



St Michael and All Angels' Church, Galleywood

“Jesus, teach us all to love”

What's on in December 2019

Advent – A season of Preparation

Sunday 1st December (Advent Sunday)

10am Baptism, All Age, NO groups for children

“Preparing for the new Church Year”

Barbara Webb leads, Rev David Cattle preaches

(Luke 13:31 – 35, Hebrews 12:1-2)

Sunday 8th December (2nd Sunday in Advent)

10am Holy Communion, with groups for children

“Preparing for the birth of John the Baptist”

Cesca Watkinson leads, Fiona Selden preaches

(Luke 1:5 – 25, Luke 1: 57 – 66)

Sunday 15th December (3rd Sunday in Advent)

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10am Service of the Word, a short service ending at 10.35am

followed by a Nativity rehearsal

“Preparing for the Second Coming of Christ”

Jane Harpur leads, Travers Harpur preaches

(1 Corinthians 15:50 – 58)

4.30pm Carol Service

Sunday 22th December (4th Sunday in Advent)

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10am Service of the Word, with Nativity performance

“Preparing for Christmas”

Rev David Cattle leads, Chris Selden preaches

(Luke 1:26 – 38, Luke 2:1-7)

Tuesday 24th December

4pm Messy Christingle

11.15pm Midnight Communion

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

10am Family Communion

Rev David Cattle leads and preaches

(Luke 1:1-14)



There is **no service at St Michael's on 29th December** (at 8am or 10am)
There will be a joint **MMU service at St Luke's, Moulsham at 10am**, which will be an all-age Communion.

Week-day worship

Morning Prayer: Every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 9.15am.

Other dates in December (All events in church, unless otherwise stated)
Every Monday Stables Nursery and Rainbow Preschool 11 to 11.30am
Every Wednesday Friendship + (Toddler group) at Keene Hall
9.15am – 11.15am (Term Time only)

Wed 4th Wednesday Fellowship starting at 2.15pm.

Thurs 5th and 19th Upwards at 7.30pm

Sun 8th December Farmyard Nativity at Lathcoats

4pm for parts, for a 4.30pm start

Thurs 12th Older Youth at 7.30pm

Sat 14th Churchyard Working Group 10am – 1pm

Sun 15th Dec, 4.30pm, Carol Service

Tues 17th December - Galleywood Infant School Christmas

Thurs 19th December - St Michael's Junior School Christmas.

Sat 21st Dec, 4.30pm, Carols on the Common

(at Galleywood Heritage Centre)

Sun 22nd Dec, 10am, Nativity Service

Tues 24th Dec, 4pm, Messy Christingle*

Tues 24th Dec, 11.15pm, Midnight Communion

Wed 25th Dec, 10am, Christmas Day Family Communion

***Messy Christingle – Christmas Eve, 4pm**

Everyone is welcome to join us for Messy Christingle, to experience the mystery and fun of Christmas! Everyone will have the opportunity to make their own Christingle (which David will demonstrate). Hot food will be provided free of charge.



Beyond December:

Sunday 12th Jan, 4pm, Joint MMU Praise and Worship service (Church of the Holy Spirit).

Sunday 19th Jan, 4pm, Messy Church.

Mon 27th, 7.30pm, MMU Lynchpins meeting (St John's, Moulsham).

Tues 28th, 7.30pm, Standing Committee meeting (vicarage)

“In more detail”,

Priorities for the new church year

Following our Retreat Day in October, the PCC have decided that our Vision Prayer should continue to be “Jesus, teach us all to love”. And we decided that our four top priorities for this new church year should be these:

1. ***Renew Sunday worship:*** Renew the structure of the 10am Sunday service by (a) dropping the language of “rolling worship”, together with its associated strapline “come when you can and leave when you like”; and (b) trialling the removal of the breakfast break, to make one continuous service.
2. ***Develop a strategy for homegroups:*** (a) Promote homegroups across the church and encourage people to join one (including those who are new to the church), (b) provide support for homegroup leaders, (c) strengthen the connection between homegroups and the rest of the church, and (d) ensure accountability for homegroups and their leaders to the vicar and the PCC.
3. ***Respond to the Quinquennial Report:*** Act on the 2019 Quinquennial Report (i.e., make the repairs on our building that we have been advised to make), together with any necessary fundraising.
4. ***Renew stewardship:*** Renew our regular giving and our volunteering, through some kind of stewardship campaign.

If anyone has any questions or comments, please speak to David, or to one of the PCC or MLT members.

Thought for the month, by (December) – David Cattle

At Christmas time, we quite rightly talk a lot about Jesus' Mum, the Virgin Mary. But we don't often talk about his earthly Dad, Joseph. I think that Joseph is the unsung hero of Christmas. His story reads a bit like an episode of Eastenders:

He's engaged to a young woman, Mary, and she's a bit of alright, so he feels pretty lucky and thinks he's doing pretty well. But then he finds out that she is pregnant, and he knows that he is not the Daddy! What a nightmare! So, what does he do?

Well, Joseph is a good man – a real man of God. He doesn't want to embarrass Mary in public, so he decides to break off the engagement on the quiet. But then something happens that doesn't normally happen on Eastenders. He has a dream one night, and he dreams that an angel speaks to him and tells him not to be afraid to marry Mary, because the child she is carrying is from God. So Joseph does take Mary as his wife. What a hero! First, he takes on a woman who is carrying a child that's not his – and that's a huge deal. And second, he then has to raise this child, knowing full well that this is some kind of miracle child, a child born to a virgin, a child who would grow up to save the world, a child who is sometimes called 'Emmanuel', which means 'God is with us'. And Joseph has to raise this very special child. No pressure then...!

This Christmas let's be inspired by the courage and obedience of ordinary people like Joseph. And may God bring us his joy and peace.

David.

The deadline for articles for January is **Sunday 15th December**. The person to send things to is Sue Metcalfe (lilypad2014@sky.com).

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