



[www.cofebishopstoke.com](http://www.cofebishopstoke.com)

*Showing and Sharing God's Love*

**1 March 2026**  
**Lent 2**

**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](http://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 at St Mary's**

**10.45 am Parish Communion**

**4 - 6 pm Messy Church**

## **Bible Readings**

**Genesis 12.1-4 (p.13)**

**Psalms 121**

**John 3.1-17 (p.1065)**

**Contact: Revd Richard Wise – 023 8061 2192**

**email. [cofebishopstoke.lector@gmail.com](mailto:cofebishopstoke.lector@gmail.com)**

## Collects / Prayers for this week

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
    into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
    that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Molly, Wendy, Annette, Leah, Tom, Sandra, Pamela, Pauline, Robert, Bob, Elizabeth, Joan, Fiona, Sue, Carl & Liz, Denise, Edna, David, Jocelyn, Shane, Amelia, Margaret, Glyn, Finn, Karen, Tracy, Maureen, Liz, Charlotte, Janet, Tommy
- **we commend Michael Kloss to God**, and pray for his family and friends
- **our parish** – those who live in Olympic Way, The Ridings, Oak Coppice Close, Brasher Close
- **School Pastors** – Tuesday lunchtime at Stoke Park Junior
- **Open the Book assemblies** – Wednesday morning at Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools
- **peace** – there is conflict, unrest and uncertainty in so many parts of the world today: please pray for people to work towards peace, justice and reconciliation
- **the ecological and climate emergency** – those suffering most from this; the decisions and actions of world leaders in response

to COP 30; for each of us to do whatever we can to make a positive difference. 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

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)
	7.30 pm	Deanery Synod (St Peter's, Boyatt Wood)
	8 pm	Church family 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)

**Deanery Synod** Our next Deanery Synod will be THIS TUESDAY - 3 March - at 7.30 pm at St Peter's, Boyatt Wood. During the first part of the meeting Dr Simon Kolstoe will be speaking about The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Health Care. His talk will consider how the exciting new capabilities brought about by technology must also be considered from the perspective of the ethical and spiritual if they are to be of benefit to individuals and society. With the rise of increasingly sophisticated ways of collecting and analysing health data, what impact does this have on ethics, human dignity and care? Anyone is most welcome to come along to what promises to be a very interesting talk.

**Café @ St Mary's** Our next café will be on Saturday 21 March 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 be a raffle and stalls, including books, and all proceeds will go to the Urgent Repairs fund. We will also be sowing seeds and taking cuttings reading for the Plant Sale (please see below). If you would like to help in any way, please have a word with Wendy Dale. Please come along if you can – and do invite

friends! Anyone will be most welcome! All our café dates for the year may be found at [www.cofebishopstoke.com/cafe-st-mary-s](http://www.cofebishopstoke.com/cafe-st-mary-s)

**Helping Christian Aid** This year's Christian Aid fundraiser will be a Plant and Preserves Sale alongside Café @ St Mary's on Saturday 16 May. If you think you can help with preparing plants for sale, or making jams, chutney and other interesting preserves, please have a word with Margaret Ward. We will also be holding another Plant Propagation Morning on Saturday 21 March alongside the café and outside in the church grounds. If you would like to come along and learn new skills or just lend a hand preparing more plants for the sale in May, please speak to Martin Ward. Many thanks!

**Electoral Roll** Our church electoral roll is being revised ready for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Sunday 26 April. If you live in the parish or have worshipped with us regularly for at least 6 months, you are very welcome to join the electoral roll (you also need to be baptised and aged 16 or over). This entitles you to stand for certain positions and vote at the Annual Meeting, but we would really encourage you to join, whether or not you're going to be at the meeting. If you're already on the electoral roll, there's no need to join again. You can find application forms at the back of church, collect one from the Rectory, or email [jeanetteneale@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanetteneale@btinternet.com) for a digital copy (it can also be returned to Jeanette digitally if that's easier for you). All forms need to be returned to church / Jeanette on or by Sunday 29 March.

**Church family groups** The PCC have agreed that from now on, we will call our home groups 'Church family groups', as they don't necessarily meet in homes, and the new name better reflects their purpose. Through fellowship, Bible study and prayer, we grow in faith together, support each other, and get to know others in our church family more. If you'd like to join one, please have a word with Richard. You'd be very welcome!

**Anna Chaplaincy working group** Anna Chaplaincy is outward-facing and provides spiritual care for older people of strong, little or no faith, including those with no pre-existing links to the local church. Janet Ashfield is completing her training to be a volunteer Anna Chaplain within Bishopstoke, and she would like to bring together a small working group who are interested in the needs of older people in the

parish. In the first instance, she needs to find out about the population via individuals, organisations etc. Once we understand more about the needs of older people in Bishopstoke, we can work out how best to meet those needs. In addition, Janet will be looking for volunteer Anna Friends to support this ministry, for which DBS clearance will be needed. If you are interested in any of this, please have a word with Janet. Her number is in the Church Family Directory and available from Richard.

**Prodigal Son copies** If anyone happens to have a copy of 'The Return of the Prodigal Son' by Henri Nouwen, which they would be happy to lend to someone when one of our church family groups reads it together, please let Richard know. Many thanks!

**Egg boxes needed** Liz Farrington is hoping to take part in the Cathedral's sustainable flower festival. The arrangers are in need of large catering size glass jars (these are to support large branches/stems of foliage, so they need to be sturdy) and green cardboard egg boxes to make into garlands. If you are able to help in any way, please bring the items to church or give them direct to Liz. Many thanks!

**Church Members' Facebook group** We have set up a closed Facebook group as a safe and supportive space for members of our church community to share updates and stay connected. We may wish to share interesting Christian books we've read, new worship songs we've discovered, or prayer requests. But that's just a starting point. We can use it however we wish – as long as we keep to the rules! 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.



**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).

**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.

**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](mailto: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 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**

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



Take part in a local litter pick or beach clean during The Great British Spring Clean (Friday 13 - Sunday 29 March), the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife, and helps bring people together. See if there's a litter pick in your local area or consider organising your own – after church on Sunday or with a youth group, for example. Pray for your local area as you do the litter pick and ask God for opportunities to share why you are doing it. Find out more and pledge to pick up a bag at [www.keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean) *If you'd like to organise a litter pick with other church members, please let Richard know.*

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>