



*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 14<sup>th</sup> (Valentine!)**

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

**SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> February (St Sigfrid)**

**09.00** Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please  
contact Alison Davis for further details.  
**16.00 to 18.00** Building Oversight Group,  
**SMH**

**SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> before Lent)**

**08.00** BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**  
**10.00** Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**  
**10.30** Morning Prayer, **Great Bealings**  
**17.30** Evening Prayer, **Woodbridge, in  
the Pitman Memorial Chapel**

**MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup>**

**10.00** Time to Reflect, **Seckford Room**

**TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup>**

**10.00 – 14.30** Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**  
**10.30** Communion at **Seckford Chapel**  
**11.15** Funeral for Ann Banister, **Seven  
Hills**  
**14.00** Thanksgiving service for Philip  
Ryder-Davies, **St Mary's, Woodbridge**  
**17.00** Christian Meditation, **SMH**  
**19.30** Bellringers' Practice

**THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup>**

**10.00** Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**  
**18.30** Choir rehearsal, **SMH**

**FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

**SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

**09.00** Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please  
contact Alison Davis if you would like to  
join in.

**SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent)**

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

**TODAY'S Readings**  
**Sunday 16th February**  
**1 Corinthians 15. 12-20**  
**Luke 6. 17-26**

**Readings for NEXT WEEK**  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**  
**Revelation 4**  
**Luke 8. 22-25**

## NOTICES

**THIS YEAR'S LENT COURSE** – We are pleased to have **house groups** again this year. Please sign up on the lists at the back of church for the group you would like to attend. Numbers are limited, and there are three to choose from, all in Woodbridge, and they will run for five consecutive weeks:

- Mondays 10.30am to 12pm, from 10<sup>th</sup> March
- Wednesdays 3pm to 4.30pm, from 12<sup>th</sup> March
- Thursdays 7pm to 8.30pm, from 13<sup>th</sup> March

Thank you to our hosts who have volunteered their homes!

The course, entitled 'I believe' (CREDO), celebrates the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nicene Creed and the resources [here](#) come from the Diocese of Chichester. N.B. Each week is self-contained (so it doesn't require a leader as such, just a little reading 'homework' beforehand). It will also be very suitable and encouraging for those thinking about adult Confirmation...

**THIS YEAR'S LENT CHARITY** will be for Tearfund's 'Toilet Twinning' scheme, worldwide. Further details and publicity to follow.

The logo for 'Living Hope' features the words 'LIVING' and 'HOPE' in a white, serif font, stacked vertically. A decorative green vine with leaves is positioned between the two words. The entire logo is set against a dark green rectangular background.

LIVING  
HOPE

**'LIVING HOPE'** is this year's CofE 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 and prayerful lens!

**PHILIP RYDER-DAVIES** – The Thanksgiving Service for this much-loved Vet will be at **St Mary's, Woodbridge, on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm**, and our Choir will be taking the musical lead. A very full church is expected, so Fr Nigel would be grateful for a few volunteer 'vergers' to help with additional seating, welcome, etc.

**'PRAY FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE'** – Director of the Sanctuary Foundation, Dr Krish Kandiah, is hosting this online event on the eve of the third anniversary of the beginning of the war in Ukraine – on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm**. Full details and how to book a place (in order to get the live link on the day) can be found [here](#). You'll hear from church leaders across Ukraine about how you can specifically support the people of Ukraine through prayer.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** – All welcome to attend a service on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm** at **St John's, Woodbridge**.

**PALM CROSSES** – Please bring to church any Palm Crosses from last year, so that we can prepare for Ash Wednesday!

**SECOND HAND BOOKS FOR HMP WARREN HILL** - Do you have any suitable second-hand books to spare please? This is an initiative to get prisoners reading more by putting bookcases into the units where they live at Warren Hill. Then the books can be taken freely and easily. Please note the books must be reasonably new with white, not brown aged, pages, and they cannot have any writing within them either near the front or within the book itself. Donated books should be put in the boxes at the back of church. Many thanks. *Alison Wintgens*

**MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARTIN** – “...to allay any anxiety and confusion that may have arisen from erroneous media reports over the weekend suggesting a change to the Church of England’s stance on the use of gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic wine at the Eucharist. This is absolutely not the case... Wishing you every blessing. +Martin”

Read the full story here:

[Church of England’s stance on gluten-free communion bread clarified after media flurry](#)

**ST MARY'S SHOP** - Just for a few weeks we have a 'Sale Shelf' and a 'Bargain Basket' selling some of our end of line items and 'odds and ends' to clear so please call in and have a look. Any sensible offers accepted!

New in, we now have 'Wish4' Fairtrade Shortbread or Double Chocolate biscuits which make a rather nice treat. The chocolate ones taste just like my grandmother used to make! (*Jackie, Shop Manager*)

**NOMINATE US FOR A £1,000 DRAW** – The Benefact Group are holding six ‘Movement for Good’ award draws throughout 2025, and the more people who nominate us, the higher the chances that we could win £1,000. There is just a short form to complete online, which you can [access here](#), or scan the QR code on the image to the right with your mobile phone. Thank you!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has prepared their Annual Report for our respective APCMs. We still seek and pray for a new PCC Treasurer for Woodbridge St Mary, to lead our hardworking financial team.

**A ‘VALENTINE’ QUOTE:** “What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labour, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspoken memories?” (*George Eliot, 1819-1880*)



Ecclesiastical Insurance Office is the promoter

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

- For our Diocese seeking new Bishops, and all involved in the discernment process; in our own Benefice, for both our Churches, asking God's blessing on our building plans and future outreach...
- For the wider world, especially the fragile peace in Gaza, Israel, Russia, & Ukraine, and the political will to build bridges for reconciliation...
- For families on half term, and time to relax and unwind...
  
- Among the sick and recovering from recent operations we pray for: Cath Eaden, Bridget Fairley, and Andrew Bullard
- Among the recently departed we pray for the souls of Frances Stewart, Jane Stafford, Donald Mackenzie, Ann Banister, and Valerie Wadeson

### COLLECT

Almighty God,  
who alone can bring order  
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful  
humanity:  
give your people grace  
so to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, among the many changes of this  
world,  
our hearts may surely there be fixed  
where true joys are to be found;  
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

Merciful Father,  
who gave Jesus Christ to be for us  
the bread of life,  
that those who come to him  
should never hunger:  
draw us to the Lord in faith and  
love,  
that we may eat and drink with  
him  
at his table in the kingdom,  
where 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](mailto:parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org)**

**Benefice Office Opening Hours are Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9am to 12.30pm, and Thursdays and Friday 9am to 4pm.**

**[www.stmaryswoodbridge.org](http://www.stmaryswoodbridge.org)**

**[Follow us on Facebook](#)**