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Showing and Sharing God's Love

28 April 2024
Easter 5

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 Mary's

8 am Holy Communion

Service starts on p.229

Collect on p.474

10.45 am Church Together

12.15 pm Annual Meeting

St Paul's

9.15 am Holy Communion

Bible Readings

[Psalm 22.25-31]

Acts 8.26-40 (p.1101)

John 15.1-8 (p.1083)

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

Collects / Prayers for this week

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of
everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Robert, Pauline, Joy, Maggie, Amelia, Julia, Margaret, Shane, Chris, David, Finn, David, Karen, Margaret, Joan, Tracy, Maureen, Liz, Fiona, Charlotte, Janet & Michael, Brenda, Tommy
- **our parish** – those who live in Sayers Road, Harvey Road, Lofting Close, Griffen Close
- **Annual Meeting** – we give thanks for and pray for those elected as church wardens, PCC members and sides people; for all our church members in their calling to serve God and others
- **School Pastors** – Tuesday lunchtimes at Stoke Park Juniors
- **Open the Book assemblies** – Wednesday morning at Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools
- **children and young people** – in our church and community; for them to come to and grow in faith; for those who lead and help them at Church Together, Messy Church, Unshakeable, Deeper, Tots and Tinies, Open the Book and School Pastors

- **St Mary's Urgent Repairs** – thanksgiving for donations so far and offers of fundraising events; for some grants towards the work as well as further donations
- **peace** – in all places where there is conflict between peoples or military occupation, in particular Israel-Palestine, Ukraine & Russia, Sudan, DRC, Myanmar, Colombia and Haiti
- **the ecological and climate emergency** – those suffering most from this; for world leaders to act on the resolutions made at COP28; for all of us to do whatever we can to make a positive difference

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)
Wed	8 pm	Compline / Night Prayer (Zoom)
Thurs	9.30 am	Morning Prayer (please ask for venue)
Sun	10.45 am	Parish Communion (St Mary's)
	4 – 6 pm	Messy Church (St Paul's)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting This year's APCM takes place TODAY at St Mary's at 12.15 pm, following Church Together. This year we will need at least one new church warden, as Wendy is standing down following quite a number of years. We are extremely grateful to Wendy for all she has given as a warden. If you're interested in this or in standing for the Parochial Church Council (PCC), please have a word with Richard. There are nomination forms at the back of each church. Many thanks.

Bring-and-share lunch Following our Annual Meeting, we will have lunch together. Everyone is most welcome, and please bring something savoury or sweet for the lunch table if you possibly can.

Ascension Day / Thy Kingdom Come We will start the ten days of prayer leading up to Pentecost with an evening of worship and prayer on Ascension Day – 9 May – at St Mary’s:

- 7 – 7.50 pm Holy Communion with hymns
- 8 – 8.45 pm Time to pray with others, either in church or on a prayer walk around our area
- 8.45 – 9 pm Compline / Night Prayer

You are welcome to come along for all or any part of this evening. Other times of prayer for Thy Kingdom Come will be announced soon, and you are encouraged to take one of the prayer journals for the ten days from church today.

Day of Pentecost On Sunday 19 May, our main service will be a united one at Bishopstoke Methodist Church, starting at 10.45 am and lasting no longer than 45 minutes. It will be for all ages together and will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch. There will also be an (additional) BCP communion service that day at 8 am at St Mary’s, and the opportunity to join others from across Eastleigh for worship at the Elim Pentecostal Church at 6.30 pm.

Quiz Our next special fundraising event for the Urgent Repairs will be a quiz at St Mary’s on Friday 10 May, starting at 7 pm. The quiz master will be Roy LeMarechal, our Belltower Captain. If you’d like to come, please sign up on the list at the back of church. You’re very welcome to invite friends, as long as you add them to the list. Teams should be of 4 – 6 people, and you may sign up as a team, or we can place you in a team. The cost will be £5 per head, and basic refreshments will be available, but you’re very welcome to bring your own food and drink (including alcohol).

Bell Sunday This will be on Sunday 12 May this year, and our bell ringers will join us for refreshments at St Mary’s when they finish ringing at 10.45 am. Please come for that time, if you possibly can, to meet our ringers and have a chat to them.

