

STOURHEAD BENEFICE NEWS

Editor: Sue Davison - 01440 705829 - suzannedavison747@yahoo.co.uk

April and May 2024



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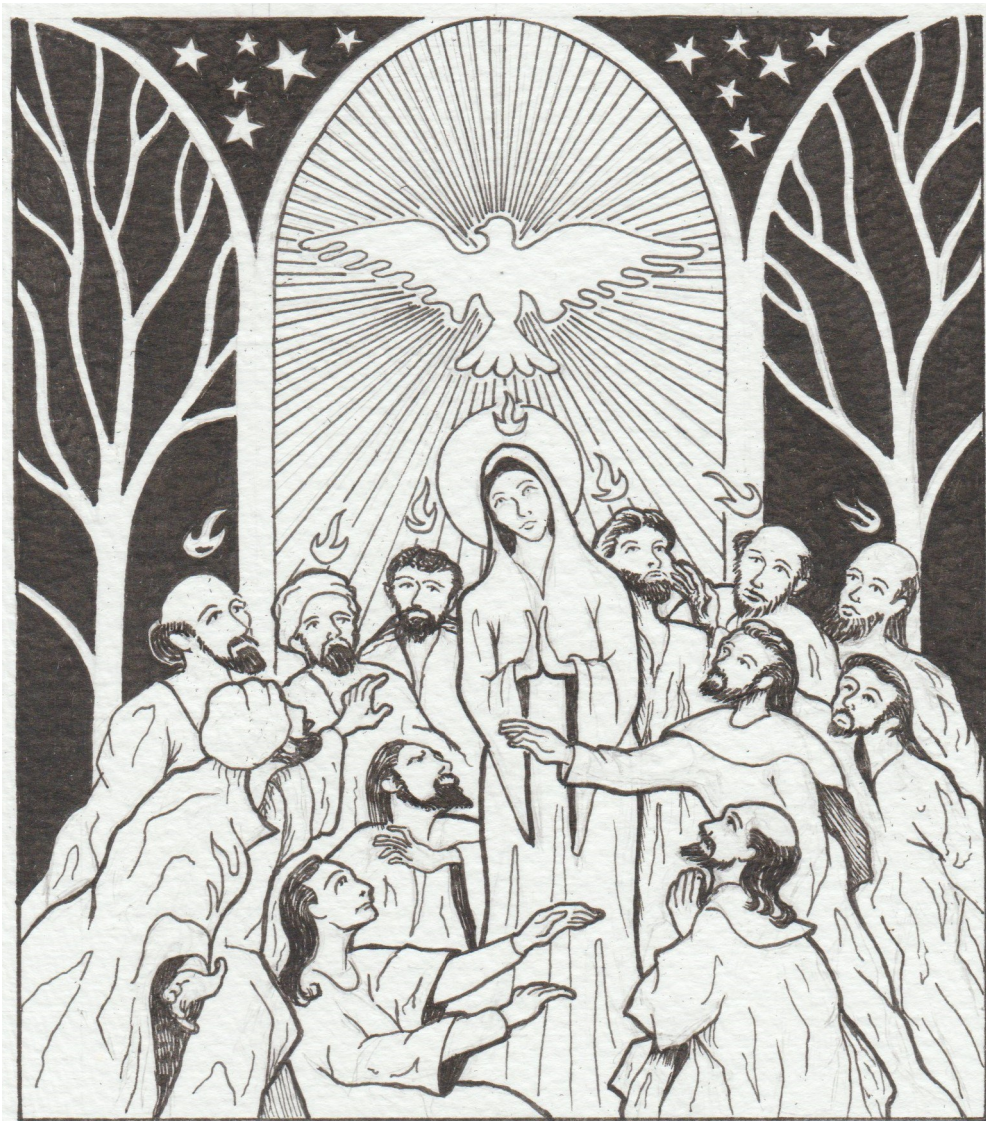


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Rector : Fr Christopher Giles

Benefice email - stourheadbenefice@gmail.com - 01440 762901

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Father Chris's day off is Friday – in an emergency please contact a member of the Ministry Team.

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Editor: Sue Davison - 01440 705829 - suzannedavison747@yahoo.co.uk

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The Stourhead Benefice is grateful to Barnardiston School for printing the Benefice News. Cover drawing is by kind permission of Patrick Sadler ©.

