



www.cofebishopstoke.com

Showing and Sharing God's Love

2 February 2025

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

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

10.45 am Parish Communion

St Paul's

4 – 6 pm Messy Church

Bible Readings

Psalm 24

Malachi 3.1-5 (p.961)

Luke 2.22-40 (p.1028)

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

Collects / Prayers for this week

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God. **Amen.**

Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Emmanuel, Elizabeth, Brian, Bob, Joan, Molly, David, Fiona, Denise, Pauline, Edna, Joy, Chris, Margaret, David, Jocelyn, Shane, Amelia, Margaret, Glyn, Finn, Karen, Tracy, Maureen, Liz, Charlotte, Janet, Brenda, Tommy
- **we commend Margaret Wilmot & Pamela Springate to God,** and pray for their families and friends
- **our parish** – shops and businesses in Riverside and Spring Lane, the demolition and rebuilding of the Memorial Hall, Old Anchor Doctors' Surgery, the Working Men's Club, the restoration of the Toby Carvery
- **Open the Book assemblies** – Wednesday morning at Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools
- **Messy Church** – everyone who comes, leads and helps, as we celebrate our tenth birthday this afternoon!
- **Greening Bishopstoke** – everyone from our community and church involved in this; all their aims for the next few months
- **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, and in 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 (Zoom)
Wed	8 pm	Compline / Night Prayer (Zoom)
Thurs	9.30 am	Holy Communion – BCP (St Paul'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)

Café @ St Mary's Our first café this year will be on Saturday 15 February 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 books, 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! Anyone will be most welcome!

Pamela Springate's funeral will take place on Thursday 27 February at 11 am at Wessex Vale Crematorium, and anyone from our church family would be most welcome to attend. We continue to hold David and his family in our prayers.

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.

Advance notice of 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. The process will begin on 2 March, when you will be able to obtain an electoral roll form in church, and all forms will 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.

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

Refills for church If you are ever in central Winchester, have some time to spare, and can manage to carry an additional bag, would you be willing to get some refills for church? All your expenditure would be reimbursed, but please only offer to do it if you have to go to Winchester anyway or use public transport and can also enjoy something there. If you are able to help, please see Richard, who can tell you where to go and give you some of our empty bottles to be refilled. There is a similar shop in Mayflower Close, Chandler's Ford, if anyone ever goes near there. Many thanks!

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!

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.

**Eco Actions for
February - Get to
grips with bills**



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. Get to grips with your energy bills. The information on a typical energy bill can be confusing. But understanding it can go a long way to helping you get to grips with your energy use.
www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins
2. Switch your electricity supplier so that you support renewable electricity generation rather than electricity made by burning fossil fuels. You could use the Green Journey price comparison site:
<https://greenjourney.org/domestic.html>

3. More than half the money spent on fuel bills goes towards providing heating and hot water. Installing a room thermostat, a programmer and thermostatic radiator valves, and using these controls efficiently, could save you around £75 a year.
4. If you already have a full set of heating controls, turning down your room thermostat by just one degree can save around £80 a year. Jumpers are in this year!

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](#).

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

Please follow us on social media 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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<https://www.facebook.com/CofEBishopstokeMessyChurch/>

X (formerly Twitter) <https://x.com/CofEBishopstoke>