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Showing and Sharing God's Love

22 January 2023
Epiphany 3

And a very special welcome if it's your first time here!

- You are very welcome to stay for refreshments at the end of the service if you can.
- If you would like to know about other things that happen in our church life, please see our website – www.cofebishopstoke.com
- During one of the songs in our service a collection is normally made. If you are able to use one of the Gift Aid envelopes, it really does make a difference and is most appreciated. At St Mary's we are also able to take card donations following the service. If you would like to find out about regular, tax-efficient giving, please let us know or take a look at <https://www.cofebishopstoke.com/giving-to-our-church>.

Today

St Paul's

9.15 am Morning Worship

Service starts on p.30

St Mary's

10.45 am Church Together

with communion

Bible Readings

Psalm 27

Isaiah 9.1-4 (p.694)

Matthew 4.12-23 (p.968)

Contact: Revd Richard Wise on 8061 2192, email. rwise@talktalk.net

Collects / Prayers for this week

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
 in the face of 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.**

God of heaven,
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth
and your messengers to every nation:
send your Holy Spirit to transform us
by the good news of everlasting life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Pauline, Joy, Margaret, Alison, Debbie, Finn, Joan & Vic, David, Rosalyn, Vivian, Liz, Tracy, Charlotte, Caroline, Jenny, Janet & Michael, Brenda, Tommy
- **our parish** – those who live in Fair Oak Road (east)
- **School Pastors** – helping on Tuesday lunchtimes at Stoke Park Junior School
- **Open the Book assemblies** – Wednesday morning at Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools
- **a new Bishop of Winchester** – the Crown Nominations Commission, as they seek to discern who should be our next Diocesan Bishop
- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** – until Wednesday; our local churches and Churches Together groups
- **Holocaust Memorial Day (Friday)** – we remember all who still suffer as a result of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide
- **peace** – in all places where there is conflict between peoples or military occupation; that nuclear weapons would not be used by any nation

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

This Week

Mon	2.30 pm	Prayer Healing Fellowship (St Paul's)
Tues	9 am	Morning Prayer (Methodist Church)
	9.30 am	Tots & Tinies toddlers (St Mary's)
	8 pm	Home group (St Mary's)
Wed	8 pm	Compline / Night Prayer (Zoom)
Thurs	9.30 am	Holy Communion (St Paul's)
Sat	2.30 pm	Ladies' cream tea (St Mary's)
Sun	8 am	Holy Communion – BCP (St Mary's)
	9.15 am	Holy Communion (St Paul's)
	10.45 am	Church Together (St Mary's)

Covid safety measures We have now returned to the standard way of sharing the chalice in communion. If anyone is uncomfortable with this, though, they may still receive the wafer dipped in wine (from a different chalice). We are still sharing the Peace during communion by waving to one another but think it may be time to go back to shaking hands. Please let Richard know if you do not think this would be appropriate.

Christian Unity Service Our annual local service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, run by Churches Together in Eastleigh, will take place at All Saints', Eastleigh THIS EVENING, 6.30 – 8 pm. There will be worship led by young people from Highfield Church, Southampton, an update on the 'As One' initiative across the Borough of Eastleigh, and a message of encouragement as we pray into the start of 2023 together. Everyone will be most welcome.

Cream Tea Our next cream tea for ladies will be THIS SATURDAY – 28 January, 2.30 – 4.30 pm at St Mary's. It's an opportunity for women from across our different congregations to get to know one another more, and also to invite friends. If you'd like to come, please add your name to the sheet at the back of either church or text Sibon on 07930 811238. Please also let Sibon know if you have any dietary requirements. There's no charge, but you may wish to make a donation towards the costs on the day.

Candlemas Tree planting As part of our Church Together service NEXT SUNDAY – 29 January (The Presentation of Christ or Candlemas), we will be planting some new trees in St Mary's churchyard. It will fit in with the theme of celebrating God's promises and looking forward in hope, and the planting will be the final 'prayer' section of the service. There will also be the chance to write how a prayer has been answered for you, so you may wish to think about this beforehand. We would encourage as many people as possible to come along to the service or to arrive at 11.40 am for the final part of it. The service will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch to continue our celebrations on this feast day, and everyone will be most welcome!

