



www.cofebishopstoke.com

Showing and Sharing God's Love

20 May 2023

Easter 7 – Sunday after Ascension Day

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

Acts 1.6-14 (p.1092)

Psalm 68.1-10, 32-35 (CW, p.667)

John 17.1-11 (p.1085)

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

Collects / Prayers for this week

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone
before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Pauline, Joy, David, Shane, Finn, Wendy, David, Margaret, Joan, Chris, Vivian, Jackie, Phil, Tracy, Maureen, Liz, Fiona, Louis, Matthew & his young family, Robert, William
- **our parish** – those who live in Cosford Close, The Spinney, Torch Close, Marathon Place, Wooderson Close, Athena Close
- **baptism** – Abigail-Rose next Sunday
- **our church and Annual Meeting** – all elected this afternoon; our worship, prayer and witness over the coming year
- **Open the Book assemblies** – Wednesday morning at Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools
- **young people taking exams at the moment**
- **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)
	8 – 9 pm	Prayer evening / walk (St Mary'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)
	8 – 9 pm	Prayer evening / walk (St Mary's)
Sun	9.30 am	Holy Communion – said (St Mary'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 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!

Annual Meeting Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is THIS AFTERNOON at 12.30 pm at St Mary's, followed by a bring-and-share lunch. Please would you have a think about whether God might be calling you to stand to be a church warden, a Deanery Synod member, a Parochial Church Council (PCC) member (we can have up to 6 more this year) or a sides person? There are application forms for church wardens, Deanery Synod and PCC members at the back of church, but if you have any queries or would like to chat about these roles, please have a word with Richard or a Deanery Synod or PCC member. If you would like to be a sides person and are not one already, please let Richard know. Our Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2022 can be found at <https://www.cofebishopstoke.com/welcome-news-sheet> and there are copies in church. Please take a look at them and see what we've been doing over the past year!

Cream Tea We are very sorry that the cream tea planned for Saturday has been cancelled. We look forward to the next one in July.

Thy Kingdom Come This is the 'global wave of prayer' which takes place each year from Ascension Day to the Day of Pentecost (28 May). If you didn't receive a copy of the prayer journal last week, please take one from the back of church – it doesn't matter if you start this a few days late, and it would be really good if you could still use it. On Monday and Thursday this week, there will be a prayer time ending with Compline from 8 – 9 pm at St Mary's or a prayer walk, weather permitting and depending on what people would like to do. We will pray in particular for our parish on these occasions.

Day of Pentecost Next Sunday is Pentecost, and there will be services at 9.30 am and 10.45 am at St Mary's (please see above). There will be no service at St Paul's that day. Church Together will be a 'united service' shared with the other churches in Bishopstoke. We will have drinks and cake together following the service, and if you would be willing to make a cake for it, please let Richard know. Many thanks.

Christian Aid Week If you'd like to give to Christian Aid via our church, you can find out more and donate [here](#). Many thanks for whatever you are able to give!

Children's Society Box Opening 2023 This year, the Bishopstoke box-holders raised £341.58. Jess Meale, Community Relationships Manager for the South-West region, asked that I pass on her thanks for your enduring generosity. The Children's Society continues to work for children, mostly aged 10-18, who are facing their most serious life challenges. Their goal is to overturn the damaging decline in children's mental health and wellbeing by 2030. Their tireless campaigning and support programmes concentrate on major issues, such as child exploitation, mental health, poverty, child refugees and, of course, young carers. They've been doing this since 1881 and won't stop until they've created a society built for all children.

Peta Thornton

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.

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.

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. 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.

Eco Actions for May - In the Utility Room



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

1. When using a washing machine ensure there is a full load and turn down the temperature. Heating the water to higher temperatures uses more energy.

2. Electric tumble dryers use energy. If it's a nice day, dry your clothes outside. In the winter most drying is done by the wind, so check the forecast for windy days and nights – as you can hang washing out overnight (there is no dew in the winter).
3. Irons use a lot of electricity to get hot. Only iron clothes that really need it.
4. Cut up old clothes or sheets that you were going to throw out, to use as cloths for cleaning jobs, rather than buying new cleaning cloths.