



# THE FIVE CHURCHES

## THE PARISHES OF STANSTED, BIRCHANGER AND FARNHAM

*Weekly bulletin*

*5<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### THE STAFF TEAM

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I have just discovered what I call 'slow walking'. Now you might say 'What only now at your advanced stage of life!' We've just been on holiday (what's new! In fact, I'm writing this on the Chunnel) to the Dordogne. I have been thrilled because I can finally walk a couple of miles without sticks. However, those of you who have knee trouble will know the pain of going downhill and those of you with chest/ heart trouble will know the difficulty of going uphill. Now my back is much better I am afflicted with those two problems. But no matter! Slow walking is the answer. And so, I took my time and enjoyed the meadow flowers, I spotted three sorts of orchid and checked them with my app. I exalted in the views over the rolling hills and forests. Instead of trying to get as many miles as I could as fast as possible under my belt. I enjoyed the journey.

Perhaps that is a metaphor for this third age when we've done all the rushing here and there. When the destination as fast as possible was always the end. Now it's the journey that counts and the destination is a different one, or perhaps not.

We stopped in Chartres on the way back but instead of visiting the cathedral and contemplating the Labyrinth at the back. We ended up racing around Chartres frustratedly trying to get our dog's pet passport sorted out. To no avail and there was a lesson in itself (apart from the fact that most shops and all the banks close on Lundi in France) we should have just realised there was nothing we could do and enjoyed the cathedral again. (Btw the labyrinth is only open on Fridays generally!)

However, we did get to see a little more of Chartres than we have in the past. And the cathedral is being cleaned up and looks even more stunning from the outside.

*Jo Pratt*

## **ROGATION SUNDAY SERVICE**

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There will be a rogation service at Farnham this Sunday, at Farnham Hall Farm. It starts at 6pm, at Farnham Hall Farm. Come and give thanks to God for His creation, and be blessed! Hugh and I will be leading the service, and there will be some hymn-singing in the barn at the beginning and the end.

*Rev'd Colin*

## **ASCENSION DAY SERVICE**

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Oops! For some reason Ascension Day got missed out of May's rota, but fear not – I will be leading a simple communion service at 1.00pm, at All Saints Church, Little Canfield. All are welcome. Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

*Rev'd Colin*

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

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This has now resumed – 1pm on Tuesdays, in St Johns Church.

*Rev'd Helen*

## **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*

## 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.

Thanks

*Katy Dockerill*

07834 235011

[grandmakatyd@gmail.com](mailto:grandmakatyd@gmail.com)

## 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*



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!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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**Farnham Coffee Morning**, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 10am-12pm

*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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### **St John's Church, Stansted**

Holy Communion

9.30 am

Rev Helen Flack (president) and Rev Colin Fairweather (deacon)

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/ur0pyudup63jrvbk2sg4o/Easter-6.docx?rlkey=6xvrmyud92fi1w2rlx165ze15&st=9pbibhnd&dl=0>

The hymns are:

- Come Down, O Love Divine (120)
- I Come With Joy (328)
- Fill Thou My Life (182)
- Be Still (62)
- O Jesus I Have Promised (556)

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

Family Service

11.15am

Jo Pratt

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

Rogation Service

6.00pm

Rev'd Colin Fairweather and Hugh Mascetti

## 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.