



www.cofebishopstoke.com

Showing and Sharing God's Love

19 April 2026
Easter 3

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

Psalm 116 (CW, p.734)

Exodus 12.1-7,11-14 (p.68)

Luke 24.13-35 (p.1061)

Contact: Revd Richard Wise – 023 8061 2192

email. cofebishopstoke.rector@gmail.com

Collects / Prayers for this week

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
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.**

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Molly, Wendy, Annette, Leah, Tom, Sandra, Pamela, Finn, Pauline, Robert, Bob, Elizabeth, Joan, Fiona, Sue, Carl & Liz, Denise, Edna, David, Jocelyn, Shane, Amelia, Margaret, Glyn, Karen, Tracy, Maureen, Liz, Charlotte, Janet, Tommy
- **our parish** – those who live in Edward Avenue, Rogers Road, Rogers Close
- **School Pastors** – Tuesday lunchtime at Stoke Park Junior
- **our Annual Meeting** – for people to come along; for people to stand for Church warden, Deanery Synod and PCC
- **peace** – in the Middle East; between Ukraine and Russia; in Sudan; and other parts of the world where there is conflict
- **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



A PRAYER FOR IRAN

BY THE RT REVD DR GULI FRANCIS-DEHQANI,
BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD

Ever loving God,
who hears us in our anguish and distress,
and longs for us to be free.
We pray for the people of Iran
and the wider Middle East,
at this time of fear and uncertainty.
Be near to those who are anxious;
bring comfort to all who are suffering.
Guide those with the power to make decisions,
and lead them in the ways of wisdom,
compassion and moderation:
that people of good will would seek
harmony and reconciliation.
Join us with our Christian brothers
and sisters in all places,
in praying for peace with justice,
through him who is the prince of peace,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

This Week

Mon	2.30 pm	Prayer Healing Fellowship (Methodist Church)
Tues	9 am	Morning Prayer (Methodist Church)
	9.30 am	Tots & Tinies toddlers (St Mary's)
	8 pm	Church family group (Zoom)
Wed	8 pm	Compline / Night Prayer (Zoom)
Thurs	9.30 am	Holy Communion – BCP (St Paul's)
	2 pm	The Bible Course (St Mary's)

Fri	7 pm	History Society presentation (St Mary'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)

Good Friday lunch Many thanks to everyone who supported the Good Friday lunch at the Methodist Church. So far, it has raised £217.50 for Christian Aid.

Children's Society boxes The Bishopstoke boxes have raised an amazing £550 this year – over £100 more than the previous four years! A huge thank you to all the boxholders, their families and friends for their generosity. If you'd like a Children's Society box, please contact Peta Thornton.

Electoral Roll & Annual Report A copy of the revised electoral roll (names only) is on display in each church. It's good to see that the number has increased from 77 to 84! You may wish to check that your name is on it. Many thanks to Jeanette for putting this together again, and please see Richard if you have any queries about it. Our Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2025 can now be downloaded at www.cofebishopstoke.com/welcome-news-sheet. Printed copies are available in each church. Please take a look at it and see everything we were doing and achieved in 2025!

Bishopstoke History Society presentation On Friday 24 April from 7 - 9.30 pm, the History Society will be giving a presentation at St Mary's about Eastleigh Airfield. It will feature over 150 pictures, which give a fascinating insight into the history of our local airfield since the fields of North Stoneham Farm were first used by Eric Moon to test his Moonbeam II in 1910. Admission free, donations welcome, refreshments available during the interval. All proceeds will go to St Mary's Urgent Repairs fund. Everyone will be most welcome!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) Our APCM will be NEXT SUNDAY – 26 April – at 12.30 pm at St Mary's, followed by a bring-and-share lunch, and everyone is most welcome! We have spaces for new PCC members, and this year we also need to elect two Deanery Synod members for a term of three years. We also need another church warden. If you would like to know more about any of these things, please have a word with Richard or a current PCC member.

Nomination forms are available at the back of each church. If you'd like to be a sides person (welcomer), you can either let Richard know beforehand or say at the meeting.

Quiz We will be holding a quiz at St Mary's on Friday 8 May from 7 - 9 pm, and the quiz master will be Roy LeMarechal, our Belltower Captain. 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.

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. Many thanks!

Murder Mystery – The Final Bake Off On Saturday 23 May, Bishopstoke Methodist Church is holding a murder mystery afternoon. It will start at 2.30 pm, and there will be an interval for afternoon tea. Tickets will be £10 per person, and all proceeds will be divided between St Andrew's Methodist Church building fund and St Mary's Urgent Repairs fund. We are very grateful to members of the Methodist Church for doing this. If you would like tickets, please contact Chris Atkinson on 023 8061 0667 or let Jenny Rogers know at St Mary's.

Sound desk at St Mary's It would be very helpful if more people were able to operate the sound desk during services. If you would like to try this, please have a word with Richard, and he will give you some brief training.

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 has now completed 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.

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.



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. 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 –
April 2026**



Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a

seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags. For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open). For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes. For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April. As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

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/>