



*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 31st

11.30 Communion at **Grove Court**
12.30 to 14.00 'Place of Welcome' Soup &
Toasted Sandwiches, **SMH**. All welcome.

SATURDAY 1st February

09.00 Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please
contact Alison Davis for further details.
19.00 Singapore Evening (ticket only –
SOLD OUT), **SMH**

SUNDAY 2nd (Feast of Candlemas)

09.30 Parish Eucharist, **Great Bealings**
11.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
17.30 Evening Prayer, **Woodbridge**

MONDAY 3rd

10.00 Time to Reflect, **Seckford Room**
10.00 'Carlow's Dole' with St Mary's CE
Primary, **The Bull Inn**

TUESDAY 4th

10.00 – 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**
10.30 Morning Prayer at **Seckford Chapel**
17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**
19.30 Bellringers' Practice

THURSDAY 6th

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge** (with
KS2 from St Mary's CE Primary)
18.30 Choir rehearsal, **SMH**
19.30 Grant Funding meeting, **Seckford
Room** (Please come along if you can help
- see below*)

FRIDAY 7th

12.30 to 14.00 'Place of Welcome' Soup &
Toasted Sandwiches, **SMH**. All welcome.

SUNDAY 9th (4th before Lent)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**
17.30 Evening Prayer, **Woodbridge**

TODAY'S Readings

Sunday 2nd February

Malachi 3. 1-5

Luke 2. 22-40

Readings for NEXT WEEK

Sunday 9th February

1 Corinthians 15. 1-11

Luke 5. 1-11

NOTICES

DEER PARKS TALK – Thank you to all who helped organise this event for our Building Project Appeal, including all the cake makers! It was a very interesting talk, the hall was full, and we raised around £220.

CONCERTS COORDINATOR – We are still looking for Romy's replacement, and soon, please? It is a very sociable and fulfilling 'post,' especially if you love music of all kinds!

BLESSED ARE THE GRANT APPLIERS! – As already advised, we are pressing on with our separate applications for Grant and Trust funding from other national bodies. This is for **both** buildings (St Marys' House and Church) because, without modernisation and development of St Mary's House, our offices and community availability and outreach will stop!

*If you can offer any help at all (with just one single application) please have a word with Andrew Pickthorn or Neil Logan Green. There is an 'open meeting' for all who can help on **Thursday 6th February at 7.30pm** in the **Seckford Room**. Thank you!

HEATING UPDATE – The first new blower has arrived and been set up in the church. There is still more work to be done, even with this temporary solution, but huge thanks to David Sharples, Simon Morris, and Alan Hunter for organising, ordering, and carrying out necessary electrical work. David continues to be in touch with the Diocese about funding.

TOWER WORKS – Fr Nigel and Simon Morris braved the heights last week to check on progress! Please have a look at their various photos which show the lovely new stonework and pointing in particular. Some fine craftsmanship. 'Laus Deo!'

PCC TREASURER – We really hope and pray someone can come forward (if only temporarily) because this is such a crucial role in the life of our Parish and Benefice. Please have a confidential word with our Churchwardens if you can ease our load. Most of this 'post' is done from home and / or 'online' (apart from reporting to each PCC meeting in person) with full support given.

MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN APPEAL – "Conflict in the Middle East has devastated lives. The ceasefires provide some relief, but millions in Gaza, Lebanon and the wider region urgently need shelter, food and basic supplies." If you are able to offer a donation please [click here](#) for the Disasters Emergency Committee's (DEC) online donation page.

'FEEDING MINDS & SOULS' – We are hoping to again have house groups for LENT this year. It would be good to have a list of homes in Great Bealings and Woodbridge (i.e. hosts) on offer, and the best morning, afternoon, or evening times which suit. That way, people will have more choice of which groups to attend.

Meanwhile the Clergy are looking at suitable resources to access easily. Please contact Fr Nigel or the Parish Office if you can offer an hour & a half one morning, afternoon or evening for five consecutive weeks during Lent.

Last year, for example, we had one morning group meeting at 10.30am to 12 noon, one afternoon group from 3pm to 4.30pm, and one evening group from 7pm to 8.30pm.



'LIVING HOPE' is this year's theme for Lent and Easter, and daily devotion booklets are just £2 each from our Church Shop. It is hoped there will be one for every home, and a great encouragement to see Lent through a more positive lens!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Due to very generous offers from the performers themselves, we now have two concerts scheduled in March in aid of our Building Project Appeal.
More details to follow in due course.

Sunday 16th March at 3pm - Nota Bene Chamber Choir

Saturday 22nd March from 2pm to 6pm - Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival & 'Life on the Deben'



Photo courtesy of Mike Fisher

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

- For Bishop Martin (whose final service will be at Evensong in his Cathedral Church this Sunday), and a happy retirement. For his wife, Jutta, and their future life in Cambridge.
- For our Building Project Appeal, that all our efforts will be blessed; and for our architects and consultants
- For the displaced peoples of Gaza, hungry for humanitarian aid and support

Among the sick and housebound we pray for: Bridget Fairley, Pippa McCullough, and Sue Hubbard

Among the recently departed we pray for the souls of Jane Stafford, Donald Mackenzie, and Ann Banister.

COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of
Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of
Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the
Messiah:
may we, who have received these
gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus
when he comes to bring us to
eternal life;
for he 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

N.B. THIS WEEK: Benefice Office Opening Hours are Monday 9am to 4pm, Tuesday & Wednesday 9am to 12.30pm, and Friday 9am to 4pm.

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org

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