

*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 22nd (St Cecilia)

09.00 Morning Prayer via Zoom
10.30-11.30 Advent Book Launch, over coffee, **Seckford Room**. All welcome*

SUNDAY 23rd (Christ the King)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

MONDAY 24th

12.00 Funeral for Gregory Warden, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

TUESDAY 25th

10.00 – 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**
17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**
19.00 New Learners' bellringing, followed by Bellringers' Practice

WEDNESDAY 26th

Parish Office closed
11.00 Funeral for Heather Richards, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**
19.30 Fabric Committee meeting, **Seckford Room**

THURSDAY 27th (with KS2)

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
16.00 Woodbridge late night shopping & Christmas lights switch on (at 6pm), **Market Hill**. Our Church Shop will be open.
18.15 Choir rehearsal, **SMH**

FRIDAY 28th

Parish Office closed in the morning
(open again in the afternoon)

13.00 Great Bealings' PCC Meeting

17.00 More Woodbridge Christmas lights switched on, **Whisstocks Place** (event from 4pm onwards)

SATURDAY 29th November

09.00 Morning Prayer via Zoom
15.00-17.00 Our Christmas Market, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**



SUNDAY 30th (1st of Advent)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
17.30 Choral Evensong & Benediction, **Woodbridge**

TODAY'S Readings
Sunday 23rd November
Christ the King
Next before Advent
Jeremiah 23. 1-6
Colossians 1. 11-20
Luke 23. 33-43

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Sunday 30th November
1st of Advent
Isaiah 2. 1-5
Romans 13. 11-end
Matthew 24. 36-44

NOTICES

***LAUNCH OF ADVENT BOOK** – Our chosen book this year is called ‘O Come Emmanuel: Reflections on the Advent antiphons,’ and is for sale in our Shop for £10. Fr Nigel would like to introduce this year’s reflections (24 in all) for each day of the four weeks of Advent... over coffee in **St Mary’s House, THIS Saturday 22nd November** (St Cecilia’s Day!) from **10.30am to 11.30am**. He hopes to combine the wonderful Advent music with an ‘O’ meditation of his own each Sunday!

OUR CHRISTMAS MARKET is **NEXT Saturday, 29th November**, from **3pm to 5pm**. There’s still time to help us by donating bottles, raffle prizes, and practically new / in very good condition toys and board games - there are boxes at the back of church for your donations for the stalls - and cakes to be brought on the day itself. Secondly, please share details of the Christmas Market on social media (we will be posting about it next week, so you can go to our page and share our posts), and if you have a street / local WhatsApp group, or you're on 'Nextdoor' or any other community group please shout about it...and of course, just chat to your friends and family and invite them along 😊 Janice Poulson will have her own ‘Angel Wings’ photo booth for children & adults this year. Thank you!



BUILDING & HEATING FUND

DONATIONS are still coming in. Please just use the QR code or [click here](#).



The lovely oil on board picture ‘Fireworks above the the sea,’ (22 x 13cm; 35 x 27cm framed), donated by Maggi Hambling CBE, is hoped to be auctioned by Messums if no-one locally wants to pitch in a generous offer?

CHEQUE DONATIONS – If you wish to make a cheque donation, please make it payable to ‘**PCC of St Mary Woodbridge.**’ We are grateful for all cheques recently received, but unfortunately, we had not made this clear, and we are unable to bank them if made out to St Mary’s Church. Thank you for your support.

NEW HEATING – Proposal and NEW accompanying reports (Heritage & Acoustic) are now posted on the south wall of St Mary's - as presented to the DAC (Church planners). We await the outcome from all the latest work detailed after their meeting on 4th December. In the meantime, please wrap up warm, and a carpet ‘cushion’ is on offer every Sunday (courtesy of Archway Carpets).

DONATIONS TO THE 'ORGAN FUND' – following an organ demonstration after the service last weekend, Sarah & James were asked how people can donate towards the organ fund. Although the 'Heating Fund' is our top priority at the moment, donations towards the organ fund are welcome at any time. It is a wonderful asset, but is extremely expensive to run and maintain! For example our last (biannual) tuning and maintenance visit cost £576!

Please make your donation using the Donation Station (and choose 'organ'), by cheque (payable to **PCC of St Mary Woodbridge**), or directly to our bank account:

Account Name: PCC of St Mary Woodbridge

Account Number: 00034212

Sort code: 40 52 40

If by cheque or BACS, please let our Treasurer or Parish Office know that you would like your donation to go towards the Organ Fund (otherwise we won't know). Email: treasurer@stmaryswoodbridge.org or parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org Thank you.

