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Showing and Sharing God's Love

9 March 2025
Lent 1

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.465

10.45 am Church Together

St Paul's

9.15 am Holy Communion

Bible Readings

[Psalm 91]

Romans 10.8-13 (p.1137)

Luke 4.1-13 (p.1030)

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

Collects / Prayers for this week

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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.**

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Emmanuel, Elizabeth, Joy, Brian, Pauline, Bob, Joan, Molly, David, Fiona, Denise, Edna, Chris, David, Jocelyn, Shane, Amelia, Margaret, Glyn, Finn, Karen, Tracy, Maureen, Liz, Charlotte, Janet, Brenda, Tommy
- **we commend Lloyd Walters to God**, and pray for his family and friends
- **our parish** – Nisa, cash point, hairdressers and parking by the crossing on Fair Oak Road, shops at end of Old Fair Oak Road
- **School Pastors** – Tuesday lunchtime at Stoke Park Juniors
- **Open the Book assemblies** – Wednesday morning at Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools
- **our Annual Meeting** – for people to stand to be church wardens and PCC members
- **the ecological and climate emergency** – those suffering most from this; the decisions and actions of world leaders in response to COP 29; for each of us to do whatever we can to make a positive difference

- **peace** – for the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas to hold; for all whose lives and livelihoods have been shattered, and for a just, lasting peace in Israel-Palestine; for peace between Ukraine and Russia, in Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and other parts of the world where there is conflict

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 and Tinies (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	10 am – 12.30 pm	Café @ St Mary's (St Mary's)
Sun	9.15 am	Morning Worship (St Paul's)
	10.45 am	Church Together <i>with communion</i> (St Mary's)

Today at Church Together... Yiasmin will affirm her baptismal faith. This is for people who have already been baptised and confirmed, but who wish to make a public declaration of their personal faith. We are very pleased to welcome Revd Dr Stephen Sizer to give the talk in the Listen zone. Stephen is a retired Church of England priest and has been instrumental in Yiasmin's growth in faith. He is also founder and director of Peacemaker Trust <https://peacemakers.ngo/>. Following the service, everyone is most welcome to stay for a finger buffet.

Café @ St Mary's Our next café will be THIS SATURDAY – 15 March – from 10 am - 12.30 pm at St Mary's. It will be just £3 for a drink and delicious slice of homemade cake. There will also be a raffle and stalls, including Easter cards from the Leprosy Mission, and all proceeds will go to the Urgent Repairs fund. If you'd like to donate cakes or a raffle prize, help by running a stall or in any other way, please contact Wendy Dale on 8064 2292. Otherwise, please just come along if you can – and do invite friends! The dates of our other cafés this year can be found [here](#).

Bishopstoke Park coffee morning On Monday 17 March, there will be a coffee morning for everyone who lives at Bishopstoke Park and attends services at St Mary's, St Paul's, or the mid-week communion at Bishopstoke Park. It will be held in Antlers Conservatory from 10.30 - 11.30 am. We hope it will be a good opportunity for those who attend our services to get to know each other, or get to know each other more, whichever service they may normally attend. Tea/coffee and biscuits/cake will be served, and any donations towards the cost would be gratefully received.

Help Propagate & Grow for Christian Aid We will be running our annual plant sale again during Christian Aid Week in May, but perhaps you would like to help grow some of the plants. Martin and Margaret Ward will be having some space at the Greening Bishopstoke Plant Propagation afternoon on Saturday 22 March at St Paul's from 1 - 3 pm. They will be offering hands-on advice and techniques for anyone who would like to grow something for the plant sale. Seeds and plants for cuttings, plus compost, trays and pots will be available – or you can bring your own plants and just join in the fun of growing. Previous experience is not essential. It makes so much difference when there's a team of us growing together. For further information, please have a word with Martin or Margaret. Many thanks!

Bishopstoke History Society There will be a History Society talk on 'The Itchen Navigation' on Friday 25 April (*please note change of date*) from 7 – 9 pm at St Mary's. Admission will be free, but donations towards the Urgent Repairs will be gratefully received. Refreshments will be served during the interval.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and Electoral Roll revision This year, our APCM will take place on Sunday 27 April at St Mary's following the 10.45 am service. This is also a year when our Electoral Roll will be completely revised, so if you're already on it, you will need to join again. If you didn't receive one last week, you can get an electoral roll form in church today. All forms need to be returned on or before 6 April.

