



*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 3rd

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

19.30 'An Evening with Griff Rhys Jones' at **Riverside Theatre**

SATURDAY 4th

09.00 Morning Prayer, via Zoom

SUNDAY 5th (Feast of Epiphany)

11.00 United Benefice Eucharist, **Woodbridge**, followed by coffee or Prosecco

17.30 Evening Prayer

TUESDAY 7th

10.30 Morning Prayer at **Seckford Chapel**

17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**

19.00 PCC Meeting, **SMH**

19.30 Bellringers' Practice

WEDNESDAY 8th

18.00 Friends' Committee Meeting, **Seckford Room**

THURSDAY 9th

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

12.00 Mothers' Union lunch, **Notcutts Garden Centre**

18.30 Choir rehearsal, **SMH**

FRIDAY 10th

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

16.30 Building Project meeting, **Seckford Room**

SATURDAY 11th

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

SUNDAY 12th

08.00 Said Benefice Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

**TODAY'S Readings
Sunday 5th January
(Feast of Epiphany)**

Isaiah 60. 1-6

Ephesians 3. 1-12

Matthew 2. 1-2

Readings for NEXT WEEK

Sunday 12th January

Acts 8. 14-17

Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22

NOTICES

ST MARY'S CHURCH SHOP - The Shop has now reopened for 2025 and we are looking forward to welcoming back our loyal customers - and hopefully some new ones too. Just to remind you, we open **Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm, Saturdays from 10am to 1pm, and Sundays after the 10am service until 12 noon** (but not the first Sunday of the month!). Happy New Year everyone!

'GREEN ENERGY & MY HOME ECONOMY' – On **Saturday 11th January** from **10am to 12pm** at **St John's, Woodbridge**. An opportunity to find out more about green energy and your home economy. All welcome. Please let them know you are going by signing up [here](#) if you can.

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](#), whether you are a member of the congregation, someone who uses St Mary's House, a resident of Woodbridge, a visitor to the town, or simply have an interest in our church and St Mary's House. Information gleaned from 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, or visit our website for more information on our Building Project Appeal plans (<https://www.stmaryswoodbridge.org/building-project-appeal>).



Please pass this on to your friends, as we would appreciate as much feedback as possible. Thank you very much for your help.

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.

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 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](#).

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY TRAIL – Available until Monday 6th January. Copies are available from our Church Shop and to [download from our website](#), or simply [click here](#). Please enjoy with your families.

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!

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). As you can appreciate, to achieve a total of 2,500 this needs to be planned well in advance. Thank you. (*Jean Cobb and members of the MU*)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

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

Among the recently departed we pray for: Jean Clouston (Grove Court), Stan Poulson, Councillor Kay Yule, Barrie Fisk, and Philip Ryder-Davies

COLLECT

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the
peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to
face;
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 God,
the bright splendour whom the
nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in
your Son,
the Word made flesh, 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, and Thursdays & Fridays 9am to 4pm.

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org

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