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Showing and Sharing God's Love

19 March 2023
Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday

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

St Mary's

10.45 am Church Together
with communion

Bible Readings

Psalm 23

1 Samuel 16.1-13 (p.287)

John 9 (p.1075)

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

Collects / Prayers for this week

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
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.**

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Pauline, Margaret, Joy, David, Joan, Finn, David, Rosalyn, Vivian, Chris, Liz, Tracy, Charlotte, Jenny, Janet & Michael, Brenda, Tommy
- **our parish** – the Co-op, cash point, hairdressers and parking by the crossing on Fair Oak Rd, shops at end of Old Fair Oak Rd
- **For the beauty of the earth** – may we give reverence to God's creation and be attentive to its needs
- **For the joy of human love** – all people, their love and relationships; families, mothers, fathers and children

- **The Children's Society** – all their work with vulnerable young people
- **Turkey-Syria earthquake** – for everyone affected by this and all involved in rescue and humanitarian aid. For prayer resources, please see [Christian Aid](#) & [TearFund](#)
- **peace** – over a year after the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, we continue to pray for all whose lives have been scarred by this; for peace and reconciliation; that nuclear weapons would not be used by any nation. For a prayer, please see [Christian Aid](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

This Week

Mon	2.30 pm	Prayer Healing Fellowship (St Paul's)
	3 pm	Holy Communion (Bishopstoke Park)
	7.45 pm	PCC meeting (St Mary's)
Tues	9 am	Morning Prayer (Methodist Church)
	9.30 am	Tots & Tinies toddlers (St Mary's)
	8 pm	Home group (Zoom)
Wed	8 pm	Compline / Night Prayer (Zoom)
Thurs	9.30 am	Holy Communion (St Paul's)
Sat	2.30 pm	Cream tea for ladies (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)

Children at Church Together It is a priority and a joy for our church to enable people of all ages to worship together and be blessed by one another. A couple of weeks ago we had a lot of extra children and their families, and things worked really smoothly. We would like to continue to encourage parents and younger children to sit near the front of the church, where there is a bit more space between the rows. Children are also very welcome to come to the carpet at the front, where there are various things to do, and where it's easier to see the screen and feel involved. We would remind you that parents are responsible for their children during the service, and that running around the church during or after the service is potentially dangerous. Many thanks for your understanding.

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 have also returned to shaking hands during the Peace, but please do not feel under any pressure to do this – you can still wave to others!

Cream tea Our next cream tea for ladies will be THIS SATURDAY – 25 March – from 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 Sibò on 07930 811238. Please also let Sibò 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.

Easter eggs ARK Eastleigh are planning to give Easter eggs to their clients again this year, and would like the medium sized eggs (115g – 140g) that cost between £1 and £3. They will then distribute them with a card with an Easter message. If you would like to support this, please would you bring the Easter eggs to church on or before Sunday 2 April. Many thanks!

Good Friday lunch On Good Friday (7 April) there will be a simple lunch at the Methodist Church in support of Christian Aid. There will be no set charge, but donations towards Christian Aid will be gratefully received. The food will be served from 12.30 pm before the afternoon service, which starts at 1.30 pm. If you would like a lunch, whether or not you attend the service, please phone Chris Atkinson on 8061 0667.

Christian Aid plant sale We will be holding a plant sale, with all proceeds for Christian Aid, alongside our café on Saturday 20 May. If you have any surplus plants (indoor or outdoor), flower or vegetable seedlings or cuttings that you are able to donate, please contact Margaret Ward (07778 691302) and let her know. It's not too late to take cuttings or sow seeds now, and people seem really keen to purchase plants in May. Many thanks!

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal Thank you so much to everyone who donated to this in church and online. The total from the church

collection was £361, which has been sent via Christian Aid. You can still donate to this online through [DEC](#), [Christian Aid](#) or [Embrace](#).

March Eco Action – litter picking The Great British Spring Clean is our nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. This year it's taking place from 17 March - 2 April. You may like to pick up a bag of litter (or more) during this period, either by yourself or with others. If you are free on Saturday 1 April, a group will be meeting at St Mary's at 10 am to do this, and bags will be provided. We will finish by 12 noon, but you can bring your bag back to St Mary's whenever you need to. You can find out more about the campaign and also pledge to pick up a bag at [Great British Spring Clean](#). Many thanks!

Earth Hour takes place this Saturday – 25 March – from 8.30 - 9.30 pm. Millions of people around the world will take time out of their busy lives to reflect on what nature means to them, and this year they are being asked to think about how they can make sustainable changes to their own lives and reduce their environmental footprints. Even small actions can make a big difference. To take part, all you need to do is to switch off your electrical appliances, lights and heating for this one hour, and reflect on or perhaps pray for the earth.

Carbon Fast for Lent In the Bible, caring for creation is God's first instruction to humans. This Lent, a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God, Climate Stewards are encouraging us to take up a new type of Lenten challenge – living more simply and finding new ways to cut our carbon footprint. To find out more or sign up for a weekly email with some key facts, suggestions and a prayer, please see [Carbon Fast](#). It's not too late to have a go!

Dust and Glory The Church of England's Lent campaign for 2023 is [Dust and Glory](#). Offering 40 daily reflections for Lent on faith, failure and forgiveness, it invites us to find God in the mess of everyday life. It's not too late to start this! The reflections are available via email, via the Church of England's smart speaker apps, and on the free Daily Hope phone line (0800 804 8044).

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.

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.