It would be really good to have some more PCC members this year (in addition to the wonderful members we already have!), and we will also need at least one new church warden. If you would like to know more about either of these things, please have a word with Richard or a current PCC member.

Home group on Zoom Would you like to join a 'home group' to get to know others more, support each other, look at the Bible, share your thoughts and pray together – but cannot easily leave home during evenings? You'd be very welcome to try our online home group, which meets on Zoom, normally on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 pm. If you're interested or would like to find out more, please have a word with Margaret Ward or phone / text her on 07778 691302.

Church treasurer We are pleased to let you know that the PCC has appointed Carla Hollinghurst as our treasurer. We are very grateful to Carla for taking this on, and she may be contacted at cofebishopstoke.treasurer@gmail.com

St Mary's Urgent Repairs Fund Thank you so much for all your giving and fundraising so far for this. We have now raised over £18,000. If you would like to make a gift, please see the leaflets or poster at the back of church, or simply put your donation in an envelope marked 'Urgent Repairs'. We would also be very grateful if you can Gift Aid it – there are Gift Aid forms at the back of church. Alternatively, please go to <https://www.cofebishopstoke.com/urgent-repairs> Many thanks!

Receiving communion Please may we remind you that it is not acceptable to dip your wafer into the wine when receiving communion, as it risks spreading germs. If, for any reason, you do not wish to share the chalice with others, it is perfectly acceptable just to receive the wafer / bread. The church's teaching is that to receive the consecrated bread alone is to receive the sacrament fully, and this has always been the theological understanding of the Church of England.

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](#).



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? (Simply being on the electoral roll doesn't give us permission to contact you under GDPR rules.) Many thanks.

Eastleigh Basics Bank – Be That ONE campaign Thank you for all you already give to Eastleigh Basics Bank, whether you leave things in the collection box at St Mary's or put them in the collection trolley at a supermarket. The Basics Bank has recently launched a new campaign, which you may like to take part in: will you 'Be that ONE person, who gives ONE item. Be part of ONE community, where no ONE goes hungry?' If every household gave just one item with every main shop, the need amongst the community would be met. You'd be very welcome to bring your ONE item (per week or per month – whatever you can afford or wish to give) to church, if that's easiest for you. You may wish, instead, to **Be that ONE to donate financially**. You can use the PayPal button on the Basics Bank [website](#) or do a bank transfer (details below). If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider emailing them via office@eastleighbasicsbank.co.uk for a Gift Aid form. Their bank details are: Eastleigh Basics Bank. Sort Code: 30-99-50. Account no.: 55470363. Many thanks!

Eco Actions for March - Going shopping



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. Make a list before you go food shopping to help avoid over impulse buying and buying food you will end up throwing away.

2. Reduce your impact on the environment by buying second hand when you can. Ebay and charity shops are good sources of reused items.
3. When you need to buy a large item, research it carefully. Think about how long it could last, how much it costs to run, what it is made of, where it is made, and whether it be recycled at the end of its life. Better quality items often last longer and therefore cost less over time.
4. Are you tempted to buy on impulse when you are shopping? Get into the habit of going back the next day or week, when you have thought through if you really *need* to buy something!

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. You can see the most up-to-date list on their [website](#) as well as the supermarkets which receive donations. They would also be very grateful for unwanted carrier bags, which are becoming scarcer! You can bring them to church too. Many thanks for whatever you are able to give.

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 (behind the hedge in the far corner of the grass). 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, please contact our Gift Aid Secretary, Natasha Redfern, on 07739 322584.

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](#).

Giving using the card machine and via the Donate button on our website For some people, using the card machine is ideal, and it is especially helpful for the public at special events. Giving via the website is a very straightforward way of donating, especially for those who do not normally attend church. Please be aware, however, that there is a small charge (just under 2%) to the church for donations made in this way. We encourage church members to give to our church regularly if they can, and the Parish Giving Scheme, a standing order, or cash / cheque in a stewardship envelope are the best ways to do this. The Parish Giving Scheme tops them all, as they administer the Gift Aid for us!

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

Please follow us on Facebook if you can – and like or share some of our posts! It will help us spread the word about what we're doing as a church.

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