



Newsletter

19 & 26 April 2026



St George's Day 23 April

St Catherine of Siena 29 April

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Services for Sunday 19 April 2026 Easter 3

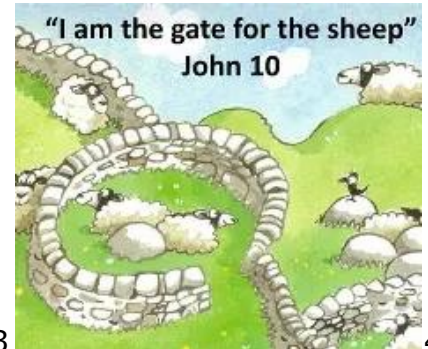
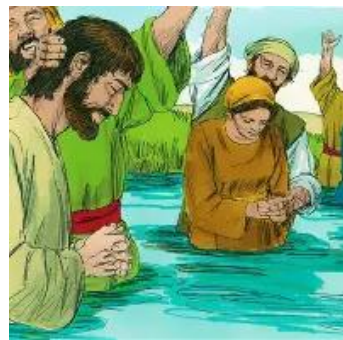
St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Rev Mike Dyson
 St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Rev Avis Gordon

Services for Sunday 26 April 2026 Easter 4

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preach and preside Rev Hilary Shedlock
 St Andrew's 11am **Morning Praise** lead and preach Anthea Darlington



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Readings for Sun 19 April

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 (1) *Repent and be baptised*

Luke 24: 13-35 (2) *The road to Emmaus*

Readings for Sun 26 April

Acts 2: 42-end (3) *The first converts*

John 10: 1-10 (4) *I am the gate for the sheep*

Wed 22 April: Ps 66: 1-6; John 6: 35-40 Wed 29 April: Psalm 67; John 12: 44-end

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One of the few Englishwomen commemorated by the Church of England is the poet **Christina Rossetti**, on 27 April. She was born in London in 1830, daughter of an Italian poet and revolutionary who lectured at King's College. She had two brothers- Dante Gabriel the pre-Raphaelite artist and William Michael- and a sister Maria who became an Anglican nun. The family women became very absorbed by the Oxford Movement in the Church of England and religious devotion began to play a major role in her life. She was considered very beautiful and was painted much by her brother as well as by others of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood who aimed to reform art by returning to the detail and colour of early Italian

painting. They were a very earnest and enthusiastic group of young men, and their paintings still have the power to move us today. Christina became engaged to the painter James Collinson but when he converted to Roman Catholicism she broke off the engagement. She was engaged twice more to friends of her brothers but broke off both of these engagements. These were the only men she met, living quietly at home with the rest of the family and more or less keeping house after her father died. One gets the impression that reality never quite measured up to what went on in her head.

She always wrote poetry from being a child. She copied the style of poems that she liked, including sonnets and ballads: many had a religious theme or were based on folk and fairy tales. Her most famous poem is 'Goblin Market', about two sisters' misadventures with goblins but with much in it about temptation and women's emotions. She was not interested in votes for women but she did sympathise with what were called 'fallen women' and worked for 11 years in a voluntary role at a home for such in Highgate. She was a fierce opponent of cruelty to animals and under-age prostitution, and her writing theme was often redemption though suffering. She remained deeply religious- and deeply Anglican- all her life, and her spiritual life was obviously

the most important thing for her, inspiring the best of her poetry. In 1872 she developed an unpleasant form of hyperthyroidism called Graves Disease and nearly died. It altered the way she looked. In 1893 she developed breast cancer and had a mastectomy at home, but it came back in the other breast and she died of it, slowly and painfully in 1894. She was 63. She was a popular writer in her own day but this popularity faded in the 20th century. However many of the greatest 20th century writers were inspired by the quality and feeling of her poems. For most people today she is best known as the writer of the all-time favourite Christmas carol, 'In the bleak midwinter.'



Our Prayers. We continue to pray for Tracy Kehoe, Maureen Roberts (in hospital), Annie Thomas, Barbara Plumb, and for Anne-Louise Critchlow and family. We pray for the peace of our world, and for all those affected directly or indirectly by the war in the Middle East.

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Latest events:

Our **Easter fundraising** efforts- raffle, Easter chicks, games and special stalls, raised **£450** for church funds. Thankyou to all who contributed- we loved the knitted chicks and bunnies!

Brain Tumour Awareness Fundraising Walk on 22 March organised by Ellie in honour of her mum Tracy Kehoe's fight against brain cancer has so far raised **£10,500**. Congratulations!!!

Gardening group: our new group has started work at the front of church. If you'd like to join them, see Pam and Paul for dates and times.

Annual Parish Weekend Away 9-12 October 2026 at Thornleigh, Grange-over-Sands. £316.00 all-inclusive. Book your place now- highly recommended. See Alan Pendry for details.

Beginners Homegroup/bible study fortnightly at Eileen's home 5 Moorside Road starts again on Tuesday 21 April at 7pm. Each session is self-contained: come when you can!

Simon Mars' ordination as deacon is on 28 June at 10.30am at the cathedral, and he welcomes all his friends at St Paul's to attend. If you'd like to go, see Anthea. Refreshments afterwards at St Paul's church (no coffee after St Paul's service on that day).

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Anne-Louise Critchlow thanks everyone who attended the Celebration Service for the life of **Mark Critchlow** at St Paul's on 8 April. It was a wonderful occasion with over 100 people present. Thankyou to all who helped with the excellent refreshments after the service.

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St Paul's School return after the Easter break on 20 April. Inclement weather prevented their Easter service from taking place in church. Instead, church went to school- thanks to St Paul's church members who came- and we were delighted to welcome more parents and church members than ever to the service: special thanks to St Paul's School choir led by Ellie Hutson.

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Appointment of new Rector update: because of the Easter break, the advertisement for the post has been delayed until May. However a date has been fixed for the interviews to take place on 13 October next. We'll keep you posted!

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Details of Services and Events for the next 2 weeks

Monday 20 April: 7pm **Pastoral/Leadership team** at 5 Moorside Road

Tuesday 21 April: Homegroup 7pm at 5 Moorside Road led by Eileen Booth

Wed 22 April: Holy Communion 10am led by Rev Mike Dyson

Tuesday 28 April: Time Out St Paul's 1.30pm

Wed 29 April: 10am St Paul's **Holy Communion** led by Rev Mike Dyson

Advance notice: **Ascension Day** Mission Community service St George's Simister 7pm Thur 14 May. All welcome.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Current Clergy Team:
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All other needs:

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For more information visit our websites:
 St Paul's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15877
 St Andrew's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15878