



THE FIVE CHURCHES

THE PARISHES OF STANSTED, BIRCHANGER AND FARNHAM

Weekly bulletin

28th April 2024

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

THE STAFF TEAM

I have this recurring dream. I probably have it about once a year. I had it again last night (at the time of writing this), so I thought I would share it with you.

I used to enjoy being in plays when I was at school and university. In my dream, I find I am back performing a play that I was in many years ago, which I can no longer remember the words to.

I figure to myself that if I can just find a script, I can scan my part really quickly and more or less get away with saying something approximately correct on stage.

The main part of the dream involves me looking for a script, and being unable to find one, as the clock ticks away.

Though the theme of futile searching is always central, the play and the circumstances are different each time. Last night's dream was an unusual variant, as I had the script, but couldn't commit the words to memory, and also couldn't find the theatre (which was in an airport).

I don't think I suffer from anxiety more than anyone else, and I do wonder why my dream life has this recurring trope. I've had it ever since I stopped being in plays, which was in 1998, so it is nothing to do with ministry or my faith.

Maybe I am not an especially anxious person precisely because I do have this dream. Or maybe it's a means for me to experience the powerful feelings of gratitude and relief with which I wake up. Whatever its psychological function, it seems to be part and parcel of who I am, and I think there are worse things in the world than simply to accept this.

Rev'd Colin

ST JOHN'S MEDITATION GROUP

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

Rev'd Helen

CONFIRMATION

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 me, 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

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 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th

June 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

July 4th and 11th.

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

Rev'd Helen

VEXILLOLOGIST REQUIRED

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



ST JOHN'S
STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

TouchPoint

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
to save your place.
Places are limited, so
jump in quick!

STANSTED SINGS TOGETHER FLIERS

There are some fliers for the Stansted Sings Together event on the sidesperson's desk at St John's. Please take one away and display it in your window. I think I've got all the public noticeboards in the centre of Stansted covered, but if you can think of somewhere else where a flier could be displayed to advantage, feel free to stick one up.

Rev'd Colin

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Birchanger APCM – 28th April, after the church service

Bluebell Walk – Farnham. Meet at the church at 11am (4 mile walk) or Hazel End Farm at 12pm (1 mile walk). There will be a short service at the church at 4pm.

If you wish to place a notice in the bulletin for next week, please email details to Colin at revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com

PLEASE PRAY

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

Pray also for the family of Martha Blackwell, whose memorial service will be held this Saturday at 2pm at Farnham Church.

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 in the coming week.

SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday 14th April

St John's Church, Stansted

Holy Communion

9.30 am

Rev's Colin Fairweather

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/5ff7htscr8m83molbdp5i/Easter-5.docx?rlkey=691pscihk1i9jb2jm058gol0v&st=n3sy8sz5&dl=0>

The hymns are:

- Love Divine (491)
- Immortal, Invisible (349)
- Love is His Word (492)
- Bread of Heaven (83)
- We Have a Gospel (798)

St Mary's Church, Birchanger

Holy Communion, followed by APCM

11.15am

Rev'd Colin Fairweather

St Mary's Church, Farnham

Evening Prayer

4.00pm

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.

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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