Father Chris writes

Dear Friends

Growing up, my father had a collection of DVDs which he loved to watch with us children. These were the old comedy stars such as Laurel and Hardy, Buster Keaton and his favourite Charlie Chaplin. On a wet winter's day, we could gather as a family and enjoy that wonderful simple, yet so funny humour. My father would read about these comedy stars, their life journeys and rise to fame.

Charlie Chaplin had a hard life. His father was an alcoholic and abandoned by his father. He was left with his brother Sydney and his devoutly Anglican mother, and essentially learned to fend for himself as a busker and vaudeville performer on the streets of London. In 1910, Chaplin came to America with a vaudeville troupe and by 1912 he had signed on with Mack Sennett's Keystone film studio. Chaplin created the Character of the Little Tramp while working at Keystone in 1917, he signed with First National Films for the unheard-of amount of one million dollars. In 1921, he wrote and produced his first fully realized feature film of the Little Tramp, 'The Kid', which made Chaplin the biggest international film star of all time.

Working slowly and methodically, between 1923 and 1952, he only produced eight feature films, but most of them - including 'The Gold Rush' (1925), 'City Lights' (1931) and 'Modern Times'(1936) - are still recognized as comedic masterpieces.

Chaplin planned his elaborate comedy routines in solitude for months in advance, creating for the character of the Little Tramp a persona that transcends the screen and that continues to delight audiences. His peers at that time were more interested in performance and theme and were still pioneering advances in camera work and editing.

My father's favourite Chaplin film was the Little Tramp, as a family we found it wonderful to watch. In the film Chaplin represents human dignity and ingenuity in the face of often cruel and unfair odds. In the character of the Little Tramp, audiences see the characteristics they wish to possess, and witness as well their own faults and vulnerabilities. Chaplin's characterization allows the Little Tramp to become larger than life, even as he embodies life. And what he most embodies is decency, empathy, and kindness. What was so wonderful, for Chaplin, was cinema be-

came the means by which he espoused his faith in both God and humanity.

Chaplin had many Catholic friends, and often thought about faith and religion, frequently about Catholicism. Despite how much this appealed to him he never converted. He remained deeply committed to Christianity and the ideal that 'We live by faith more than we think and achieve by it more than we realize. I believe that faith is the precursor of all our ideas ... to deny faith is to refute oneself and the spirit that generates all our creative forces.' Charlie Chaplin lived for 88 years. He left us 4 statements:

- (1) Nothing is forever in this world, not even our problems.
- (2) I love walking in the rain because no one can see my tears.

(3) The most lost day in life is the day we don't laugh.

(4) Six best doctors in the world...:

1. The sun
2. Rest
3. Exercise
4. Diet
5. Self-respect
6. Friends

Stick to them at all stages of your life and enjoy a healthy life...

If you see the moon, you will see the beauty of God...

If you see the sun, you will see the power of God...

If you see a mirror, you will see God's best creation. So, believe it.

Every blessing

Fr Chris



An East Anglian Saint

On 8th May 1980 Mother Julian of Norwich was commemorated as a saint for the first time by the Church of England and as we reach the 600th anniversary of her death it seems fitting to celebrate her wonderful insight.

Born in 1342, she lived through some terrible events: The Black Death killed both her husband and daughter, and there were famines, war with France, the persecution of the Lollards and the Peasants' Revolt. She saw appalling suffering and became very ill herself. During her illness she was granted holy visions – sixteen *shewings* - and then spent twenty years as an anchorite, or hermit, trying to interpret and understand what God had shown her. In her writing she insists that we should see God primarily as all loving: we are enfolded by His love.

'He is our clothing. In his love he wraps and holds us. He enfolds us for love and he will never let us go. I saw that he is to us everything that is good.'

From the window of her cell, she spoke to visitors, the bereft, and the bewildered, and counselled them; helping them to face the difficulties of life.

'God said not "Thou shalt not be tempested, thou shalt not be afflicted" but "Thou shalt not be overcome."

Julian's world was as marked by aggression, insecurity and change as our world is today. Her most famous words - born of intense personal suffering - *'All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well,'* are as much needed today and as true now as when she wrote them. If we can, like Julian, dwell in the knowledge of God's love then we can go on our way rejoicing.

