



SATURDAY 26th (St Cyprian)

14.00- 17.00 Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival 'Ambient Label Hub', **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

19.00- 22.00 Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival 'Tom Rogerson & Friends, with bar run by the Friends of St Mary's, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

SUNDAY 27th (St Michael & All Angels)

08.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

13.00-17.00 Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival 'slow session), **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

MONDAY 28th

Fairtrade Fortnight continues

19.00 Generosity Week Working Group meeting, **Seckford Room, SMH**

TUESDAY 29th

10.00 to 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**

17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**

19.30 Bellringing practice, **Woodbridge**

THURSDAY 1st

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

11.15 Woodbridge School Prep Harvest Service, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

18.30 Choir Rehearsal, **SMH**

FRIDAY 2nd

18.30 PCC Meeting, **Great Bealings**

UNITED BENEFICE e-NEWS

27th September 2026

St Michael & All Angels (Michaelmas)

SATURDAY 3rd (George Bell, Bishop of Chichester)

19.00 Charity Fundraiser Concert ([Footsteps: Walking With You](#)) – 'Darsham Dogs,' **Woodbridge Town Football Club**

SUNDAY 4th (St Francis)

09.30 Harvest Thanksgiving Festival, **Great Bealings**

11.00 Parish Eucharist & Holy Baptism, **Woodbridge**

15.00 Blessing of Pets Service, **Woodbridge**

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened." (Anatole France)



TODAY'S Readings

Sunday 27th September

St Michael and All Angels

Genesis 28. 10-17

Revelation 12. 7-12

John 1. 47-end

NEXT WEEK'S Readings

Sunday 4th October

Deuteronomy 8. 7-18

Luke 12. 16-30

Exodus 20. 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Matthew 21. 33-end

NOTICES



THANK YOU again to everyone who donated food or monies during Harvest Festival, and to David Sharples for organising the delivery of food items to the Salvation Army. We have also donated £125 from the cash collections. It was also a lovely occasion for our first 'All-age' Eucharist, followed by a sumptuous 'bring and share' lunch in the hall.

ST MARY'S SHOP - As we are now in **Fairtrade Fortnight** there will be a stall in St Mary's after the 10am Service this week, and hopefully next Sunday too, showcasing our Fairtrade products, which, of course, you will be able to buy. We can take both card and cash payments so please come 'equipped'! It would be great if every member of the congregation could buy at least one Fairtrade product during the next two weeks. The Church Shop will be open as usual if stocks run low on the stall!



Thanks to Jackie, Jeremy, and all our volunteers for last week's meeting, and in particular for shaping our new policy for 'Lone Working.' Other policies are also being updated and will go on our website in due course.

WOODBIDGE AMBIENT MUSIC FESTIVAL – The first event, the Ceilidh, on Wednesday evening was a great success, with lots of fun and laughter as people tried to learn the dances. There are three more events in the church this weekend (Woodbridge - see this week's diary). Tickets for the event can be purchased via Eventbrite [here](#). £35 for the weekend (plus booking fee).

BLESSING OF PETS SERVICE on **Sunday 4th October**, at **3pm**, which is 'Animal Welfare Sunday.' There's quite a 'buzz' locally about this, but we do need:

- Some volunteer cake makers, and
- Tea Helpers, please, for quite large numbers.

Please add your name to the sign up list on Sunday if you can help with either, or both.

Outside the north and south porches, Fr Nigel has put water bowls as a permanent 'fixture,' which, hopefully our 'openers' and 'locker-uppers' will ensure are always full of water.

[Click here](#) to find out more about the 'Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals. Fr Nigel has an announcement to make about this next week!

There will be a retiring collection for RSPCA Suffolk Central (Mill Lane, Martlesham). This is the most local and dedicated charity offering animal welfare and rehoming in Suffolk.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S – The Friends of St Mary's are again looking for a new Treasurer. It is not a burdensome role, and the committee is very active and supportive. It would be great to welcome an additional member with a talent for fundraising 'stuff,' and outgoing Treasurer, Michael Bizzey, will explain all that is required. Please have a word with Nick Cottam, tel: 07834 978139, or email: nick@nickcottam.com

