



# THE FIVE CHURCHES

**THE PARISHES OF STANSTED,  
BIRCHANGER AND FARNHAM**

*Weekly bulletin*

*11<sup>th</sup> February 2024*

## **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

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*Second Next Before Lent*

Holy God,  
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:  
set straight our crooked hearts,  
and bend our wills to love your goodness  
and your glory  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **A PRAYER FOR THE KING**

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O Lord our heavenly Father,  
high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes,  
who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth;  
most heartily we beseech thee with thy favour  
to behold our most gracious Sovereign Lord, *King Charles*;  
and so replenish him with the grace of Holy Spirit,  
that he may always incline to thy will, and walk in thy way:  
endue him plenteously with heavenly gifts;  
grant him health and wealth long to live;  
strengthen him that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies;  
and finally, after this life, he may attain everlasting joy and felicity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*from The Book of Common Prayer*

# THE STAFF TEAM

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As you may recall I have been on a fabulous holiday and I am saturated with the wonders and beautiful sights I have seen.

We went on an overnight cruise on Doubtful Sound in New Zealand it was all very organized. One could kayak and then swim during the well-guarded water activity. Little was spontaneous, to protect the passenger and the environment. But this could not detract from the beauty of the sound and its indigenous flora. The captain took us to a small bay on one of the arms of the sound. We were surrounded by the mountainous sides down which cascaded the instant temporary waterfalls (it was raining). He turned the engine off and we were all asked to be silent for about ten minutes. Standing on the deck, I could hear the waterfalls cascading down and the ringing tones of the bellbirds calling in the undergrowth. That this scenery had not been changed for millions of years was an astounding thought. It also made me realise once again what an infinitesimally small dot I am in the world.

Psalm 103 vs 15-16:

The life of mortals is like grass,  
they flourish like a flower of the field;  
the wind blows over it and it is gone,  
and its place remembers it no more.

That silence was beautiful, precious and a close encounter with God.

Psalm 103 goes on:

But from everlasting to everlasting  
the Lord's love is with those who fear him.

I asked one of the other passengers who really enjoyed the ten minutes how much time he spent in silence and he said "Not enough."

The bus driver on the way to the trip remarked on how relaxed the passengers looked when they come off the boat, and yes, everybody was relaxed after the trip and I think it was because of the time spent with this unchanged beauty for millions of years in the middle of nowhere but also this silence which charged the atmosphere with a spiritual encounter with Almighty God.

One doesn't have to go all the way to New Zealand for this. One can make space within our busy lives to look and love the world He created and to be in silence with Him, Our Father and Creator and also give thanks for those times of extra-ordinary wonderful encounters with Him often in places of great beauty.

*Jo Pratt*

# THE WEBSITE

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Just a reminder – if for any reason you don't have a copy of this bulletin or the service rota, you can always find them on the website - <https://www.thefivechurches.co.uk>. The bulletin usually appears a day after it goes out by email.

*Rev'd Colin*

## ST JOHN'S INTERCESSORS REQUIRED

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We could do with some new people on the intercessors rota at St John's. Please contact Susan Bone if you think this is something you would be interested in. Training is available if you would like it.

*Rev'd Colin*

## LIFT TO ST JOHN'S

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There is a gentleman called Richard who lives right next to Hargrave House who is interested in coming to Sunday services at St John's, but doesn't have the means of getting there. Is there anybody who would be willing to give him a lift? Please contact me if so.

*Rev'd Colin*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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**Farnham Coffee morning** – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12pm

**Farnham PCC** – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 7pm

*If you wish to place a notice in the bulletin for next week, please email details to Colin at [revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com](mailto:revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com)*

## PLEASE PRAY

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...for Betty Kuczynski, Jeremy Wilson, Bob Stubbings and all those who suffer in mind, body or spirit.

Please pray also for the family of Grace Houghton, whose funeral will happen on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Febuary at St Mary's Church Stansted, followed by burial in the churchyard.

*Do let us know if you would like the anniversary of a loved one's death mentioned during the intercessions in St John's. Please contact Kathy West, Pastoral Assistant, so this can be arranged.*

*If you would like yourself or someone else on the prayer list, please email me at [revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com](mailto:revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com) in the coming week.*

# SERVICES FOR THIS SUNDAY

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## St John's Church, Stansted

Holy Communion

9.30am

Rev'd Helen Flack

URL for live broadcast: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069100732358>

The service sheet can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/shve6cfbz834oyzcv619v/21-1-24-Epiphany-3.pdf?rlkey=huw5aeeed8pnp9p9n1rm9nn16&dl=0>

The words for the hymns are here, in case you want to sing along at home.

- [https://hymnary.org/text/at\\_the\\_name\\_of\\_jesus\\_every\\_knee\\_noel](https://hymnary.org/text/at_the_name_of_jesus_every_knee_noel)
- <https://www.praise.org.uk/hymn/meekness-and-majesty/>
- [https://hymnary.org/text/i\\_heard\\_the\\_voice\\_of\\_jesus\\_say\\_come\\_unto](https://hymnary.org/text/i_heard_the_voice_of_jesus_say_come_unto)
- <https://www.praise.org.uk/hymn/be-still/>
- <https://www.praise.org.uk/hymn/we-have-a-gospel-to-proclaim/>

## St Mary's Church, Birchanger

11.15 am

Holy Communion

Helen Flack

## St Mary's Church, Farnham

11.15am

Morning Prayer

Rev'd Colin Fairweather (covering for Hugh)

# ONLINE MORNING PRAYER

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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.

# CONTACT DETAILS

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Priest in Charge:  
Rev Dr Colin Fairweather  
[revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com](mailto:revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com)  
01279 816721

Associate Priest:  
Rev Helen Flack  
[revhelenstn@gmail.com](mailto:revhelenstn@gmail.com)  
01371 876145

Licensed Lay Minister:  
Hugh Mascetti  
[hughm@tlcchurch.co.uk](mailto:hughm@tlcchurch.co.uk)  
01279 871606

Licensed Lay Minister:  
Jo Pratt  
[geoffjo.pratt@gmail.com](mailto:geoffjo.pratt@gmail.com)  
07809060039

Pastoral Assistant:  
Kathryn West  
[kewest@btinternet.com](mailto:kewest@btinternet.com)  
01279 816293  
07880602717

Director of Music:  
Anne Brooks  
[anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk)  
07427547117

Inquiries for St John's Church Stansted, and Hall Administration:  
Alison Garrard  
[Stansted.church.office@googlemail.com](mailto:Stansted.church.office@googlemail.com)  
01279 815243

Inquiries for St Mary's Birchanger,  
Pam Lee  
[Pam.mark2@btinternet.com](mailto:Pam.mark2@btinternet.com)  
0770 2171744

Inquiries for St Mary's Farnham,  
Ann Moore  
[annverger.hazelend@btinternet.com](mailto:annverger.hazelend@btinternet.com)  
[07785 543376](tel:07785543376)

<https://www.thefivechurches.co.uk/>  
St John's Stansted and St Mary's Birchanger also have a Facebook page.