



THE WEEK AHEAD

FRIDAY 21st (St Benedict)

11.30 Funeral of John Day, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

12.30 Ecumenical Lent Lunch, **SMH**

SATURDAY 22nd March

14.00 to 18.00 Spring Equinox Mini-Festival, **St Mary's, Woodbridge** (in aid of our Building Project Appeal). Bar & refreshments available.

SUNDAY 23rd (3rd of Lent)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

N.B. MONDAYS are the Rector's day off!

TUESDAY 25th

10.00 – 14.30 Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**

10.30 Communion at **Seckford Chapel**

09.45 Funeral for Margaret Potter at **Seven Hills Crematorium**. Followed by:

11.30 Thanksgiving in **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

17.00 Christian Meditation, **SMH**

19.30 Bellringers' Practice

WEDNESDAY 26th (Parish Office closed)

19.00 Cathedral online [Lent Course](#)

THURSDAY 27th

10.00 Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

18.30 Choir rehearsal, **SMH**

FRIDAY 28th

11.30 Communion at **Grove Court**

12.30 Ecumenical Lent Lunch, **SMH**

18.00 Stations of the Cross. All welcome for 40 minutes prayer-walk around **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

SATURDAY 29th March (clocks go forward)

09.00 Elders' Eucharist, **Memorial Chapel, St Mary's, Woodbridge**

14.00-16.00 Lenten 'Messy Church' **St Mary's House**

19.30 'Petite Messe Solennelle' concert with Woodbridge Choral Society, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**

SUNDAY 30th (4th of Lent) (Mothering)

08.00 BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

10.00 Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**. We will be joined by some of our Guides, and posies will be given out.

NOTICES

THANK YOU to Nota Bene Chamber Choir and all who came along to their excellent concert last Sunday, and for donations to our Building Project Appeal of over £700. Also to the cake makers, and all who served tea!

SPRING EQUINOX MINI-FESTIVAL is **THIS Saturday, 22nd March**, from **2pm to 6pm**, in **St Mary's, Woodbridge**. This event will feature ambient, folk & acoustic music alongside a 'Looking after the River' Exhibition, and has been organised by the Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival. They have also offered to donate all proceeds to our Building Project Appeal. Tickets are £10 (+ online booking fee) available in advance [via Eventbrite](#), or on the door.



OUR BUILDING PROJECT APPEAL Q&A – Additional copies of this special paper are available from the West End of Church, and our Church Shop. Please send it on to any 'movers & shakers' that you know! We have also posted it on the '[Building Project Appeal](#)' page of our website. Please do consult further with any of the signatories for further information, advice, or offers of help. Thank you. Please keep us in your prayers.

OUR CHURCH DISPLAY for this, and our **PLANS** on the south wall are looking great... special thanks to David Berridge & Veronica Howe for putting it together.

OUR BENEFICE LENT PROGRAMME (with 'Living Hope' theme) is available to read and download from our website. [Click here](#) for the Lent 2025 page. There will also be a few printed copies to pick up from the back of either church. This season is all about growth & fellowship across our Benefice.

LENT LUNCHES continue on **Fridays**, until **4th April**, from **12.30pm to 2pm** in the main hall at **St Mary's House**. Soup, roll, cheese and tea/coffee will be on offer. Donations to be made to our Lenten Charity for 2025, Tearfund's 'Toilet Twinning' scheme, worldwide.

OUR LENTEN CHARITY – Please save up at home and bring your donations to both Churches at Easter. We hope to be supporting 12 different underdeveloped countries (with the help of Tearfund) if we can manage half a dozen new toilets at £60 each.

**LIVING
HOPE**

WOODBIDGE ART CLUB EXHIBITION - Woodbridge Art Club is delighted to invite you to a new exhibition to be held in the main hall at **St Mary's House** from **Wednesday 9th April** to **Saturday 12th April**, from **10am to 4pm** each day. Lots of wonderful new artwork by talented local artists, including paintings, ceramics, and artistic photography. Please put the dates in your diary - they hope to see you there!

WOODBIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY'S CONCERT is taking place in **St Mary's, Woodbridge** on **Saturday 29th March** at **7.30pm**. They will be performing Rossini's 'Petite Messe Solennelle,' and tickets are £18, available from choir members or via [Ticketsource](#).

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL - In 2025 a completely new church electoral roll has to be prepared from scratch.

The Church Electoral Roll is a register of the lay members of the church who are entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), and those on the Roll are eligible to be elected to lay representative positions on their Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Synod. Deanery Synod representatives may then be elected to Diocesan Synod and General Synod.