'He showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, in the palm of my hand, and it was as round as a ball. I looked at it with my mind's eye and I thought, "What can this be?" and the answer came, "It is all that is made." I marvelled that it could last, for I thought it might have crumbled to nothing, it was so small. And the answer came into my mind, "It lasts and ever shall because God loves it" and all things have being through the love of God.

In this thing I saw three truths. The first is that God made it. The second is that God loves it. The third is that God looks after it.'

By writing or dictating what she came to understand, Saint Julian left two books of *The Revelations of Divine Love* behind when she died in her cell during the early 1420's. These are the first books known to have been written by a woman in English. Her words have comforted and inspired millions of people in the centuries that followed. In Rouen Road in Norwich, there is a reconstruction of her cell on the original site, using some of the original foundations. It is furnished as a chapel and a place of pilgrimage. Like our own churches, it provides a space where we can be still - can listen and reflect.

It is hard for me to imagine being shut in such a small room for twenty years. BUT: we all live in that small space inside our own minds. Do we, like Julian, share that space with our God? Or do we make that cell like Sartre's Huis Clos - an anxious and miserable place.

'This is the cause why we are not at rest in heart and soul: that here we seek those things that are so little there is no rest in them and we do not know our God who is all mighty, all wise and all good. No soul can have rest until it finds that created things are empty.... The best prayer is to rest in the goodness of God knowing that that goodness can reach right down to the lowest depths of need.'

Sharon Brandon



12 - 18 May 2024

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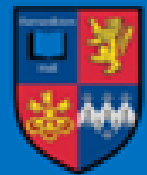


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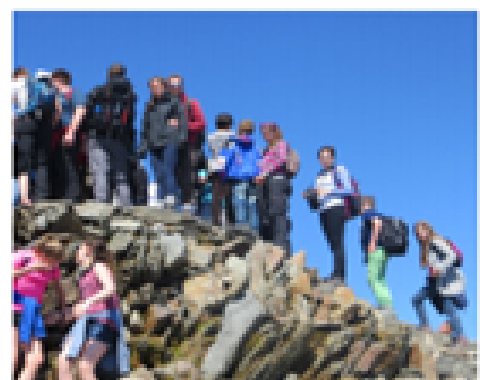
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St George's Day Quiz

- 1 Which King in 1327 declared St George the patron Saint of England?
- 2 Britain's first two decimal coins were issued on St George's day in 1968, what were their values?
- 3 In which London park would you find the Cavalry memorial, a bronze statue of George and the Dragon?
- 4 Which Shakespeare play was first performed on April 23rd 1597 in front of Queen Elizabeth I?
- 5 Near which London landmark was the original St George's hospital opened in 1733?
- 6 In which county is St George's Park, the home of the English Football Association?
- 7 Who was the first President of the Russian Federation who died on St George's Day in 2010?
- 8 Which English King was crowned on April 23rd 1661?
- 9 Who made his first appearance as Dr Who on St George's Day 2010?
- 10 What image is on The George Cross - created in 1940 by King George VI and awarded for acts of courage or heroism in extreme danger?
- 11 Which English royal residence houses the St George's Chapel?
- 12 St Georges is the capital of which Caribbean island know as 'The Spice island'?

Answers near back of Benefice News

The Completeness and Wholeness of Christ

The number seven is at the centre of God's Creation which took seven days -six days of work plus a day of rest, hence the Sabbath, the day put aside for spiritual refreshment through worshipping God, and resting our bodies and minds. The ancient Jews were reminded of this through the seven branches of the menorah used inside the temple. The oil lamps allude to the branches of human knowledge, represented by the six lamps inclined inwards towards, and symbolically guided by, the light of God represented by the central lamp. It also symbolizes the creation in seven days, with the centre lamp representing the Sabbath. The seven branched menorah is not to be confused with the nine branched menorah used outside the temple.

There are seven musical harmonics; seven phases of the moon, seven days in the week, surfers look for the seventh wave because it is the biggest; there are seven colours in a rainbow; seven diatomic elements that are fundamental to life on earth; seven deadly sins of lust, gluttony, greed, laziness, wrath, envy, and pride; seven ancient natural wonders of the world, and seven continents. There can be little doubt that seven is God's number for Creation!

