

St Peter's and Blessed Mary Churches Sunday 15th February 2026

st.peter's
bishop's waltham

blessed mary
upham



I hope you have had a good week.

Here are the services for this Sunday and the coming week:

At St Peter's

8am BCP

9am Parish Communion

10.30am Sunday Central

(Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday 18th at 8pm)

(10am Thursday)

At Blessed Mary

11am Village Communion Service

(10am Ash Wednesday in Church)

Finally can I highlight the following below:

- Sports Camp in Half Term
- Hospitality Week
- Church Changes and Service Developments

With prayers for the week ahead.

Revd James

Sam is now working from home so be contactable as usual at stpbn.office@gmail.com, however on a different number: 07771 275604. Please leave a message and she will call you back as soon as she is able.

Bible Quote for the week: ***"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*** 2 Chr 7v14

Quote of the Week: ***"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen; not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."***

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday 18th February



Please join us at our special Ash Wednesday services as we mark the start of Lent.

10am - Blessed Mary.

8pm - at St Peter's

Half Term Sports Camp - 17th and 18th Feb
Register soon to book a place....it is going to be fun!



Hospitality Fortnight at St Peters 6-21 March 2026

Last Sunday, we launched our hospitality fortnight. Details are [here](#). If you would like to host, please can you complete the attached form ([click here](#)) and email to Nigel.hyde@homeleone.org or print it out and complete it and put in the basket at the back of church. If you need a printed copy, then you will also find them in the back of church.



We are excited to get to know each other better. Have a think about what you might like to host, how many to invite and when. You can host as many times as you like!

Parish News – Faith Stories

It can be difficult to talk about our faith although we want to share it with others! We know many of you have a 'story to tell'. Do you?
Would you like to share something you feel has influenced you in your

Christian faith journey. Has a particular person been an example to you? Has your faith influenced your work situation? Perhaps you have experienced the Christian faith in a very different context (eg abroad) or you have attended a Christian conference that changed you.

Has your faith helped you overcome a difficulty? You might be exploring faith – what has helped?

A while ago it was suggested that we write our Faith journey in 100 words – is that a starting point?

The Parish News is always pleased to receive personal articles and is such a good way of sharing faith with others in our community. It would be good to publish one a month over a period of time.

You would be welcome to send a contribution to
bwuparishnews@gmail.com

As a guide, this entry is 220 words. 500 words would be a good length but we are flexible. If you have an illustration, please include it. We would add your name or initials if you prefer.

We look forward to hearing from you!

James and the Parish News Team

Church Changes and Development of Services

As many of you are I'm sure aware, various changes have gone on and are going on at the start of this year to help develop our church and grow each of our services, and other groups/activities. This note is to give you an update about the various different things:

Stone Floor Area – this has now been completed, with much thanks to all those involved, and has been well received and now provides more space for fellowship, circulation and general use e.g., groups and activities such as, among others, Garden Gang and Hand Bell Ringers. If you are not aware the cost of the new floor, it was £12,000, paid for from some donated legacy money we have dedicated to church improvements.

Coffee and Refreshments – however, even with this extended open area, it is quite a squash between the 9am and 10:30 services (which is a good problem to have!) so we will be trying new ways to serve and have our Sunday coffee and conversation. There will be a separate notice about this soon.

Joel Phelps – we welcome Joel, a young talented musician, singer and 'sung worship leader', who has come to help us develop our 10:30 band and service to its next stage of development. He will be working with our existing musicians and singers for 3 Sundays a month. Until recently the service only had live worship for 2 Sundays, with recorded on the other 2, but which now means the 10:30 service

has the same level of support as the 9am service.

Band Position – this has now been relocated to the dais, which requires ‘set up’ each Sunday, but means there is no need for the previous staging, making the chancel area clearer and looking much better.

Band Instruments – for a band and band led service, some basic instruments need to be provided by a church e.g., drum kit and keyboard, and others are brought by players e.g., guitars. We have purchased a drum kit (see further note below) and are to soon purchase a ‘synthesiser keyboard’ which is different from a ‘piano’ type. The drum kit cost £4,000, and a suitable keyboard will be a similar amount. These are also being paid for out of donated dedicated improvement funds **not** from regular giving or gift day funds. This might be seen as ‘a lot of money’, and it is, but it is much less than the core instruments needed for our valued traditional/classical services with a grand piano and organ which are in regular good use.

Overall, we need to provide for all service styles properly with the proper instruments for our dedicated musicians, and to support our worship well. Some may feel that this is ‘not a wise use of money’, but I can assure you that it is essential and a much needed investment that has been long overdue for the 10:30, and to ensure it is invested in alongside other parts of church life.

Drum Kit Position – concern has been raised about the location of the drum kit in the chancel. We are currently in discussion about the best place to store it and there are two options which are: either up in the chancel beyond the choir pews; or just below the pulpit by the lady chapel. The PCC will consider all the pros and cons and take a decision at its next meeting in March.

Junior Choir for the 9am – finally, I should mention alongside all of the above, that a proposal is being drafted to restart a ‘Junior Choir’ for the 9am service which is much needed for us and to encourage young people. This will involve some regular midweek practices and then for the young people to join in our Sunday services once or twice a month. We will let you know in due course how we hope this will all happen.