Donating towards the trees If you would like to make a modest donation towards the trees we are planting, you would be most welcome. You may like to buy a rowan for £3 or make another contribution towards them. Please have a word with Karen Caws if you would like to do this. Many thanks.

Stoke Park Farm As you may know, Stoke Park Farm (pasture land north of Stoke Park Woods) has been purchased by Eastleigh Borough Council and its use is up for consultation. It is looking hopeful that the land will be used for nature and conservation. If you would like to give your opinion on what you would like to see there, the consultation page can be viewed [here](#). Alternatively, you can email rory.watson-newman@eastleigh.gov.uk for more information.

'As One' brunch On Saturday 18 March we will be hosting an 'As One' event at St Mary's. We will invite people from some of the roads in our parish, so that they can get to know each other and possibly form a street association. You may have seen some of the 'As One' banners now around Bishopstoke and other parts of Eastleigh, and the idea is to fill our streets with friendliness! If you would like to help with this, either by delivering letters or with the hosting and catering, please let Richard know. To find out more about 'As One' and its aims, please see [As One](#).

Cleaning St Mary's We do not currently have enough people to clean St Mary's every week. If anyone would be willing to clean the church once a month for 1 – 2 hours, we would be really grateful. Please speak to Jeanette or Richard if you are able to help or would like to find out more.

Your contact details If you come to church regularly but have never completed a Church Contact Consent form, we would really encourage you to do so. There are copies at the back of each church. If you move or change your phone number, there's no need to fill in another form, but please could you let Richard know your new details? Many thanks.

Ukraine Relief If you have warm clothing (including hats and gloves) in a good condition which you no longer need, or would like to buy something new, you are welcome to bring it to church, and we will take it to a local rep for Ukraine Relief. Sleeping bags are also welcome. If you would like to find out more about this organisation and its initiatives, please take a look at [Ukraine Relief](#). Many thanks!

Takeaway boxes If you ever have any, we would be very pleased to receive any plastic takeaway boxes with their lids for Messy Church, so that we can give leftover food to people to take home. (They are often used for things like Chinese takeaways and are like small lunchboxes.)

Eastleigh Basics Bank are always very grateful for our support, and at the moment, due to the rise in the cost of living, the need is greater than ever. Donations of food can be made at many local supermarkets, the Basics Bank in Wells Place, or brought to church.

At the moment, they are in particular need of:

- Tinned meat, fish, fruit
- Instant meals (pot noodles, pasta sauces)
- Tinned vegetables, including potatoes
- Tinned spaghetti
- Long grain rice
- Desserts (rice pudding, Angel Delight, jelly, sponge puddings, custard)
- Tinned fruit
- Spreads (jam, marmalade, peanut butter, honey, etc.)
- UHT / longlife milk
- Squash
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Washing up liquid
- Detergent capsules
- Toothbrushes

You can see the most up-to-date list on their [website](#) as well as the supermarkets which receive donations. Many thanks for whatever you are able to give.

Recycling We encourage you to bring your standard milk bottle tops (red, green, blue or orange) to church, as someone is very kindly willing to take them to be recycled. If you use tetra paks (e.g. with fruit juice or milk in), please bring them to church in carrier bags (washed out but still with lids) or leave them outside the Rectory, and Richard is happy to take them to a recycling point when he passes. He can also take Pringle (or similar) tubes to the same place.

Church compost bins We have compost bins in St Mary's churchyard (near the hedge on the east side of the church) and at St Paul's (at the front on the left-hand side of the car park). You are very welcome to put the following items in them: cut flowers, vegetable peelings, fruit cores and peel / skin, nettles, compostable cups. Please do not put plastic, dog poo, hedge cuttings, grass cuttings, horsetail weed or other food waste in the bin. If you have any queries, please contact Jenny on compostjen@gmail.com Many thanks.

Online giving to our church If you would like to give a one-off or regular gift online to St Mary's & St Paul's, our bank details are:

Account name:	Bishopstoke PCC
Sort Code:	40-46-39
Account no.:	91780646

If you would like us to claim Gift Aid, you can download our Gift Aid declaration form from [this page](#) on our website. If you can't print it off, just let us know and we'll get a copy to you.

Parish Giving Scheme This will enable you to give regularly to our church. If you wish to Gift Aid your donations, this can be done without filling in an additional form. To join the scheme, please go to our page at [PGS](#). Many thanks.