In the Hebrew Bible, the word seven means wholeness and completeness, thus we see that 7×7 , which equals 49, is the greatest wholeness and completeness possible. For Jesus, his physical ministry on earth was completed in a period of 49 days which included his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension to heaven. The completion was sealed with God's gift of the Holy Spirit to his followers on the next day, the 50th day, which, not by chance, was the Jewish feast of Shavuot celebrated on the 50th day after Passover. Shavout is also known as the 'Feast of Weeks' or the 'Feast of 50 days' hence the adoption by the Christian church of the Greek name for 50th, *pentēkostē*, from which derives the name, Pentecost.

In the UK, in the days when Christians were baptised and confirmed into the Church at Pentecost it also became known as Whit Sunday or Whitsun, the name being derived from the fact the candidates being baptised

and confirmed would wear white clothes, a symbol of purity that dates from ancient Egypt and Rome. The Pope, for example, has worn white since 1566, as a symbol of purity and sacrifice. Likewise, the day Jesus ascended to heaven is sometimes known as Whit Thursday – and sometimes Holy Thursday.

Whichever way you look at the Ascension and Pentecost, their timing is clearly a very powerful message of God's purpose for his Creation revealed to us through the completeness and wholeness of Christ.

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6th April 2024

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For more information and to book tickets @ £30.

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Do You Sing? In the shower, in the garden, in the car, in church?

As we did last year, I thought it would be nice if we could offer those couples getting married in our village churches a little help with the singing, to make the day even more memorable. You don't have to be a cathedral chorister, just be able to sing. The hymns will be mostly well known – if not I am sure we can find a You Tube clip. It would mainly be Saturdays, but wouldn't be every week and would be around an hour, depending on how long Father Chris preaches for. No choir robes – just dressed smart casual (it is a wedding after all). We would need about six of us for each service and as weddings are usually booked well in advance there should be plenty of notice.

We have a few weddings booked in for the year. Would you like to volunteer? Please email me at ruthhopper@btinternet.com

Thank you



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Buddy's Blog - March 2024

Well - we had a fantastic week in Scotland over the half term! It was a long drive but me and Buddy have our own space! It's very comfortable, Mum made a bed for us to share, it's very cosy! Dad drove mostly and made sure we had enough stops to let us out for a run, drink and food!

Our new sister Milly didn't share the bed with us as mum was worried that me and Opie might squash her! She had her own small bed, and it was secured right next to mum and dad, lucky her! We were both a little bit jealous of Milly being up front.

We stayed in a lovely cottage in Scotlandand guess what..... we were next to a big beach! Yippee!!! Lots of swimming for me! And lots pf paddling for Opie, he's still not brave enough yet to swim with me! I keep trying to teach him, maybe next time! Milly loved her first time at the beach, but being so small I wouldn't let her too near the water.... big brothers worry that way! We had lots of races along the beach each day! Wow Milly is fast for a baby!

Dad said we were lucky as we had lots of sunshine while we were there. This surprised us all! Our friends in the Stourhead Benefice messaged to say it had rained all week at home!

Since we have been back from holiday it seems to rain most days! I love swimming, but I don't like getting so wet on walks, I feel like I've been cheated, getting so wet but not through swimming! Our walks seem so much shorter when it's raining, I have discovered that humans don't like getting wet in the rain either! But whatever the weather, I love walking, Dad says walking with us, especially in the morning, is his prayer time.

'He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God' Micah 6.8.

Your friend, Buddy



Ascension Day Service
All the Benefice are invited

Thursday 9th May at 8.15am

At St Peter and St Paul's Kedington
And afterwards for a sausage breakfast



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Haverhill Youth for Christ - Spring Update 2024

I am currently reading a great book by John McGinley called 'The Church of Tomorrow'. He was one of the speakers at the National Youth for Christ staff conference in January and spoke about how God seems to move about every 500 years to revive and renew his church. We are now in that expected revival and he anticipates a big move of God coming, and he also feels that this may well be led by the younger generations.

Please pray for our churches to position themselves to be ready for whatever God has in store for us, that the Holy Spirit will already be at work in preparation for this, and especially that young people will be completely open to God and to being part of her building his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Hallelujah and amen!

Thank you so much for your continued support of this work of taking the Good News relevantly to our local young people. As ever, it wouldn't happen without your peers, donations and volunteering!

Round up of other news:

Following on from the successful pilot group last term, we would like to offer Kintsugi youth wellbeing groups to schools and to run it in the community too. Chaplaincy continues weekly at Stour Valley Community School and Castle Manor Academy. I have recently met with a girl at one of the schools who has suffered with a condition since she was two years old. This can sometimes be painful and will get worse that she gets older. **Please pray** with me for her and also for several students, whose parents have split up in recent times, as they deal with the emotional and practical effects.

