

UNITED BENEFICE e-NEWS

26th October 2025 Last after Trinity

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 25th

09.00 Prayer meeting via Zoom10.30 Monthly Gardening Group, StMary's, Woodbridge ChurchyardN.B. CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR!

SUNDAY 26th (Last after Trinity) 08.00 BCP Eucharist, Woodbridge 10.00 Parish Eucharist, Woodbridge

TUESDAY 28th (Simon & Jude, Apostles) 10.00 – 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, SMH 10.30 Communion at Seckford Chapel 17.00 Christian Meditation, SMH 19.00 New Learners' bellringing, followed by Bellringers' Practice 19.00 Practical Mysticism course recommences, SMH

WEDNESDAY 29th

Organ works in church, Woodbridge

THURSDAY 30th

10.00 Said Eucharist, Woodbridge11.30 Funeral for Nicola Nolan, StMary's, Woodbridge18.30 Choir rehearsal, SMH

FRIDAY 31st

11.30 Communion at Grove Court

SATURDAY 1st November 09.00 Prayer meeting via Zoom

SUNDAY 2nd (All Saints)

09.30 Festival Eucharist, Great Bealings11.00 Festival Eucharist, Woodbridge, with Bishop Graeme Knowles presiding and preaching

TODAY'S Readings Sunday 26th October Last after Trinity

> Joel 2. 23-end Luke 18. 9-14

Readings for NEXT WEEK Sunday 2nd November All Saints

Daniel 7. 1-3, 15-18 (Resp Psalm 149) Ephesians 1. 11-end Luke 6. 20-31

coming soon... 'Italian Advent Lunch' on Sunday 7th December in St Mary's House, as one of our next fundraising events, prepared for us by Sophie (who is a chef, and was recently married here at St Mary's). More details to follow shortly.

NOTICES

THANK YOU to the St Eds Cathedral Youth Choir, who were delighted to have been so well received last Sunday. From our Director of Music, James Davy (to Claudia Grinnell): "Thank you so much for bringing the Youth Choir to sing Evensong at St Mary's this evening - we all enjoyed it immensely: the choir sounded terrific all through, such clear voices soaring through the church, and especially fearless in the canticles! There were a few quiet tears during the anthem as that text is very special to quite a few people in the congregation and the performance tonight was really moving."



Photo courtesy of Janice Poulson. From Left to Right: Canon Katy Cunliffe (Precentor) Rev. Nigel Prior, Claudia Grinnell Director of Music, St. Edmundsbury Cathedral Youth Choir, Richard Cook Assistant Director of Music, St. Edmundsbury Youth Choir, and James Davy Director of Music, St. Mary's Woodbridge.

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 (PGS) which is by far the best method. Alternatively, 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. N.B. The PGS website will be 'closed' from 13th October until 30th October whilst the system is being upgraded, but you can complete a paper form now if you prefer. Thank you to Sarah for speaking to the congregation after the service, and all who took a paper form last Sunday.

THE FACULTY for our new heating system has been completed by Fr Nigel, and submitted by David Sharples, and we are currently responding to 'feedback' from the DAC. This is an enormous undertaking, for which our collective thanks. Prayers now needed!!

'HERITAGE MORNING' & 'GIFT DAY' (Woodbridge - for our 'Heating Appeal') will take place on Saturday 8th November, from 9.30am to 12.30pm at St Mary's, Woodbridge. It will include a rare opportunity to experience a mini church tour, led by one of our patrons, Canon Roy Tricker BEM, visit the bellringing chamber, come and hear the organ played, and find out how it works, view the Church Recorders' 5-volume beautifully illustrated record, and much more. There will be children's activities, and refreshments available throughout the morning. See our website for more information. Veronica has challenged each of us to invite 10 people to come along!

If you have any pictures, artefacts, records or photos thereof that show connections with previous generations of worshippers and would be happy to contribute them for a 'family links' display, please let Linda or Veronica know.

YOUR HELP NEEDED PLEASE with distribution of the Heritage Morning flyers to all homes within the parish (as we used to do with our parish magazine, Inside Out). Please bring a bag again THIS Sunday to collect as many bundles (organised alphabetically by road) as you can deliver. We are looking to 'spread the word' about our event as much as possible. Thanks very much to all those who have already started delivering.

CAN YOU HELP? Our lovely cleaning lady, Linda, has been working here for 27 years (!!), and will be retiring at the end of the year. Most people may never have seen her, as she comes in early in the morning, but we couldn't do without her! We ask that anyone who would like to make a donation towards a retirement gift for Linda, please see Michelle or Barbara.

Secondly, do you know of anyone who might be interested in 4-6 hours work per week (mainly in St Mary's House), as we would like to appoint a replacement cleaner to take over in the new year? Again, please have a word with Michelle or Barbara. Thank you.

NEXT FRIENDS' COMMITTEE MEETING is on **Wednesday 5th November** (remember, remember) at **6pm** in the **Seckford Room**.

ALL SOULS' BENEFICE EUCHARIST on **Thursday 6th November** at **7.30pm** at St **Mary's, Woodbridge.** A special service when we remember all those whose memory we treasure, and special candles will be lit. All welcome.

NEXT PCC MEETING (WOODBRIDGE) is on **Tuesday 11th November** at **7pm** in the hall in **St Mary's House.**

BISHOP JOANNE continues to travel around the Diocese meeting people (see video here), and Fr Nigel has been invited to a lunch with her on Wednesday 5th November.

DI TRICKER has moved to Highlands, and we send her our love and prayers.

AMONG YOUR PRAYERS

(Intercessors, please <u>click here</u> for the Diocesan Prayer Diary)

Among the sick: for Penny Bird, and Betty Richardson; for those of our Benefice family in long term care...

Among the recently departed: for Nicola Nolan, Ruth Smith, Ronald Corneby, and Gregory Warden

COLLECT FOR THIS WEEK

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and
uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus
Christ our Lord.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly
grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living
bread;
who is alive and reigns, 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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