



www.cofebishopstoke.com

Showing and Sharing God's Love

30 November 2025
Advent 1

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 Holy Communion

St Mary's

10.45 am Church Together

Bible Readings

[Psalm 122]

Isaiah 2.1-5 (p.687)

Matthew 24.36-44 (p.994)

Contact: Revd Richard Wise – 023 8061 2192

email. cofebishopstoke.rector@gmail.com

Collects / Prayers for this week

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Paul, Wendy, Molly, Annette, Pamela, Pauline, Robert, Ros, Sandra, Bob, Elizabeth, Joan, Fiona, Sue, Carl & Liz, Denise, Edna, Chris, David, Jocelyn, Shane, Amelia, Margaret, Glyn, Finn, Karen, Tracy, Maureen, Liz, Charlotte, Janet, Tommy
- **we commend Jimmy Guiver to God** and pray for his family and friends
- **Blossom, being baptised on Saturday;** her family and friends who come
- **our parish** – those who live at Stoke Knoll rest home; all the staff; our church's connections to the home
- **School Pastors** – Tuesday lunchtime at Stoke Park Junior
- **Open the Book assemblies** – Wednesday morning at Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools

- **peace** – in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel; between Ukraine and Russia; in Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and other parts of the world where there is conflict
- **the ecological and climate emergency** – Today is Remembrance Day for Lost Species

We pause to remember our place at the beginning of the Sixth Great Extinction on Planet Earth.

For 4.5 billion years our earth has been developing: bringing to birth, becoming more complex, more organized, more conscious.

The other great extinctions during the past 450 million years happened by forces of geology and accidents, involving physics and chemistry. This time, our species is bringing ruin to whole ecosystems, cancelling entire species, laying waste the interdependence of ecosystems.

We here acknowledge that we play a part in this dying back. We participate by our carelessness, ignorance, and indifference.

We are here with regret, shame, anger or grief for our part in the death of healthy ecosystems and the resulting extinction of creatures.

We grieve humans' lack of awareness of, and concern about, the destruction of interdependent communities that have taken billions of years to develop.

Assembled and written by Andii Bowsher, a Green Christian Trustee

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	7 pm	Christmas Choir (St Mary's)
	8 pm	Compline / Night Prayer (Zoom)
Thurs	9.30 am	Holy Communion – BCP (St Paul's)
Sun	10.45 am	Parish Communion (St Mary's)
	4 - 6 pm	Messy Christmas (St Paul's)

James (Jimmy) Guiver We are very sorry to hear that Jimmy died quite suddenly on Saturday 22 November. His funeral and thanksgiving service will be on Friday 19 December at 11 am at St Mary's, followed by refreshments at Bishopstoke Park.

Christmas services All our Christmas services can now be found at <https://www.cofebishopstoke.com/christmas-services> There are some flyers at the back of church, if you would like to use some to invite friends and neighbours.

Our Christmas Charity – The Mission to Seafarers We will hear about this during our morning services on Sunday 14 December from visiting speakers Kate Powell (Port Chaplain at Southampton) and David Lloyds (a member of St John's, Hedge End). You will be able to donate to the charity from that Sunday onwards, and the offerings from our larger Christmas services will also be sent to it.

Tots and Tinies leadership We are very grateful to Anne Wise for leading Tots and Tinies, our toddler group, together with others for over 8 years. Anne has decided to step down from this in the New Year. If you are interested in leading the sessions on a Tuesday morning, please have a word with Richard. This role is subject to a DBS check.

Anna Chaplain appointment We are very pleased to let you know that Janet Ashfield has been approved for training as an Anna Chaplain for older people, and will be appointed as an Anna Chaplain for our parish, subject to a clear DBS check.

Expenses Policy We are very grateful to a number of church members who buy items for church without claiming the cost. However, it is right that people are able to claim costs for certain things, and we do not want anyone to feel that they cannot do a task because they have to buy something in order to do it. The PCC has therefore approved an Expenses Policy, so that church members know what they can claim for. There are copies on the church noticeboards. Please take a look if you think this could apply to you, and let Richard know if you have any queries.

Church Family Directory The revised version of this has now been printed, and there is a copy for everyone who has given consent to be in it. If you haven't yet received your copy, Richard will be able to give it to you following a service or at another event.

Eco team Following the very successful year of Greening Bishopstoke, we want to revive the Eco team in order to continue working towards our silver Eco Church award. (Greening Bishopstoke has now become independent of the church.) If anyone would like to join the team or return to it, please have a word with Karen Caws. We are very grateful to Karen for starting the team and leading it so well for four years, but she now needs to step down from leading it. If you would be interested in leading it, please have a word with Richard. A church DBS check is necessary for this role, and whoever takes it on may be interested in doing the Creation Care Bishop's Commission for Mission (BCM).

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.

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 £20,000. 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!

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.

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 St Mary's and St Paul's 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

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](#).



Receiving communion Please do not dip your wafer into the wine when receiving communion, as it risks spreading germs and contaminates the wine for anyone who has coeliac disease. If, for any reason, you do not wish to share the chalice with others, 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.

Stoke Park Junior School has vacancies for lunchtime supervisors. If you or someone you know is interested in this, please see the advert at the back of either church or contact Richard, who will email it to you.

**Eco Actions for
November –
Recycling**



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. Check you know what can be recycled in our area. If you're not sure, take a look on the Eastleigh Borough Council [website](#). Please remember that plastic wrapping can't be put in our recycling bins but can be taken to some supermarkets. (If you bring tetra paks to church, Richard will take them to be recycled.)
2. Set up simple systems in your home to make it easy to recycle. Where do you need a paper and card recycling bin? What about a compost bucket?
3. All your plastic bottles can be recycled, from mouthwash to salad dressing – so put them all in your recycling bin!
4. Be pedantic about your recycling! Think about every item you put in the bin – should it go to landfill? Toilet rolls come on card tubes, sweets come in foil or paper wrappers, apple cores can be composted, and most packaging can now be recycled.

Free will writing Two organisations are offering the chance to make your will for free. One is Free Wills, which can be found at <https://www.freewills.co.uk/> The other is Batt Broadbent Solicitors in Salisbury, who are offering a limited number of free wills to members of churches – please see <https://www.battbroadbent.co.uk/>

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. 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/>