

This Sunday is also the United Nations' 'World Day of Peace.' The following prayer by Archbishop Hosam of Jerusalem is very timely:

"Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world:

In your mercy, provide for all those in Gaza and beyond who suffer from hunger and starvation, that they may be given both physical bread to nourish their bodies and heavenly bread to sustain their souls.

By the power of your Spirit, bring a speedy end to this cruel war, the release of all captives, care for the sick and wounded, comfort for those who have lost loved ones, and the opening of a pathway for a just and lasting peace in the very homeland where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ministered during his earthly life;

Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

THE WEEK AHEAD

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** (see details below)

SUNDAY 21st (St Matthew)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.30 Morning Prayer, **Great Bealings**

TUESDAY 23rd

10.00 – 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**

17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**

19.00 Practical Mysticism course commences, **SMH**

19.00 New Learners' bellringing, followed by Bellringers' Practice

19.30 PCC meeting, **Great Bealings**

WEDNESDAY 24th

12.00 Interment of ashes of Sylvia Stiles, **Great Bealings**

THURSDAY 25th (Lancelot Andrewes, 1626)

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**, followed by coffee

10.30 Flower Group meeting, **Seckford Room**

18.30 Choir rehearsal, **SMH**

FRIDAY 26th

18.30 Building Oversight Group meeting, **Seckford Room**

19.00 & 21.00 Classical Coldplay Tribute by Candlelight (see details below)

SATURDAY 27th

09.00 Elders' Communion, **Woodbridge** followed by Elders' Meeting in Church

10.30 Gardening Group in churchyard, **Woodbridge**

SUNDAY 28th (St Michael & All Angels)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

NOTICES

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

THANK YOU to Tony and Jonathan for organising last Saturday's Ride 'n' Stride, and to all who took part, helped out on the day, and sponsored participants.

WOODBIDGE AMBIENT MUSIC FESTIVAL – Now an annual event, there are a huge range of events taking place over this weekend 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, **THIS Saturday 20th September at 7pm in St Mary's, Woodbridge.**

'PRACTICAL MYSTICISM' COURSE - This six-week course commences on **Tuesday 23rd September** and 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](#).

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

OUR HARVEST LUNCH is on **Sunday 5th October** at **12.30pm** in **St Mary's House**, to be kindly prepared by Kirsten Berridge, and tickets are £10 each (available in the Church Shop). The lunch will consist of roast ham served with salad and new potatoes. Please let us know if you would like a vegetarian alternative.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS / DONATIONS - We no longer take a collection during services, but regular giving remains vital to running St Mary's, Woodbridge. Please support us through regular giving via the Parish Giving Scheme, by placing a donation (ideally in a Gift Aid envelope) in the plate at the back, or by using our contactless donation station. Thank you for your generosity. Please contact the Treasurer (Alison), Giving Steward (Sarah) or one of the Churchwardens (David or Michelle) if you require assistance.

NEW ORGAN 'SWELL ENGINE' – Our thanks to Sarah for her demonstration last week, and to our kind donors to date! Please have a confidential word with James or Fr Nigel if you would like to 'boost' our PCC Organ Fund (which continues to pay for the maintenance and upkeep of our 'biggest instrument').

JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY GARDENING GROUP in **St Mary's, Woodbridge Churchyard**. Our first meet up is on **Saturday 27th September** at **10.30am**. Please bring your own tools and appropriate shoes! Thank you.

SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA – We are looking for more helpers, please, to join our team. Please have a word with Michelle if you would like to help us. Thank you.

DO YOU KNOW ANY FARMERS – who either live or work in our United benefice? If so, please let the Parish Office know, so that we can invite them to our Harvest Services and Lunch.

HOP TO IT! AUCTION RAISES OVER £250,000 – “After a summer of colour and creativity across Suffolk (*including the hare decorated and entered by St Mary's CE Primary School, see right*), St Elizabeth Hospice's Hop to it! Suffolk 2025 art trail ended in style with a fundraising auction that raised more than £250,000! Held on 17th September at Milsoms, Kesgrave, the auction brought together over 200 trail fans and keen bidders to celebrate, as the hare sculptures went under the hammer and found their forever homes.”



TODAY'S Readings
Sunday 21st September
St Matthew
Proverbs 3. 13-18
2 Corinthians 4. 1-6
(Matthew 9. 9-13)

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Sunday 28th September
St Michael & All Angels
Genesis 28. 10-27
Revelation 12. 7-12
John 1. 47-end

AMONG YOUR PRAYERS

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

- For Harriet and Peter Cox, married at St Mary's, Woodbridge this weekend; for all our local farmers and harvest-makers...
- For the international peace-keeping work of the United Nations, and all their Peace Ambassadors...
- In our own Benefice, for our PCC members, Church Welcomers, and Sidespeople; in our Diocese for all churches who bear the name of St Matthew... Give thanks for our own Christian vocations, and the time and talents we can bring

Among the sick: for Margaret Lowe and Betty Richardson; for those in our care homes; for our NHS in Ipswich Hospital, and the Chaplaincy team

COLLECT FOR THIS WEEK

O Almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the
tax collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish
pursuit of gain and the possessive love
of riches
that we may follow in the way of your
Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in
tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to
preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of
your love;
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
Usual Benefice Office Opening Hours are Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9am to 12.30pm, and Thursdays & Fridays 9am to 4pm.

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org

[Follow us on Facebook](#)