In summary, we hope this is helpful and brings you up to date with all that is happening, but as always, if you have any comment or questions, please do be in touch.

Liz and Mandy - Wardens
Revd James - Rector

Country Fayre Saturday 19 September 2026

Following a very successful Fayre last year, we are hoping to hold the Fayre again this year, on Saturday 19 September. However, we are looking for somebody to act as "Project leader/Coordinator" for the Fayre to help ease the burden on the small Planning Committee who ran the Fayre last year. There will still be a number of individuals who will provide support in key areas such as social media, entertainment, health & safety etc so this is very much an overseeing role. It is hoped that a new person might also bring some fresh ideas, as the format of the Fayre has not changed significantly over the past few years. If you feel that this is something you might be able to do, please contact me for a chat and I will provide more details. Thanks. Paul Emmerson 07901 842196, email: paulemmerson46@gmail.com

Bell Ringing - New Members!

Following a successful open afternoon on 4th January there are now 6 new bell ringing recruits which is really encouraging! They have been having regular lessons on tied (silenced) bells for nearly 4 weeks and are now ready, and needing, to ring with others on open (sounding) bells.

It has been agreed that from Monday 9th February we will begin practice at 7pm, half an hour earlier than normal to facilitate this. We hope this will be until the end of the summer term.

Additionally, until Easter, we will have a one hour session on a Saturday. To fit with other activities in church this may be either late morning or early afternoon. Please bear with us as they learn to ring within the band.

Anne Pratt (and Revd James)

R.I.P. Beth Tillott
R.I.P. Geoffrey Wedeman
R.I.P. Shirley Lyon
R.I.P. Jennifer Harvey



Please pray for the family and friends of Beth Tillott, Geoff Wedeman, Shirley Lyon, and Jennifer Harvey. We pray for all those whose names are written in our Book of Requests for Prayer.

Beth Tillott's funeral is on Thursday 19th February at 1pm at St Peters Church in Titchfield.
Shirley Lyon's funeral is on Monday 16th February at St Peter's Bishop's Waltham at 11.30am

Please also pray for the names of those who have asked for public prayer: Phil Hutchinson, Jan Hayter, Sarah Pain, Fred and Sylvia Dickenson, Sheila Boyes, Jackie Suter, and for all those known to us who are currently in hospital.

We pray for the families of those Anniversaries of Death fall around this time and whose names are listed in our Book of Remembrance:

10/02/2008 Barbara Alice Louisa Smith
11/02/1993 Geoffrey William Halman
12/02/2009 Peter Albert Graham Strugnell
12/20/2024 Michael John Letch
14/02/2008 John Warren Sutherland
14/02/2011 Margaret Bunyan
14/02/2013 Gladys Hall
14/02/2014 Elizabeth Anne Houlton
15/02/2002 Barbara Elizabeth Price
17/02/1993 Miles Arnott
18/02/1986 Frederick Henry Beer
18/02/2005 Dora May Emmerson
18/02/2009 George Henry Hall
19/02/2003 Kathleen Joan Pope
19/02/2006 Diane Roberts
21/02/2007 Joan Cooper

Meon Valley Food Bank



Thank you for your continued support. We will be open next Monday between 10 and 12 to receive food donations. Food can also be dropped off at the following places;

Bishops Waltham - Sainsbury's, Coop, St Peters Church and the Jubilee Hall in Little Shore Lane
Curdridge - St Peter's Church
Upham - Blessed Mary Church
Wickham - the Coop and the Community Centre.
Park Gate - Robinson Reade Estate Agents

The items we require for the coming week are:

Cream Crackers

Toilet Roll

Tinned fruit

Tinned rice pudding

Shampoo

The Week Ahead

What's on at Blessed Mary (All to be held in Church unless specified)

Sunday 15th 10am Choir Practice
 11am Village Communion
Monday 16th 8am Morning Prayer (Zoom)
Tuesday 17th Table Talk
(Contact Kate for venue stpbn.fcy.kate@gmail.com)
Wednesday 18th 10am Ash Wednesday Service in Church
 1pm Fabric Inspection
 7.30-9pm Bell ringing practice
Sunday 22nd Jan 10am Choir Practice
 11am Informal Service
 6.30pm Taize Reflective Service (at St Peter's)

What's on at St Peter's (All to be held in Church unless specified)

Sunday 15th 8am BCP Service
 9am Parish Communion
 10.30am Sunday Central
Monday 16th 8am Morning Prayer (Zoom)
 11am Funeral Service for Shirley Lyon
 7-9pm Bell ringing practice
Tuesday 17th 8am Prayer with 'bible thought and open prayer' (Zoom)
 9-4pm Youth Activity Day (In the Church Hall)
 12.45pm Funeral of the late Geoffrey Wedeman
Wednesday 18th 8.45am Morning Prayer
 9-4pm Youth Activity Day
 12.30pm Fabric Inspection
 8pm Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday 19th 8am Morning Prayer (Zoom)
 10am BCP Service

7-9pm Alpha Course in the Stables
Friday 20th 8.45am Morning Prayer
7-8.15pm Choir Practice
Saturday 21st Bell Ringing Training pm
Sunday 22nd 8am BCP Service
9am Morning Worship
9.30am-12pm Vitalize (Stables Centre)
10.30am Sunday Central with communion
6.30 Taize Reflective Service

This list only represents services and events linked to the Church

