



www.cofebishopstoke.com

Showing and Sharing God's Love

13 September 2026
Season of Creation

Welcome to St Mary's!

- You are very welcome to stay for refreshments at the end of the service if you can (apart from 8 am).
- 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 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. 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's services

8 am Holy Communion

Service starts on p.229

Collect on p.483

9.15 am Holy Communion

10.45 am Church Together

Bible Readings

[Psalm 65]

Ezekiel 47.1-12 (p.881)

John 7.37-39 (p.1072)

Contact: Revd Richard Wise – 023 8061 2192

email. cofebishopstoke.rector@gmail.com

Collects / Prayers for this week

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
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.**

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Zena, Molly, Joan, Carol, Mike, Marieanne, Wendy, Carol, Janet, Leah, Annette, Graham, Sandra, Dave, Pamela, Finn, Clare, Pauline, Robert, Bob, Elizabeth, Fiona, Sue, Denise, Edna, David, Jocelyn, Shane, Amelia, Karen, Tracy, Maureen, Liz, Charlotte, Janet, Tommy
- **baptism** – Mila-Rose next Sunday; her family and friends who come
- **our parish** – those who live in Damson Crescent, Rosehip Close, Elderberry Close, Strawberry Mead
- **School Pastors** – Tuesday lunchtime at Stoke Park Junior
- **Open the Book assemblies** – Wednesday morning at Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools
- **peace** – in Israel-Palestine and across the Middle East; between Ukraine and Russia; in Sudan, Myanmar and other places where there is conflict
- **the ecological and climate emergency** – Lord, thank you that all you made was good. Forgive us for treating your creation poorly. Please heal all that you have made, and teach us to learn what it means to live in harmony with the Earth and with one another. (USPG – written by someone at Greenbelt 2025) You

may wish to use the [Green Christian Prayer Guide](#) or take a copy of *Storm of Hope* from the back of church

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

All events St Mary's unless otherwise stated

Mon	2.30 pm	Prayer Healing Fellowship
Tues	9 am	Morning Prayer (Methodist Church)
	9.30 am	Tots & Tinies toddlers
	8 pm	Church family group (Zoom)
Wed	7.30 pm	CAP Money Course
	8 pm	Compline / Night Prayer (Zoom)
Thurs	9.30 am	Holy Communion – BCP
Fri	7 pm	History Society presentation
Sat	10 am - 3 pm	Heritage Open Day
Sun	9.15 am	Morning Worship
	10.45 am	Church Together <i>with communion</i>

CAP Money Course The aim of this course is to help people manage their money, so that they can save, give and prevent debt. Eastleigh CAP Centre will be holding a course at St Mary's, starting THIS WEDNESDAY - 16 September, and it will run for four consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7.30 – 9.30 pm. If you would like to do the course, please text 07902 464428, email danbrain@capuk.org or register online at <https://capuk.org/get-help/money-coaching> If you would be willing to welcome people and serve refreshments for one or more of the evenings, please let Richard know. Many thanks!

Heritage Open Day & History Society presentation THIS SATURDAY - 19 September - Bishopstoke Parish Council is running a Heritage Open Day in Bishopstoke. St Mary's will be one of the venues, and it will be open from 10 am - 3 pm for people to find out about the history of the building and some of its artefacts. There will also be a History Society presentation on Friday 18 September, from 7 - 9.30 pm, on the Rise of the Railway. If you would be willing to make a cake for the Open Day, please let Richard know. If you would be willing to serve refreshments for an hour on the day, please add your name to the list at the back of church. Many thanks!

Harvest We are celebrating Harvest on 27 September and would be most grateful for additional donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries for Eastleigh Basics Bank on the day. We will also be supporting Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal. There will be a bring-and-share Harvest lunch following Church Together from about 12.15 pm, and everyone is most welcome to come along. Please bring something for the food table if you possibly can.

Pet service Peter Castle is organising a pet blessing service, which will take place at Canada Common Methodist Chapel (SO51 6DH) on Saturday 3 October at 10.30 am. Although Canada Common is quite a way from Bishopstoke, anyone is most welcome to attend and take their pet (on a lead or in a secure container). If you cannot get there, you may wish to take a photo of your pet, which can be displayed and blessed on the day. Please hand any photos, with the name and breed of your pet on the back, to Richard by 27 September.

Quiz We are holding a quiz on Friday 9 October from 7 - 9 pm, and the quiz master will be Roy LeMarechal. If you'd like to come, please sign up on the list at the back of church. You're very welcome to invite friends, as long as you add them to the list. Teams should be of 4 - 6 people, and you may sign up at the back of church as a team, or we can place you in a team. The cost will be £5 per head, and basic refreshments will be available, but you're very welcome to bring your own food and drink (including alcohol). All proceeds will go to the Urgent Repairs.

Fire drill Well done to everyone who came to Parish Communion last week for getting out of the church in 3 minutes! Whilst the general rule is to leave by the nearest door, if you struggle with steps, please don't use the south door (although in a real fire you may have to). It's fine for more people to use the main door.

St Mary's Urgent Repairs Fund Thank you so much for all your giving and fundraising so far for this. We have now raised about £35,000. 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 This is everyone's responsibility! 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.

Please also let Margaret know if you have been made to feel unsafe in any way. 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](#).



Pastoral Care Our church has two pastoral care co-ordinators, Ann and Joan. Together with others, they are able to offer friendship, support and prayer on behalf of our church to both church members and the wider community. They are happy to arrange for someone to visit you at home or in hospital, bring communion to you if you are unable to get to church, or to ask on your behalf for the Prayer Healing Fellowship to include you in their prayers.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ann or Joan if you need help or you know someone else who might. If you ask on behalf of someone else, please ensure that they consent to receive pastoral care or prayer from the church.

Ann Brown – 023 8061 3893

Joan Cook – 023 8060 2150

Church Members' Facebook group We have a closed Facebook group as a safe and supportive space for members of our church community to share updates and stay connected.

If you are on the church electoral roll or Church Family List, you are able to join. Otherwise, if you'd like to join, please fill in a Church Contact Consent form from the back of church and return it to Richard. You can find the page at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1198939002408476> or by scanning this QR code:



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 of the form at the back of each church. If you have moved or changed 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.

**A Rocha UK's Easy
Eco Tips –
September 2026**



The Season of Creation (1 September- 4 October) is dedicated to God as the Creator and sustainer of all life. During this period of the church calendar, many churches celebrate Harvest, thanking God for his provision through the land and the food that it produces. You can explore Season of Creation resources at www.arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation

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, 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. There are also copies at the back of each church. We really encourage you to Gift Aid donations if you can – if you need any help with this, please contact Carla at cofebishopstoke.treasurer@gmail.com or phone Richard, as we are between Gift Aid Secretaries at the moment.

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.

<https://www.facebook.com/CofEBishopstoke/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CofEBishopstokeMessyChurch/>