



# THE FIVE CHURCHES

## THE PARISHES OF STANSTED, BIRCHANGER AND FARNHAM

*Bumper two-week bulletin*

*31<sup>st</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024*

### PRAYERS FOR THE WEEKS

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#### *Easter Sunday*

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

#### *Second Sunday of Easter*

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father.

### THE STAFF TEAM

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Oh, I got the beginning of Holy Week wrong this year! Palm Sunday was fine as far as Church went, indeed Colin's service at Holy Trinity was wonderful, but the late arrival of 2500 odd Easter cards meant that the moment the organ recessional died down there was an immense bustling of allocating delivery rounds, and batching, distributing and delivering cards, which dominated Sunday, Monday and most of Tuesday. I had also managed, by an epic piece of mis-scheduling (is that even a word?) to get myself booked onto a first aid renewal course in Hadleigh which ran all day on Wednesday.

So much for a contemplative, quiet start to holy week. Two or three things kept me grounded and focussed. One was the online bible study plan for holy week which a few of us were reading together- although I was on average a day behind until Thursday! Another was the willing help so many people gave in the task of delivering cards to as many of the

residents of Takeley, and Little Canfield as possible. The delighted look on people's faces when they saw their card helped too! There was also the fact that I had two services to lead, on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and the solemn nature of those two services kept pulling me back into a contemplative frame of mind, even when I was photocopying or sending messages on WhatsApp.

On Wednesday night things started to quieten down, after two events in the evening, which Barbara and I went to with Jonathan, our son, who is down with us for Easter. It's Thursday morning, and I can see the three days in front of me, as I with so many others to take the journey to the cross, and thence to the empty tomb. I will be at a church service at least once every day now until Sunday, and quite honestly, I am really looking forward to all of them, though some are going to be a bit harrowing. But as many have said, the way to the empty tomb lies through the cross. I'm looking forward to walking with some – quite a lot, I hope – of you along the way.

## 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*

## EASTER AT ST JOHN'S

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It's traditional to have a wonderful floral display in church for Easter. We also make a beautiful garden of repose in the Lady Chapel for the Maundy Thursday Vigil. Flowers for the Lady Chapel have usually been bought by the kind volunteers who have helped create that garden, but flowers are becoming increasingly expensive so if anyone feels they could contribute to help fund the flowers there will be a collection in church on Palm Sunday...so bring your cash!

It's also traditional that we give the church a good spruce up for Easter. So we will have a cleaning party in church at **10am on Easter Eve, 30<sup>th</sup> March**. Coffee and hot cross buns will be provided for all helpers!

*Rev'd Helen*

## LIFT

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I'm off on holiday to Iona on Monday. Bit cheeky, but does anyone fancy giving me a lift to the airport? I remember last year my parents got a taxi from my house to the airport on Easter Bank Holiday Monday, and it cost sixty quid. Thing is, my flight is at 9.00 am, so I'll have to be at the airport at 7. Any takers? Let me know!

*Rev'd Colin*

## 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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### Maundy Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March

**St John's Church, Stansted**

Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm

Rev'd Helen Flack and Rev'd 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/lcd6lrubc0rtrc6u21u45/Liturgy-of-Maundy-Thursday-2024.pdf?rlkey=0vy5t0du75r0hdw1pxq9p449g&dl=0>

### Good Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March

**St Mary's Church, Farnham**

Good Friday Prayers

12.00 pm

Rev'd Helen Flack

**St John's Church, Stansted**

Liturgy of Good Friday

2.00 pm

Rev'd Helen Flack and Rev'd Colin Fairweather

Service sheet: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/s7kcrl4jdfkir9wad8cdl/Liturgy-of-Good-Friday-2024.pdf?rlkey=wn1wn23j3rgm5kv5l1ldj6eba&dl=0>

**Easter Eve, 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**St Mary's Church, Farnham**

Easter Vigil, with the baptism of John Cooper

6.00 pm

Rev'd Helen Flack and Rev'd Colin Fairweather

**Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**

**St John's Church, Stansted**

Holy Communion

9.30 am

Rev'd Helen Flack and Rev'd Colin Fairweather

Service sheet: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/fl8j1l0ujl9ffdol3kjtp/31-3-24-Easter-Day.pdf?rlkey=kdpk8oz1hon6sie2biavvr4je&dl=0>

**St Mary's Church, Birchanger**

11.15 am

Holy Communion

Rev'd Colin Fairweather

**St Mary's Church, Farnham**

11.15 am

Holy Communion

Rev'd Helen Flack

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**St John's Church, Stansted**

9.30 am

Holy Communion

Rev'd Helen Flack

Service sheet: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/8rjo58timtuaauu4hlx62/7-4-24-Easter-2.pdf?rlkey=3xoo0e7ljiwm4stuybpcdzlg7&dl=0>

**St Mary's Church, Birchanger**

11.15 am

Family Service

Pam Lee/Jo Pratt

## St Mary's Church, Farnham

11.15 am

Holy Communion

Rev'd Helen Flack

Hymns for St John's:

<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Entrance Gradual Washing of feet Offertory Communion Post Communion	My God and is thy table An upper room Ubi Caritas Once, only once, Stay with me (refrain) Now, my tongue, the mystery
<b>Good Friday</b>	Psalm Hymn Hymn Communion Hymn	22 Praise to the holiest O sacred head There is a green hill far away
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	Entrance Gradual Offertory Communion Post Communion	Jesus Christ is risen today The strife is o'er In Christ alone Laudate Dominum Alleluia, Alleluia
<b>Easter 2</b>	Entrance Gradual Offertory Communion Post Communion	The day of resurrection O let the Son of God Come, ye faithful All for Jesus To God be the glory

## ONLINE MORNING PRAYER

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This takes place at 9am every day this week apart from Sunday. Please be aware that Morning Prayer will take place on Good Friday and Easter Eve. Next week we will be back to normal, with no prayers on Friday or 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.