



THE FIVE CHURCHES

THE PARISHES OF STANSTED, BIRCHANGER AND FARNHAM

Weekly bulletin

Prayer for the week

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

HELLO FROM THE STAFF TEAM

It is sometimes rather difficult to let go. I used to find this when I was a teacher; whenever I went on a course, or a school trip, I had to spend ages preparing cover work for classes. It sometimes took e more time than it would have taken to teach the class. I often spent more time on it than I needed to, and worried about it when I was away. Would the substitute teacher understand my intentions? Would the class behave? Sometimes it's hard to stop doing a job, even when you're not there to do it, even when it's someone else's job now.

For those of us voluntary ministries, this can be a real problem. We have no hours, no annual leave, no contract, although sometimes there can be working agreements, and such like. On the one hand no one is making us do it; on the other hand, there is often no structure to help us stop either- even for a bit. It is very easy to keep going on, and on and on – without a break.

We need breaks, holidays, time away from tasks – even voluntary ones. It's one reason why ministers are encouraged to go on retreat, to get away from things and spend time with God, rather than on rotas and service planning. Over the last few years retreats and holidays have been a rarity, as lockdowns, social distancing and so on made it so difficult to plan things. It has been easy to get into the dull routine of just doing things, and never getting away.

During the short interregnum I found myself “just doing” more jobs in Takeley and Little Canfield than ever I had done before. During that lockdown, it was hard to delegate, hard to hold meetings, so I just did things.

When Colin arrived, some of the jobs immediately were ceded to him, but quite a few stayed, seemingly by inertia, and it's been difficult to get rid of some of them. Partly I think it was I had got used to them. This summer, however, I have been forced to do something about it. I have been away for a fair amount of July, and I will be away for most of August, so I have been forced to get other people to take over some tasks. It has been a very liberating experience, and I intend making the most of my weeks away, knowing that everything is in God's safe hand, and that things can actually, really go on without me!

Hugh

If you wish to place a notice in the bulletin next week, please email details to Denise at stansted.church.office@googlemail.com.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Anthony Minshull, Rosaleen Nagle, John Hollis, Margaret Chastney, Linda Morris and John Curtis – that they will have God's healing and peace as they need it; and that their families and friends will know God's strength as they support them.

Those who have recently died, their friends and families, especially the family of Robert Dellow.

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time, especially Frederick Walter Hoffman.

I would be most grateful if you could let me know if you would like any names included for prayers (and if any names can be taken off the list).

I am conscious that some names may be missing from the anniversary list and, once again, please do let me know if you would like anyone added for the month.

SERVICES FOR THIS SUNDAY: 7 AUGUST - SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

St John's Church, Stansted

9.30 am

Family Communion with Baptism of Nicholas Bone

Rev'd Colin Fairweather & Rev'd Helen Flack

This service is available to watch on Zoom:

URL: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/109066258>

Meeting ID: **109 066 258**

Password: **Stansted**

St Mary's Church, Birchanger

11.15 am

Family Service

Pam Lee

St Mary's Church, Farnham

11.15 am

Holy Communion

Rev'd Colin Fairweather

ONLINE MORNING PRAYER

This takes place at 9am every day apart from Friday and Sunday.

URL: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/459441774>

Meeting ID: **459 441 774**

Password: **Stansted**

Morning prayer (and evening and night prayer) can be found at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>.

The readings for the day are included within the text of the services. We normally use traditional language on Thursdays, and contemporary language for the rest of the week.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.thefivechurches.co.uk/>

St John's Stansted and St Mary's Birchanger also has a Facebook page.

CONTACT DETAILS

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