



*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

FRIDAY 10th

12.30 to 14.00 'Place of Welcome' Soup & Toasted Sandwiches, **SMH**. All welcome (see details below).

16.30 Building Project meeting, **SMH**

SATURDAY 11th

09.00 Morning Prayer, via Zoom

10.00-12.00 'Green Energy and my Home Economy' advice at **St Johns, Woodbridge**. All welcome.

SUNDAY 12th (Epiphany 1)

08.00 Said Benefice Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

17.30 Evening Prayer, **Woodbridge**

MONDAY 13th

10.00 Time to Reflect, **Seckford Room**

10.30 Deben Climate Centre 'Energy Hub' opens, **Small Hall at St Mary's House**

TUESDAY 14th

10.00 – 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**

17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**

19.30 Bellringers' Practice

THURSDAY 16th

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

18.30 Choir rehearsal, **SMH**

FRIDAY 17th

11.30 Funeral for Stan Poulson, **Woodbridge**, followed by a reception in **SMH**

12.30 to 14.00 'Place of Welcome' Soup & Toasted Sandwiches, **Small Hall**. All welcome (see details below).

SATURDAY 18th (Beginning of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

09.00 Morning Prayer, via Zoom

09.30 Elders' Eucharist (**Woodbridge**) followed by 10am meeting, **Epiphany Chapel**

SUNDAY 19th

08.00 Said Benefice Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

17.30 **Choral Evensong** to celebrate **Thomas Seckford** on the anniversary of his burial, **Woodbridge** (Town Mayor & Deputy Lord Lieutenant in attendance)

TODAY'S Readings

Sunday 12th January

Acts 8. 14-17

Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22

NOTICES

DEBEN CLIMATE CENTRE re-opens its 'Energy Hub' on **Monday 13th January** from **10.30am to 2pm** in the **Small Hall** in **St Mary's House**. It's a great opportunity for anyone to pop in, have a cuppa, and get free advice from their 'Community Energy Champions' – on home energy efficiency, solar panels, home insulation, heat pumps, and more. You can also find out about their projects and get involved. The Hub will be open several days a week, including Saturdays. All welcome.

ST MARY'S SHOP - 2025 is off to a good start in the Shop but we could really do with a few more volunteers to make sure that we can keep open every day. If you could spare 3 hours a month, either from 10am to 1pm or 1pm to 4pm, we would love to hear from you! No retail sales experience is required, and training will be given. If you would like to know more please speak to Jackie Shipley, Tony Waller, David Berridge or Veronica Howe or email shop@stmaryswoodbridge.org

TIME TO REFLECT will begin again on **Monday 13th January**, and the new book is 'Occasions for Alleluia' by David Adam. Our Church Shop has copies for you to buy.

BUILDING PROJECT APPEAL - COMMUNITY SURVEY – Closing date is **15th January**, so if you haven't already done so, please would you complete [this survey](#), as your feedback will hopefully help unlock money from the Heritage Fund for our [Building Project Appeal](#) - to improve facilities in St Mary's House for the wider community, improve access to the church, and to provide a toilet and a servery there. [Please click here](#) or scan the QR code with your phone to access the survey. Thank you.



FUNERAL FOR STAN POULSON will take place in **St Mary's, Woodbridge**, on **Friday 17th January** at **11.30am** followed by a reception in St Mary's House.

KAY YULE – A private funeral will take place next week, but a memorial service is being planned for May, and we will share more details nearer the time.

A SPECIAL SERVICE OF EVENSONG to celebrate Thomas Seckford on the anniversary of his burial is coming up on **Sunday 19th January** at **5.30pm** in **St Mary's, Woodbridge**. Music of the period performed by St Mary's Church Choir & the Ravenscroft Consort, followed by mulled wine. Poster available [here](#) to print and display.

