all proceeds from donations received from a retiring collection with us, in aid of our Building Project Appeal.

SPRING EQUINOX MINI-FESTIVAL is on Saturday 22nd March, from 2pm to 4pm, also in St Mary’s, Woodbridge. This event will feature ambient, folk & acoustic music alongside a ‘Looking after the River’ Exhibition, and has been organised by the Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival. They have also offered to donate all proceeds to our Building Project Appeal. Tickets are £10 (+ online booking fee) available in advance [via Eventbrite](#), or on the door.

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL - In 2025 a completely new church electoral roll has to be prepared.

The church Electoral Roll is a register of the lay members of the church who are entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), and those on the roll are eligible to be elected to lay representative positions on their Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Synod. Deanery Synod representatives may then be elected to Diocesan Synod and General Synod.

It also shows:

'I belong to', I serve', I support' St Mary's, Woodbridge, or
'I belong to', I serve', I support' St Mary's, Great Bealings

To be entered on the new roll, we must ask you, please, to complete an application form and return it on paper or via email as follows:

Woodbridge – hand completed forms to Electoral Roll Officer, Veronica Howe, or drop in to the Parish Office, or email parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org.

Great Bealings – contact Electoral Roll Officer, Jonathan Keer, on 07962 114378 or email jonkeer2000@yahoo.co.uk

All completed applications should be returned as soon as possible, and **by Easter Sunday (20th April) at the very latest**. No further applications may be accepted after this date, and the new roll will be displayed from:

- Tuesday 22nd April – Woodbridge, and
- **Thursday 24th April - Great Bealings**

in advance of our separate APCMs on:

- Tuesday 6th May - Woodbridge
- **Thursday 8th May – Great Bealings**

BUILDING PROJECT APPEAL Q&A – Additional copies of this insert / attachment are available from the West End of Church, and our Church Shop. We have also posted it on the [‘Building Project Appeal’](#) page of our website. Please do consult further with any of the signatories for further information, advice, or offers of help!

ST MARY’S SHOP - Our wide range of cards includes those from local artists, such as Hallo and Michael Coulter cards. These have now been joined by lovely prints of local scenes by Mark Beesley, so please come in and have a look.

LOOKING TO BE CONFIRMED? There is a wonderful opportunity to be Confirmed in our Cathedral during Eastertide, on **Sunday 4th May at 10.30am**. Please have a word with Fr Nigel if you are tempted!



*Crocus at St Mary’s Woodbridge, March 2025
Photo courtesy of Linda Rumbold*

TODAY’S Readings
Sunday 9th March
Deuteronomy 26. 1-11
Luke 4. 1-13

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Sunday 16th March
Genesis 15. 1-12, 17-18
Luke 13. 31-end

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

- We pray for our Diocese, Deanery and Benefice, as we work to proclaim the love of God; for God's blessing on our Lenten House Groups, lunches, worship & friendships
- For our Lenten Charity this year, supporting Tearfund's sanitary and water projects across the poorest countries of the world
- For our European leaders and partners anxious about the protection and safety of each country; for peace in Ukraine and Gaza, and wherever there is violence and oppression
- Among the sick and housebound please pray for: Sarah Lines, Cath Eaden, and Bridget Fairley
- Among the recently departed we pray for the souls of Margaret Potter, Ann Crouch, and John Day

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of
darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in
wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the
living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him
who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every
word that proceeds from out of
your mouth;
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

N.B. THIS WEEK Benefice Office Opening Hours are Tuesday 9am to 12.30pm, Wednesday 1pm to 4pm, and Thursday and Friday 9am to 4pm.

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org

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