SPACE our 'questions of the week' remain ever popular, this week I was asked about a question about love, with most students saying that they would prioritise someone spending quality time with them as a demonstration of their love (even over being given gifts!). **Please pray** that these students will come to know that there is a living God, who loves them completely and perfectly and desires to spend quality time with them forever.

Illuminate Youth Group has been doing some sessions from Open Doors this term. This is an organisation who support persecuted Christians around the world. Our sessions are aimed at being inspired by the faith of those who risk losing their families, livelihoods and even their lives to follow Jesus.

One-to-one mentoring continues every Thursday. I am available to support other young people outside of school. Please do get in touch if you think this might be useful for a young person you know of.

New British Youth for Christ strategy. At our staff conference this year we heard more details on the focus of the work for British Youth for Christ our 'parent' organisation. They have sought God's will over the last couple of years and are feeling the call to more actively support local churches to carry out youth work. It is recognised that many churches have few or no young people in them at the moment and the national team, along with our local centres, are keen to help churches think about how they can do some youth work. However scary or impossible that might seem, it all starts with prayer!

If this is something you would like to have a conversation with me about please just let me know and we can grab a coffee. You can also link straight to the National Youth for Christ team by going to yfc.co.uk/joinus for more information.

With blessings and much love,

Sarah Glasswell

Senior Youth Worker

Email: info@haverhill.yfc.co.uk Phone 07375 240766

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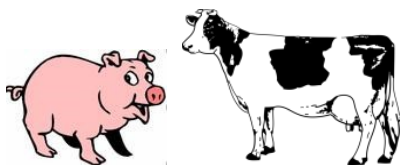
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You are cordially invited to a Garden Party

This year's annual Benefice Garden Party will be hosted by Simon and Patricia Corbett

**at Great Wratting Hall from 5 - 8pm
on Saturday 25th May**

Parking available in the farm entrance.

This year we will be treated to a free BBQ and bar.

For catering purposes, please let Ruth (ruthhopper@btinternet.com) or Jill (jill@gourmet-knights.co.uk) know if you would like to join us. Please highlight any dietary or access requirements.



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Fiona's career includes stellar performances at The Royal National Theatre, The Royal Shakespeare Company, in the West End and on TV, including the eminent series 'Widows', as well as on radio and a number of music recordings.

Come and join us for this encouraging and delightful event.

Tickets can be purchased from the Haverhill Arts Centre website.

All proceeds will go to REACH Community Projects.

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Points to ponder

- All the world's a stage and I sometimes feel as though I missed the final rehearsal.
- At 20, we worry about what others think of us. At 40, we don't care what they think of us. At 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all. (*Ann Landers*)
- Don't regret growing older because it is a privilege denied to many.
- Funny how some old people get nostalgic about things they weren't keen on first time round.
- God grant me the facility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

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Events Diary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Saturday 6th April	6.30pm for 7pm	A music event by 'The Emergers' at Hall Farm Barn Great Thurlow. See advert in BN. Supper served in interval. For tickets £30 contact mollyhawkins10@aol.com
Monday 6th May		Duck Race at Kedington - more details to follow
Thurs 9th May	8.15am	Ascension Day service at Kedington Church followed by breakfast. All welcome.
Saturday 25th May	5 - 8pm	Benefice Garden Party. Free BBQ and bar at Great Wrating Hall. Please let Ruth (ruthhopper@btinternet.com) or Jill (jill@gourmet-knights.co.uk) if you would like to attend for catering purposes.
Saturday 1st June	1pm	Great Wrating Fete at Hall farm. More details to follow.
Friday 28th June	From 6pm	Little Thurlow Garden Party. More details to follow.
Sunday 30th June	2pm	Great Bradley Fete at Great Bradley Hall. More details to follow.
Tuesdays	10am -12 noon	'Dolce Gusto' Coffee morning at St Peter & St Paul's Kedington
Thursdays	2 - 4 pm	Centre café at Kedington Community Centre

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Gospel Readings during April

7	2nd Sunday of Easter	John	20: 19 - end
14	3rd Sunday of Easter	Luke	24: 36 - 48
21	4th Sunday of Easter	John	10: 11 - 18
28	5th Sunday of Easter	John	15: 1 - 8

Gospel Readings during May

5	6th Sunday of Easter	John	15: 9 - 17
12	7th Sunday of Easter Sunday	John	17: 6 - 19
19	Pentecost	John	15: 26,27 and 16: 4 - 15
26	Trinity Sunday	John	3: 1 - 17

St Peter & St Paul's Kedington PCC AGM

**Will be held on
Tuesday 16th April
at 6.30pm in the Church**

All Welcome



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Are you in need of some daily
hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone
line for you to ring to hear
comforting hymns, daily prayers
and reflections.