Christian Aid Week: 12-18 May – Plant Sale We will be holding our annual fundraising plant sale on Saturday 18 May, from 10 am – 12.30 pm, at St Mary’s, alongside our next café, and all the proceeds from this event will go to Christian Aid. If you have any plants for sale – cuttings, seedlings, larger pots – they would be very welcome. We are

also looking for people to help on the sales table (9am – 12 noon or part of that) or to help set up on the afternoon of Friday 17 May after 3 pm. Please see Martin or Margaret Ward for further information. This year's Christian Aid fundraising is focussing on Burundi and hearing the story of Alina, who with the help of Christian Aid 'pushed back' against poverty and abuse to regain her family and become an active community leader.

Fundraising Hymnarathon On Saturday 29 June, we will be holding an event at which we'll sing loads of your favourite hymns and worship songs! It will be at St Mary's, from 2 – 4 pm, to fundraise for the Urgent Repairs. If you'd like to request up to three hymns or songs, please write them on a piece of paper and put it in the box at St Mary's or St Paul's. Alternatively, please email Ann Arnold on music4bishoptoke@gmail.com. You may like to say on the day why the song means a lot to you – or you could write something down for someone else to read out. Refreshments will be available. There will be a raffle, including a £25 M&S voucher. And you can donate as much as you wish for your favourite hymn being played and sung! Please come, enjoy, and sing to the roof – or the walls!

Looking ahead...

Café @ St Mary's will take place on:

May 18 – Christian Aid Week café with plant sale

June 8 (*please note change of date)

July 13

September 14

October 19

November 23 – 'Christmas' café

All 10 am – 12.30 pm

Cream Teas will take place on:

May 25

July 27 (*please note change of date – to be confirmed)

September 21

November 16

All 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Talking Jesus If you would like to find out more about the Talking Jesus research referred to in our services recently, please take a look at <https://talkingjesus.org/research> The full report is quite a lot of reading, but the PowerPoint provides a helpful summary.

Safeguarding in our church If you have any concerns about a child / young person or vulnerable adult in our church, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Margaret Ward, on 07778 691302 or by emailing cofebishopstokesafeguarding@gmail.com. You can find out more about Safeguarding and other people who may be contacted on the posters at the back of each church or [on our website](#).



Books needed... If you have any books you no longer need, please would you consider bringing them to church for us to sell at our cafés this year? Recently, we have also been able to sell some books online for the Urgent Repairs fund.

Prayer board Just a reminder that we have a prayer board in the side aisle at St Mary's, and you're very welcome to add your prayers to it.

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.

**Eco Actions for
April - Money
Magic!**



Could you manage to do some of these this month – where relevant? They could soon become habits – good ones! Some might save you money, but even more important, they will all really help in caring for the world and its people.

1. Spend less money! Just about every pound we spend has environmental costs (except investing in environmental projects). So with wealth comes more responsibility.
2. Donate to charities that alleviate the effects of climate change, as well as being compassionate to our local, global and generational neighbours. It can save you 500kg CO₂e a year.
3. Move your bank account to an ethical bank which invests your money in low carbon, ethical, environmental projects, such as Triodos Bank. Ethical Consumer (like *Which?*) provide independent advice www.ethicalconsumer.org
4. Move your pension, if you can, to an ethical environmental provider who is not investing your money in fossil fuels. Ethical Consumer (like *Which?*) provide independent advice www.ethicalconsumer.org

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
- Long grain rice
- Desserts (rice pudding, Angel Delight, jelly, sponge puddings, custard)
- Tinned fruit
- UHT / longlife milk
- Spreads (jam, marmalade, peanut butter, honey, etc.)
- Squash
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Tampons
- Sanitary towels
- Nappies (sizes 5, 6, 6+)
- Toilet rolls
- Washing up liquid
- Detergent capsules

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. ***White tops can be left on the milk bottles when you put them in your recycling bin.*** 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 (please remove the plastic lids, though).

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. We really encourage you to Gift Aid donations if you can – if you need any help with this at all, please contact our Treasurer, Mike Harris, on 8061 7191.

Parish Giving Scheme This enables you to give a regular or one-off gift to our church. If you wish to Gift Aid your donations, this can be done without filling in an additional form. You can also give anonymously (if you wish), whilst still enabling us to claim Gift Aid. To join the scheme, please go to our page at [PGS](#).

Many thanks for whatever you are able to give or already give!