It also shows:

**'I belong to', I serve', I support' St Mary's, Woodbridge, or
'I belong to', I serve', I support' St Mary's, Great Bealings**

To be entered on the new roll, we must ask you, please, to complete an application form and return it on paper or via email as follows:

Woodbridge – hand completed forms to Electoral Roll Officer, Veronica Howe, or drop in to the Parish Office, or email parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org.

Great Bealings – contact Electoral Roll Officer, Jonathan Keer, on 07962 114378 or email jonkeer2000@yahoo.co.uk

All completed applications should be returned as soon as possible, and **by Easter Sunday (20th April) at the very latest**. No further applications may be accepted after this date, and the new roll will be displayed from:

- Tuesday 22nd April – Woodbridge, and
- **Thursday 24th April - Great Bealings**

in advance of our separate APCMs on:

- Tuesday 6th May - Woodbridge
- **Thursday 8th May – Great Bealings**

MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES - The source of simple foliage has been curtailed. If you could provide sprigs of rosemary or choisya and leave in shop on Friday please, it would be a huge help to Guides making them up.

PILGRIM (FORMERLY STUDENT) CROSS - Members of the Essex Leg will be joining us for a short service in church around **5.30pm** on **Palm Sunday** and then we shall offer a two-course supper in **St Mary's House**. To make that work, the following are needed, please:

- 4 offers of practical help - setting tables, cooking, serving, clearing up, etc.
- a fruit bowl - approx 20 pieces of fruit - apple, bananas, oranges
- 5 puddings/desserts for 6 people
- cash donations for main courses, etc.

Please sign up for these at the back of the church on **23rd or 30th March, or 5th April**. If needed, please talk to Gaynor Shire about this.

LOOKING TO BE CONFIRMED? There is a wonderful opportunity to be Confirmed in our Cathedral during Eastertide, on **Sunday 4th May** at **10.30am**. Please have a word with Fr Nigel if you are tempted!

MONEY MATTERS – We are pleased to report that the PCC is employing local Bookkeeper, Louise Fletcher, as an interim measure without a Treasurer; additionally, Accountant, Mark Everitt, is to help with extra financial queries from our Heritage Lottery application.

OUR NEXT (WOODBIDGE) PCC MEETING will be held shortly (date TBC) and a priority paper will be presented on the options for a new Eco-heating system - **without** any existing funds – and the best way forward. New agendas will follow.

TREE WORKS – Necessary works in the churchyard (Woodbridge) will be taking place on **Wednesday 26th March** (south side).

MOTHERS' UNION will be holding their next meeting on **Thursday 10th April** at **2.15pm** in **St Mary's, Woodbridge**, please note change of venue (in church, not St Mary's House). This month's meeting is 'Stations of the Cross' led by Margaret Lowe. All are welcome to attend.

END NOTE – Thank you to James, Sarah, and our Choir for Thursday's beautiful Sung Compline.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD

“It helps from time to time to remember that the word ‘liturgy’ which we use for our formal worship actually means ‘the people’s work’ – quite literally something we make together, in the unity of Christ’s Body. We’re not slaves, says Jesus in John’s Gospel, because slaves don’t know what’s going on in the master’s mind; we’re called to be friends together, bound by one project in which we all have a distinctive share. The great twentieth-century Russian saint and martyr, Mother Maria Skobtsova, used to like to talk about how the liturgy – so to speak – leaked out of the church door, inseparable from the common work, the shared making, that we should be engaged with in every area of our lives.” (from ‘Candles in the Dark’ by Rowan Williams)

TODAY’S Readings
Sunday 23rd March
3rd of Lent
Isaiah 55. 1-9
Luke 13. 1-9

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Sunday 30th March
4th of Lent
Colossians 3. 12-17
Luke 2. 33-35

LIVING HOPE



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

Pray for: Our Diocese seeking new leadership; for our Lenten Charity, House Groups, Lunches, and Acts of Worship – as we listen to God and learn from one another...

- For an end to all that enslaves others, especially in those places of conflict, division and hunger in the world...

- For our music makers in Woodbridge, and the different groups we are hosting, giving thanks for the joy they bring...

- Among the sick and housebound please pray for: Liz Pryke, Penny Bird, Sarah Lines, Cath Eaden, and Bridget Fairley

- Among the recently departed we pray for the souls of Margaret Potter, Ann Crouch, and John Day

COLLECT

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are
promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to
withstand the temptations of the
world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to
follow you, the only God;
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

N.B. THIS WEEK: Benefice Office Opening Hours are Tuesday 9am to 4pm, Thursday 9am to 3pm, and Friday 9am to 4pm.

www.stmaryswoodbridge.org

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