
Your monthly update from Earley St Peter's church: March 2026

1 message

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27 February 2026 at 08:10



Your Monthly Update from Earley St Peter's – March 2026



Thought for the month *from The Rev Kate Wakeman-Toogood*

Instead of my usual style of reflection, I thought it would be a good opportunity to update people about some aspects of parish life that people might be less familiar with. One thing that I am keen to tell people about is Messy Church which began at the start of this year after much planning throughout 2025. The structure of Messy Church is a time of craft activities, followed by an act of worship with singing and a story (called 'celebration time') and concluding with a meal together.

The first session in January was about the life and legacy of Saint Peter, and February's theme was 'God's love'. Starting anything new in a parish

always feels me with a combination of excitement and apprehension, and Messy Church was no different. *Will people come? Will they enjoy it? Will the volunteers come back next month?!*

I am delighted to write that Messy Church at Earley St Peter's got off to a great start with an enthusiastic team of leaders, including seven young leaders from our Inspiration or Questions & Cake groups. One volunteer commented how lovely it was to see children and young leaders singing and doing actions together. Below are just a few photographs, including a 'frame of hearts' where each attendee adds their name to show our Messy Church community growing.



The other specific part of church life that I want to mention is the cleaning team, both our regular church cleaners and also those who joined them in February for our larger 'spring clean'. I am so grateful for their hard work and commitment, doing a role that is often in the background but one that benefits so many people.

Of course, these are just two of many the groups and services in our parish, and I would have to write a book in order to thank everyone individually! However, as our APCM approaches, different church groups are writing short annual reports which Diana, our PCC secretary, will put together and this final report will give a fantastic overview of the range of ways that people are involved in the life of our church. When the report is sent to us in May, I want to encourage all of us to read it thoroughly, and, as we do, to thank God for all the people who make up the Body of Christ at Earley St Peter's.

Services and Events in March

(the information below is also available via My ChurchSuite and our web site)

We meet every weekday morning at 8.45am (Fridays at 8.30am) in the church for Morning Prayer. All welcome.

Sunday 1 March	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Bread and Wine
	6.30pm	Evening Worship Questions & Cake
Monday 2 March	9am	Church open
	2pm	Sunshine Social
Tuesday 3 March	9am	Drop-in morning
	11am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Lent Course
Wednesday 4 March	9am	Church open
	10.15am	Tots & Teddies

Saturday 7 March	10am-3pm	Church open
Sunday 8 March	10am	Parish Communion Children's Church Inspiration Group
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong for International Women's Day with Song School
Tuesday 10 March	9am	Church open
	11am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Lent Course
Wednesday 11 March	9am	Church open
	10.15am	Tots & Teddies
Thursday 12 March	10am	Thursday@10: Coffee and Chat
Friday 13 March	9.30am	Church cleaning
Saturday 14 March	10am-3pm	Church open

Sunday 15 March	10am	Parish Communion Children's Church Inspiration Group
	6.30pm	Reflective Communion Questions & Cake
Tuesday 17 March	11am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Lent Course
Wednesday 18 March	10.15am	Tots & Teddies
Friday 20 March	2pm	Lent and Easter craft afternoon: see below
Saturday 21 March	10am- 3pm	Church open
	2pm	First Aid training: open to all
Sunday 22 March	10am	Parish Communion Children's Church
	4pm	Messy Church
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
Monday 23 March	9am	Church open

Tuesday 24 March	9am	Church open
	11am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Lent Course
Wednesday 25 March	9am	Church open
	10.15am	Tots & Teddies
Thursday 26 March	10am	Thursday@10: Emma Evans - Botswana Safari
Saturday 28 March	10am- 3pm	Church open
Sunday 29 March	10am	Parish Communion for Palm Sunday with Song School Children's Church
	6.30pm	Compline
Monday 30 March	9am	Church open
	7.30pm	Holy Communion for Holy Week
Tuesday 31 March	9am	Church open
	11am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Reflective service/Lent Course

A message to the congregation from David Price: Thank you all so much for your lovely messages and good wishes, and for your amazing generosity following my retirement from the organ bench. One of my passions is English Cathedrals and your gifts will help me to visit more of those still on my wish list.

In many ways, the last 25 years have flown by, and it seems little more than yesterday that I was initially asked to play for a single service and somehow stayed on! I have had the very good fortune to work with extremely talented colleagues in the choir, a very supportive ministerial team, and with wonderful inspiration from the congregation. It has been an absolute joy, and your help and friendship has sustained me throughout. Thank you!