'TOY SERVICES' – Our annual services, on **Sunday 7th December**, at **both our churches**, where we ask you to donate new toys for **East Anglian Children's Hospices** and **Suffolk Refugee Support**. The latter are supporting more children in need than ever before across Suffolk this year, and would love to bring a little light and cheer to as many as possible this Christmas. Please bring your donations on the day. Thank you for your generosity. St Nicholas, pray for us.

ITALIAN ADVENT LUNCH – On **Sunday 7th December** at **12.30pm** in **St Mary's House**, in aid of our Building Project Appeal (including Heating). **Tickets available from the Church Shop** are £25 per person (to include a free glass of Prosecco) for a 3-course meal from Chef Sophie-Rose. Menu will include a trio of crostini, chicken cacciatore, & a choice of orange polenta cake or affogato with a chocolate biscotti. Breads kindly donated by the new 'Acre Bakery' on Market Hill. Please don't miss this Benefice-wide fundraising event. Grazie!

ACTIVE TRAVEL WOODBRIDGE – HAVE YOUR SAY! "Suffolk County Council have launched their latest consultation to hear your views about their proposals for creating quieter, safer streets. The latest proposals for Central Suffolk include making Quay Street one-way from Station Road to Cross Corner, reversing the traffic direction in both Cumberland Street and Thoroughfare as well as some ideas about managing traffic on Market Hill. You have **until 12th December** to have your say." (Choose Woodbridge Newsletter, November 2025). More information [here](#).

TWO BY TWO – We really want to encourage some new volunteers for our Sunday coffee rota in St Mary's House. The more people we have on board, the less often you have to do it! Please have a word with Michelle, who would love to hear from you.

WOODBIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT – ‘A selection from Handel’s Messiah’ on **Saturday 13th December** at 7pm in **St Mary’s, Woodbridge**.

OUR NEXT PCC MEETINGS are **THIS FRIDAY (28th) at 1pm (Great Bealings)**, and **after church (Woodbridge)** (for half an hour only) on **Sunday 14th December**, to decide upon heating, tenders, and final DAC advice.

SAFEGUARDING NOTES from last Sunday are still available from either of our Churches, kindly prepared by our Benefice Safeguarding Officer, Jeremy Hawksley.

ST MARY’S SHOP - More Christmas cards, decorations and gifts continue to be added to our stock so it is worth popping in now and again to see what's arrived! Stanley, our retired churchwarden, has been extremely busy during the year and we have a new consignment of 'Stanley's Hats', just in time for the cold weather. Lots to choose from in a variety of colours and sizes. Yours for a suggested donation of between £5 and £10 each.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ‘A SEASON OF JOY’ – As part of this year’s Church of England themed resources you can read and listen to daily Advent and Christmas reflections from 1st December through the Everyday Faith app, which is available to [download here](#). There are also bitesize daily reflections for young people written by Lucy Rycroft. These can be downloaded in [full colour](#).

WOODBIDGE TOWN COUNCIL are hosting an important open meeting for all who live in Woodbridge on **Tuesday 2nd December** at either **3pm or 7pm** in **Quay Church**. It is to help us decide on the future of our GREEN and BUILT spaces, over a cuppa and mince pie! All welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS to Janice Poulson for winning the Churches Together (CTWA) Christmas card competition! Barbara Stear will be in touch about our distributing some of them locally (shared by other Churches, of course), beginning with sorting the cards out for specific roads, possibly on the afternoon of **Friday 28th November**, if you can help?

ADVENT HOMILIES will be on four of the Advent ‘Antiphons’ – followed by new choral pieces to match! Sarah has also found some wonderful accompanying organ music to be played during Communion.

ST MARY’S CE PRIMARY – Last week’s SIAMS inspection went really well, and our congratulations to Headteacher, Karen Read, for her great leadership, and to all the staff and governors involved.

AMONG YOUR PRAYERS

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

For our Diocese and Deanery and all our preparations for Advent as a time of reflection for renewing our Christian outreach and service...

For peace throughout the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan; for all our charity & aid workers; at home for all who bring dignity and care for the homeless and all affected by the cold.

We pray for the sick and housebound, especially those known to us: Penny Bird, and Betty Richardson; among our parishioners in care, for Sue Hubbard, John White, & Di Tricker.

For the recently departed. Among them we pray for the souls of Doreen Snowden, Heather Richards, and Gregory Warden. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

COLLECT FOR THIS WEEK

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the
throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as
Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the
Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to
worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth
the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
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 **BUT see page 1 for details for week commencing Monday 25th November.**

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org
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