



## THE PARISHES OF STANSTED, BIRCHANGER AND FARNHAM

*Weekly bulletin*

*21<sup>st</sup> April 2024*

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### THE STAFF TEAM

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Sometimes, people do their level best and just get it wrong. I have been in a situation like this over the last few days, in which various people have been trying to make something happen, and some quite severe mistakes have been made, which have resulted in a lot of frustrations, a lot of wasted time and money, and some quite unhappy young people in various places in the East of England. My small contribution to the chaos lay in not checking, when I phoned someone to confirm an event, that he had been told to expect the same number of young people as I had been told to bring. After all, why would he or I mention numbers? We had both been briefed by the same source and had the same figures. Unfortunately, we did not have the same figures, and neither did lots of other people. Someone, somewhere, had made a series of blunders and effectively double-booked facilities, booked them when they were unavailable and caused all sorts of chaos on multiple occasions in several different places. (As you will have noticed, I am bending over backwards to avoid specifying what we were all trying to organise!).

Now, there are two ways of reacting in the aftermath of this sort of debacle. One is to decide that "someone must take responsibility" (which I have concluded means "take the blame"), find that person and do something to them, perhaps remove them from office, or take legal action against them. This of course makes a lot of people feel a lot better but does not necessarily stop the same problem from arising again. The other way is to think "how can we stop this from happening again?" and instead of focussing on who made the

mistake, concentrate on how and why the mistake was made, why it was not spotted, and how we can make sure it is spotted next time someone makes a human error. You can tell a lot about an organisation and the people in it according to which way they react. Often of course there will be aspects of both.

I am pleased to say that the organisation in question (which is by no means explicitly Christian) tends to use the second method, and I think it is one which fits in far better with the teachings of our faith. The Lord accepts that people will make mistakes and is less concerned that we be punished for them than that we learn from them and do better in future- repent, if you like. It is far too easy, sometimes to think that forgiveness and repentance only belong in the great moral aspects of life. I think Jesus's teaching shows that they need to be a part of everything we do, including how we react to administrative errors in voluntary organisations.

Perhaps I need to moderate the emails I intend sending tomorrow.

*Hugh Mascetti*

## **ST JOHN'S MEDITATION GROUP**

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The Meditation Group will be taking a pause after Easter until Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April when we will meet again at 1pm in the Lady Chapel at St Johns.

*Rev'd Helen*

## **ST JOHN'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

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This will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7 pm in the church. All members of our electoral roll are invited to attend. The meeting is preceded by a very brief meeting to elect Churchwardens.

At this meeting, members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) will be elected. It would be wonderful to welcome some new members. If you wish to seek election to the PCC, I have forms!

What does the PCC do? Well, in a nutshell, it meets six times a year and "shares the privileges and the responsibilities of making certain decisions with the priest. In return the PCC is asked to co-operate with the priest in the whole mission of the Church". That is the official version anyway. If you would like to learn more about it, please speak to one of the clergy or the churchwardens.

*Kathy West*  
*PCC Secretary*

## CONFIRMATION

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There will be a deanery-wide confirmation service at High Easter on Sunday 7th July. The service will be led by the Bishop of Colchester. Anyone in year 6 upwards is eligible to be confirmed.

If you are not confirmed and would like to be, please speak to me, or send me an email. Helen and I are planning to run a 'Being With' course after Easter (see below) – for confirmands, this will function as confirmation preparation, though there is no expectation that you have to get confirmed at the end of it.

*Rev'd Colin*

## BEING WITH

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Are you interested in exploring your faith further in a positive and inclusive online group? There's no need for any special knowledge – just what you have learned in life so far!

We are running a 'Being With' course on Zoom for a group of up to 10 participants on Thursday evenings 7.30pm-9pm on

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

July 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Please e-mail me if you are interested ([revhelenstn@gmail.com](mailto:revhelenstn@gmail.com))

*Rev'd Helen*

## VEXILLOLOGIST REQUIRED

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After many years of keeping the flag flying at St John's Church, David South (my next door neighbour) is thinking of hanging up his swivel snaps. He's happy to see out the rest of the year, but if anyone would like to take on the role (with training from David as required), please let David or I know.

*Rev'd Colin*

# Stansted Sings Together

**Join us! It's FREE.**

**If you love singing, or have never sung in a choir, come and enjoy a warm welcome and help spread the love on these four Saturday afternoons.**

**When:** Saturday 11th, 18th and 25th May, from 3.00pm-5.30pm (with a short break), then Saturday 1st June from 3.00pm-5.00pm and sharing for friends and family from 6.00pm-6.45pm.

**What:** All comers choir for friendship and connection, from aged 7 to 77 and upwards! (children under 16 to be accompanied by an adult or with parental permission). The sharing event for friends and family will be followed by drinks, snacks and mingling!

**What we will sing:** A wide range of songs on the theme of sharing the love, including Lean On Me by Bill Withers, All You Need Is Love by Lennon and McCartney, and a selection of songs from across time, space and origins.

**Where:** St. John's Church Hall, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8JP

Email  
[janievox@mac.com](mailto:janievox@mac.com)  
to save your place.  
Places are limited, so  
jump in quick!

## CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COLLECTING BOXES

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It's time to open collecting boxes so I would be grateful if you could bring them to church or contact me if you would prefer me to pick up your box from you. I will be away until 14th April.

Katy Dockerill  
07834 235011  
[grandmakaty@gmail.com](mailto:grandmakaty@gmail.com)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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**Farnham Coffee morning** – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00 am-12.00 pm  
**Farnham APCM** – 16<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00 pm in church  
**St John's APCM** – 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 7.00 pm  
**Birchanger APCM** – 28<sup>th</sup> April, after the church service

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

*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 WEEK

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### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April

**St John's Church, Stansted**  
Morning Prayer  
9.30 am  
Alastair Bone

The URL for all St John's live broadcast services is  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069100732358>



Service sheet: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4c8hj8gr6xvhldxktmo46/21-4-24-Easter-4-SoW.docx?rlkey=9a0xl37joi53943pm5uph3bg2&dl=0>

The hymns are:

- How Sweet The Name of Jesus Sounds (321)
- Faithful Shepherd, Feed Me (166)
- In Heavenly Love Abiding (355)
- I Will Sing The Wondrous Story (340)

### **St Mary's Church, Birchanger**

Matins

11.15am

Hugh Mascetti

### **St Mary's Church, Farnham**

Holy Communion

11.15 am

Rev'd Colin Fairweather

## **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:

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