GENEROSITY WEEK – The next meeting is planned for 7pm on Monday 28th September (we do need representation from Great Bealings for this and future meetings, please), to discuss how best to reach out to every household to support both our churches financially. [Sign up to the Woodbridge St Mary Parish Giving Scheme here](#), or speak to Sarah Lines. We have new C of E booklets explaining why this is the best way of giving on a regular basis.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Sunday 11th October, at 2.30pm, at Woodbridge Community Hall** – Woodbridge Excelsior Band's 180th birthday concert!
- **Saturday 17th October, 10am to 4pm, on Market Hill** – 'Apples, pears & pumpkins festival'
- **Saturday 17th October, at 7pm and 9pm, at St Mary's, Woodbridge** – Ludovico Einaudi concerts by candlelight. Tickets can be purchased from Lumos [here](#).
- **Saturday 14th November, at 6pm and 8pm, at St Mary's, Woodbridge** – Ludovico Einaudi concerts by candlelight. Tickets can be purchased from L'Inviti Music Management [here](#)
- **Saturday 21st November, 10am to 3pm, in Seckford Chapel and Lounge** - Pre-Advent Benefice 'Quiet Day' led by spiritual writer and parishioner, Andrea Skevington.
- **Saturday 28th November, 2pm to 4pm, our Christmas Market, in St Mary's, Woodbridge.**
More details to follow shortly.

WEST END (PHASE 2) PLANS – Our PCC are delighted to report that the DAC have recommended all our revised plans for a Faculty (now that the Amenity Societies and archaeologists have also given us the 'green light'). Our thanks to everyone for all their hard work on this over so many years. Let the grant fund form filling begin, and thank you for those volunteers who have offered to help.

SECKFORD CHAPEL – More DAC 'good news' (at the same time as our West End plans were recommended): Re-ordering and redecoration has also been approved, so watch this space after the Faculty is granted.

BOUNDARY WALL – The Rector will inter the many bones found since works began, sometime this week, and prayers will be said. It is hoped to mark this in some way, as a part of historical, as well as archaeological, interest. The archaeologist (who will give a public talk in November) said: *"During the removal of the southern wall of the graveyard, archaeologists were present during the excavation. Archaeological finds such as worked stone (possibly from the abbey), clay pipes, pottery and animal bone were found. In addition, a total of five skeletons were found that were identified as adults and ranged in age from 17-45+ years. The individuals showed evidence of osteoarthritis, rickets, smoking, and corsetry wearing. From the coffin handles that were found with some of the individuals, indicates that they were laid to rest during the 18th or 19th century."*

NEW HEATING INSTALLATION – Now that we have just received full planning permission from East Suffolk Council, the tendering process will be completed by 2nd October! Nick Cottam is kindly pursuing funding from the C of E's (national) 'Demonstrator Project,' and Fr Nigel from Woodbridge Town Council (local). Both are back in touch with the Belstead-Ganzoni charity.

MORE GOOD NEWS! We are excited to announce that composer, Ben Ponniah, has completed our new 'Woodbridge Mass Setting' (commissioned by the Rector and Choir). The 'premiere' will be on All Saints Sunday. To prepare for this Ben has kindly agreed to be at a special workshop on the Sunday afternoon before (25th October) so we can all learn and enjoy his wonderful composition. More information to follow.

AMONG YOUR PRAYERS

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

- Pray and give thanks for this Michaelmas season in our Diocese, Deanery, and Benefice; help us to choose good over evil, and grace and kindness over deceit or 'control'...
- For the Fairtrade movement in our town and church, all our shop volunteers, and all who promote 'greener' ways of living in our work and homes...
- For our king, Prime Minister, and all who serve our nations so faithfully
- We give thanks for all peacemakers, in whichever context...
- Among the sick and housebound we pray for Patti Cottam, Brenda Prior, Tony Burton, and Ann Pickard
- For all who have recently died, including Audrey Joyce & Noah Woods. May they rest in peace with all the angels and saints.

COLLECT

Everlasting God,
you have ordained and constituted the
ministries of angels and mortals in a
wonderful order:
grant that as your holy angels always
serve you in heaven,
so, at your command,
they may help and defend us on earth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of heaven,
in this eucharist you have brought us
near to an innumerable company of
angels
and to the spirits of the saints made
perfect:
as in this food of our earthly
pilgrimage we have shared their
fellowship,
so may we come to share their joy in
heaven;
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

Benefice Office Opening Hours are Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9am to 12.30pm, Thursdays & Fridays 9am to 4pm

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org

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