

St Peter's and Blessed Mary Churches Sunday 22nd February 2026

st.peter's
bishop's waltham

blessed mary
upham



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

At St Peter's

8am BCP

9am Morning Worship

10.30am Sunday Central with communion

(10am Thursday)

At Blessed Mary

11am Informal Service

Can I especially highlight the following below:

Hospitality Week

St Peter's Church Changes and Service Developments

Finally, a huge thank you to Kate Smyth and team for a really successful 'holiday club sports camp' held on Tuesday and Wednesday with over 30 children coming along! They had great fun and learned all about how to keep their eyes on Jesus as well as on the ball in sport!

With prayers for the week ahead.

Revd James

Sam is now working from home so she is 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: "**Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."** John 4v13-14

Quotes following last week's sermon on prayer:

John Bunyan: *"In prayer, it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart."*

St. Augustine: *"True, whole prayer is nothing but love."*

Andrew Murray: *"Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God's voice in response to mine is its most essential part."*

Martin Luther: *"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."*

Oswald Chambers: *"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work."*

Taize Service with Communion at St Peters

This Sunday 22nd February 6.30pm



This **Sunday, 22nd February 6.30pm**, you are warmly invited to our reflective **Taize Service with Communion at St Peter's** for the first Sunday in Lent.

The Taize Community is a ecumenical Christian monastic community in Saone-et-Loire in Burgundy, France with approximately 100 resident Christian brothers from Catholic and Protestant traditions originating from 30 countries worldwide. The Community was founded by Brother Roger in 1940 and has become one of the most important sites of Christian pilgrimage attracting over 100,000 young people annually for prayer, Bible study, communal work and shared reflection. The Taize Community seeks to include people and traditions

worldwide in music and prayers with songs & chants sung in many languages emphasising simple phrases usually from Psalms and other scripture. Ecumenical Services have evolved based on this simple model and music and are held in many churches worldwide.

So, please feel welcome to join us on **Sunday at 6.30pm**. The Service will be led by Revd James with the combined Choirs from St Peter's and Blessed Mary leading the singing.

Hospitality Fortnight at St Peter's 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

St Peter's - 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 was £12,000, paid for from some donated legacy money 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. In due course, with some new equipment, it will be also be possible to remove the 'fold back' speakers on the dais.

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. There will also be a few other items needed for the band set up costing up to around £2000. 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

R.I.P. Jennifer Harvey

Please pray for the family and friends of Geoffrey Nockolds, 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.

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:

22/02/2016 Barbara Jones
24/02/2003 Arthur Percival Millier
24/02/1999 Yvonne Frances Margaret Gallant
25/02/2012 Bruce Deane
28/02/1982 Cicely ("Curly") Knollys
28/02/2013 Antony David Smith

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

Curdrige - 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:

Tinned Carrots

Tinned Sweetcorn

Stir in Pasta sauces (in plastic tubs not glass jars)

Tinned Potatoes

Instant Mash Potatoes

The Week Ahead

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

Sunday 22nd 10am Choir Practice
11am Village Communion
Monday 23rd 8am Morning Prayer (Zoom)
Wednesday 25th 10am communion at the home of David and Jane Ashe
7.30-9pm Bell ringing practice
Thursday 26th 10am Butterflies
Sunday 1st March 10am Choir Practice
11am Parish Communion

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

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
Monday 23rd 8am Morning Prayer (Zoom)
7-9pm Bell ringing practice
Tuesday 24th 8am Prayer with 'bible thought and open prayer' (Zoom)
10am-3pm Church Recording
Wednesday 25th 8.45am Morning Prayer
9.30-12pm Garden Gang
2-4pm Cafe Church
Thursday 26th 8am Morning Prayer (Zoom)
10am BCP Service
7-9pm Alpha Course in the Stables
Friday 27th 8.45am Morning Prayer
7-8.15pm Choir Practice
Saturday 28th Bell Ringing Training pm
Sunday 1st Mar 8am BCP Service
9am Parish Communion
9.30am-12pm Vitalize (Stables Centre)
10.30am Sunday Central

This list only represents services and events linked to the Church