DEER PARKS TALK – Our next event in aid of our Building Project Appeal is on **Sunday 26th January** at **3pm** (*please note revised start time*) in **St Mary's House**. A talk entitled "The Medieval Parks of Suffolk's Ecclesiastical Nobility" by Rosemary Hoppitt Ph.D about the history and importance of deer parks in Suffolk, followed by tea & cake. More details available [here](#). All welcome. Please sign up to volunteer a cake for the occasion and/or to make tea etc.

SINGAPORE EVENING – Rescheduled for **Saturday 1st February** at **7pm** in **St Mary’s House**, and also in aid of our Building Project Appeal. Tickets are £20 each, and available from our Church Shop. Helena Lim-Poole will be cooking a buffet style menu of her favourite hawker foods. There will be a raffle and donation bar. Places are limited, so reserve your ticket soon! Poster available [here](#).

PLACE OF WELCOME - SOUP AND (TOASTED) SANDWICHES ON FRIDAYS continues **every Friday until 28th February**, and as part of the Church Urban Fund national scheme, we plan to offer simple lunches **from 12.30 to 2.00 pm**. Kind volunteers will run the sessions, but if anyone else could contribute home-made soup on a couple of Fridays, please let Veronica know. Lunch and tea/coffee are free, although donations will be welcome. Put the dates in your diary! Bring your friends! **N.B. On Friday 17th January ONLY this will take place in the Small Hall in St Mary’s House.**

ST MARY’S MOTHERS’ UNION – **Don’t throw away all the Christmas cards you received!** Every year The MU send home-made cards to the Inmates of Hollesley Bay/Warren Hill/High Point (1,500 of them)!! We have been asked, if at all possible, to send a further 1,000 cards for 2025. Please help by leaving all your cards in the box at the back of Church (fronts only, please). Thank you. (*Jean Cobb and members of the MU*)

NEXT SAFEGUARDING TRAINING (in person) on Domestic Abuse is planned for **Friday 31st January** from **9am to 1pm** at **St Felix, Rendlesham**. More information to follow.

HEATING AT ST MARY’S, WOODBRIDGE – A message from Fr Nigel: “Thank you for your patience and resilience over these last weeks. It was a very difficult time for us in the run-up to and over Christmas to discover that the Church’s boilers, which were already reaching end-of-life, had deteriorated to the extent as to become potentially dangerous despite maintenance in March.

We are very grateful to David Sharples and Simon Morris who quickly reacted and procured emergency industrial heaters, and to Alan Hunter, our electrician, who ensured that our electrical supply could cope with the extra power needed.

The PCC has agreed to fund works to provide additional electrical capacity for an extra ‘blower’ and to purchase two new ‘blowers’. The capital and running costs are expensive, but purchasing is more economic than continuing to hire. In parallel we are prioritizing research into a replacement for the gas boilers. This and other dioceses will not support the installation of new heating systems that rely on gas. We have involved our architect and heating specialists. At the same time, as Rector, I’m grateful for the time given voluntarily to this by our Churchwardens, our Projects Manager, and others.

Please bear with us as we find out more and do our very best to consider the heating strategy that respects the heritage and future use of one of Suffolk’s largest and loftiest Churches, well before the deadline for Net Zero touches all of our lives by 2030.

With thanks for your understanding and patience.”

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

- Give thanks for our own Baptisms, especially our Godparents (living and departed) and for our shared pilgrimage in faith...
- For our PCC and our seeking a new Treasurer (as a matter of urgency) to join our financial 'team'
- For the Deben Climate Centre reopening in St Mary's House this coming week, and all our efforts locally to learn more about climate change...
- For the NHS under strain from a shortage of nurses and the effects of a hard winter

Among the sick and housebound we pray for: Bridget Tanno, Bridget Fairley, and Sue Hubbard (Cavell Manor)

Among the recently departed we pray for: Carol Coldham (Grove Court), Stan Poulson, and Kay Yule

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as
your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your
beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and
revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your
beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our
rebirth
through the waters of the new
creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN

Readings for NEXT WEEK

Sunday 19th January

1 Corinthians 12. 1-11

John 2. 1-11

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, and Thursdays & Fridays 9am to 4pm.

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org

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