Art installation for Pentecost: Kajsa is preparing an art installation for Pentecost. As part of that, she is interested in learning the translation of the word Ruah/Ruach (Hebrew) or pneuma (Greek) in languages spoken by members of our congregation. If English isn't your first language, please would you tell us what the word used for Spirit is in your language? If you do not use the Latin alphabet, please send the word written in your alphabet or writing system. As different translations exist, please would you refer to the word as translated either in Joel 2.28 or Acts 2.4. We are collecting the words via [this ChurchSuite form](#).

Lent and Easter craft afternoon, 20 March, 2pm: This is a one-off session for adults to have some fun and get creative with a range of craft activities. There will also be refreshments.

Booking isn't necessary so you can spontaneously drop in on the day, but if you are definitely coming, please [sign up here](#) or let Kate know so she can plan for resources.

First Aid training, 21 March, 2pm: We invite everybody to attend this free training session, which is part of this year's *Life in all its Fullness* programme. [Please sign up here](#).

Electoral Roll: The Electoral Roll will be revised by the PCC beginning on 16 April. Please check the list in the black folder at the back of the church to ensure that you are on the Roll and that your address is

correct. If you are not on the Roll, but wish to be, application forms are in the same folder. Completed forms should be returned to this folder. Alternatively, you can [complete an online form here](#). No applications to be on the Roll will be accepted between 16 April and the APCM on 10 May. The only exception is that a person whose 16th birthday falls in this period may apply and will then be enrolled on their birthday. A notice of eligibility will be displayed on the board in the lobby. The revised Electoral Roll will be displayed in church from 22 April until the APCM.

Song School trip: On Sunday 1 February our Song School went on a

field trip to Oxford, funded by our Cathedral Music Trust grant. After a good meal in Pizza Express, they attended Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral, sung by the Cathedral girls choir. The Evensong included a procession with candles to



mark Candlemas. The Song School are looking forward to returning to Christ Church with the adult choir in August for the choir's annual cathedral residency weekend. Thanks to the staff and adults who accompanied them.

REinspired: our church and hall will be hosting REinspired for five Christian education sessions this month. We think this could be a record number for one month! We will be welcoming children from Earley St Peter's and Aldryngton schools, along with volunteers from a range of local churches. Please pray for this important ministry, which works to support and enrich religious education at primary and secondary level.



Pastoral support: Our pastoral team will be happy to hear if you, or anybody you know, would welcome a phone call or visit. Please contact the parish of office (0118 966 8575) or Mary Brooke (0118 926 2153)

Woodley Food Bank donations: Thank you for all your support to our local food bank with donations of tins, cartons, dried goods with a long

shelf life and also the ever important personal hygiene items. Please donate if you are able in the box at the back of the church. Our continued support is still very much needed. *Anne and Ken Richardson*



More information here: www.woodleyfoodbank.org

Life in all its fullness

There are exciting social, training and study events coming this year. We look forward to welcoming everyone. Check the dates below and sign up, either via My ChurchSuite or by contacting the parish office. More dates are likely to be added, so [check the church calendar](#) and newsletters for latest information.

20 March: Social - Lent and Easter craft afternoon

21 March: Training - First Aid

25 April: Social - Quiz Evening

2 May: Training - Fire Awareness

9 May: Social - Auction of Promises

20 June: Training - Deaf Awareness

20 September: Social - MacMillan Coffee Morning

7 November: Training - Neurodiversity Awareness

28 November: Study - Gospel of Mark

11 December: Social - Christmas Fair

Dates for your diary

Holy Week/Easter services:

Wednesday 1 April - 8.45am: Holy Communion

- 7.30pm: Stations of the Cross

Thursday 2 April, 7.30pm: Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday with Song School, followed by Vigil

Friday 3 April - 10.45am: Good Friday activities

- 12pm: All-age service

- 2pm: Last Hour

Saturday 4 April, 7.30pm: Easter Vigil

Sunday 5 April - 8am: Holy Communion

- 10am: Festal Communion for Easter with Song School

- 6.30pm: Festal Evensong

11 April, 4pm: Concert by the Harry Ensemble featuring Faure's Requiem, motets by Tallis, and music by Bruckner and Gjeilo. Conducted by Ben de Souza, organist George Wood. No tickets, but donations to the church gratefully received.

6 June, 7pm: Concert by Erleigh Cantors in aid of Earley St Peter's and Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service.

Earley St Peter's



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