



www.cofebishopstoke.com

Showing and Sharing God's Love

28 January 2024

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

8 am Holy Communion

Service starts on p.229

Collect on p.459

10.45 am Church Together

St Paul's

9.15 am Holy Communion

Bible Readings

[Psalm 24]

Hebrews 2.14-18 (p.1202)

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** – Reg, Alison, Pauline, Amelia, Maggie, Joy, Julia, Margaret, Shane, David, Finn, David, Karen, Margaret, Joan, Tracy, Maureen, Liz, Fiona, Louis, Matthew & his young family, Robert, Chris, Charlotte, Janet & Michael, Brenda, Tommy
- **we commend Janet, Rosemary & Vera Mercer to God**, and pray for their families and friends
- **our parish** – those who live in Abbotsbury Road, Rhinefield Close, Exbury Close
- **Open the Book assemblies** – Wednesday morning at Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools
- **Prayers of Love and Faith** – for our PCC as they seek to discern whether our church should use these Church of England prayers to pray for same-sex couples
- **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

- **today is World Leprosy Day** – please pray for The Leprosy Mission and other charities working to bring about transformation and healing for people affected by leprosy
- **peace** – in all places where there is conflict between peoples or military occupation, especially Israel-Palestine and Ukraine and Russia at this time
- **the ecological and climate emergency** – for those suffering most from this; for world leaders to act on the resolutions made at COP28; for each of us to do what we can to make a difference for the better

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)
	8 pm	Home group (St Mary's)
Wed	8 pm	Compline / Night Prayer (Zoom)
Thurs	9.30 am	Holy Communion (St Paul's)
Sun	10.45 am	Parish Communion (St Mary's)
	4 – 6 pm	Messy Church (St Paul's)

Unshakeable youth We need more adult help with Unshakeable, ideally someone who would be part of the team and be there for all or most of the sessions. Unshakeable meets twice a month at St Mary's on a Saturday from 6.30 – 8.30 pm, and you can find out more about it [here](#). If you're interested, please have a word with Anne or Richard Wise.

Creation Care Programme Many people within the church and within our communities are deeply concerned about the environmental damage humanity is unleashing on the world today. Many Christians are keen to act but lack the knowledge or confidence to do so. Our Diocese runs an online Creation Care Programme which is designed to help with this, and it's being run again, starting on 30 January. To find out more or book a place, please go to [Creation Care](#). Please could

you also let Richard know if you decide to do the course? (Sadly, being on a Tuesday evening, it clashes with some of our home group dates!)

Community governors Would you be interested in serving our local community by joining a school governing body? Stoke Park Infant School currently has vacancies for community governors. If you are interested, please email Karen Roebuck (Clerk to the Governors) at karenroebuck.stokepark@gmail.com Many thanks!

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 January - On the internet



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. Enjoy texting: at 0.014g of carbon dioxide a text, it's a very low carbon cost way to communicate
2. Think before you click: each web search requires energy on your computer, laptop or phone, and more at the server finding the webpage for you, costing 4.5g CO₂e a time. Just 10 searches a day adds up to 16.5kg CO₂e a year
3. Switch to using a green search engine on the internet such as www.ecosia.org , which plants trees to absorb the carbon emissions from your web searches

4. Email with care: an email generates 4g CO₂e and a large email with lots of attachments up to 50g. Don't stop communicating, but think before you copy everyone in!

Covid safety measures We have returned to the standard way of sharing the chalice in communion, and our PCC has now agreed to follow the Church of England's ruling that we should not dip wafers in the wine. If anyone is uncomfortable with sharing the chalice, 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. We have also returned to shaking hands during The Peace, but please do not feel under any pressure to do this.

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.

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.