0800 804 8044

Youth and Age

From: More Doggerel Days by Jane Gascoine

Give me green fields
And green hills
And sheep and cattle and trees.
Give me running brooks
And homing rooks
And bells on the evening breeze.
And sunny lawns
And bright new dawns
And gentle rain on my face.
And heavenly choirs
And dreaming spires
And I'll know I have found my place.

Autumn inspires
Cosy fires
And a need to stay close to home.
The song of the birds
Are comforting words
To those unable to roam.
Music and dance,
Books and romance,
Pets and laughter and space.
Friendship and love
And heavens above,
I'll know that I've found my place.

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Evening Prayer on Mondays

Monday Evening Prayer is at Kedington Church at 5pm.
If you would like to join us, please speak to Fr Chris or
one of the Ministry Team.

Churches in the Benefice open for Private Prayer:

St Mary the Virgin, Great Bradley is always open for private prayer.

St Peter's Little Thurlow is open daily usually at 9am and closes about 5 or 6pm.

St Peter and St Paul's, Kedington will be open daily between 9am and 4pm.

Quiz answers

1 Edward III, 2 5p and 10p, 3 Hyde Park, 4 The merry Wives of Windsor, 5 Hyde Park Corner, 6 Staffordshire, 7 Boris Yeltsin, 8 Charles II, 9 Matt Smith, 10 St George vanquishing the dragon, 11 Windsor, 12 Grenada

Home Communion – Pastoral Care

The Blessed Sacrament is perpetually reserved for the Communion of the housebound, the sick and dying. Please inform Fr Chris, or a member of the Ministry Team, of parishioners who are sick or in hospital, and of those who are in need of pastoral care.

Funeral: The funeral of the late Duncan Hopper was held on 1st February at Cambridge Crematorium. The funeral of the late Brian Eades took place at St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington on 28th February. The funeral of the late Peter Potter (Geoff) was held on 2nd March at St Mary the Virgin's Church Great Bradley. The funeral of the late Marian Pyke was held at St Peter's Church Little Thurlow on 10th March.

'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'

Thinking of a christening or a wedding in church? Please take a look at our Benefice website where there is useful information about both baptisms and weddings.

Holy Communion

Sharing of the common cup is now permitted. However, if you do not want to receive from the Chalice, please say 'intinct' as the Priest approaches you and they will intinct the wafer in Consecrated wine from a separate Chalice. Good hygiene practises are maintained at Holy Communion.

Gluten-free Communion wafers are available - please ask when you come up to the altar rail.

SERVICE ROTA

April 2024

Sun	7	10:00	Little Bradley	Holy Communion
		10:00	Kedington	No service this week as Easter Services have been at Kedington
Sun	14	8:00	Kedington	Said Holy Communion
		10:00	Great Thurlow	Holy Communion
Sun	21	10:00	Little Thurlow	Holy Communion
		10:00	Great Wratting	Family Service
Sun	28	10:00	Great Bradley	Holy Communion
		18:00	Kedington	Evensong

May 2024

Sun	5	10:00	Kedington	Holy Communion
Thur	9	8:15	Kedington	Ascension day followed by breakfast
Sun	12	8:00	Kedington	Said Holy Communion
		10:00	Great Thurlow	Holy Communion
Sun	19	10:00	Great Wratting	Holy Communion - Pentecost
		10:00	Little Thurlow	Family Service - Pentecost
Sun	26	10:00	Great Bradley	Holy Communion - Trinity Sunday - visit of Bishop Martin
		18:00	Kedington	Evensong

June 2024

Sun	2	10:00	Little Bradley	Holy Communion
		10:00	Kedington	Family Service

Mid-week Eucharist at Kedington on Wednesdays at 10am