

The Stourhead Benefice

Pew Sheet 22 March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

A warm welcome to all visitors to church on this day

Today's Services:

10am Sung Eucharist St Mary the Virgin Great Bradley

6pm Evensong St Peter and St Paul's Kedington

Services this week:

Evening Prayer Monday 5pm St Peter and St Paul's Kedington

Said Eucharist Wednesday 10am St Peter and St Paul's Kedington

Services next Sunday - Palm Sunday

10am Sung Eucharist St Mary's Little Wrattling

4pm Songs of Praise at All Saints Barnardiston

Ministry Team:

Fr Chris Giles 01440 762901

Jill Davis 01440 713137

Ruth Hopper 01440 783125

Peter Smith 01440 783278

Mary Upton 01440 706237

Collect: Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First reading Ezekial 37 v 1 - 14

Second reading Romans 8 v 6 - 11

Gospel reading John 11 v 1 - 45

Hear The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord

A man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

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After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better. "Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you O Christ

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Post Communion prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

Evensong Readings:

Psalm 30, Lamentations 3 v19 - 33, Matthew 20 v 17 - end

Home Communions - 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. **The Sacrament of Reconciliation** by arrangement with the Rector.

Prayer List

Our prayers are asked particularly for:

Terry Chittock – Jacob and his family – Leo and Val Farthing – Paul Allard – Steve Watts
Iris Eley – Frank Underwood – Orla – Peter Phillips – Stephen Giles – Hannah Carpenter
Caroline Sharples – Charlotte Brown – King Charles

We also pray for others. Those who have asked to be remembered in our prayers in church and at home.

We pray for those that have recently died and whose loss we mourn:

Patricia Boddington – Bryan Chambers – Sam Sheppard – Chris Turner – Keith Simpkin
Rev Bob Torrens

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord

All And let light perpetual shine upon them

May they rest in peace

All And rise in glory

An invitation: If you wish to receive communion, please come forward when guided by the stewards. Members of other churches who usually receive communion are welcome to do so here. Those not wishing to receive communion are welcome to come for a blessing; it is helpful if you indicate this by bringing your service booklet with you. If you find it difficult to come to the altar rail, please tell this to the steward on duty, so communion may be brought to you in your seat.

Gluten free Communion wafers are available – please ask when you come up to the altar rail. If you do not wish 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.

Notices

Candles for Ukraine. Do you have any candles that could bring light and heat to Ukraine? Used, new, stubs, tealights, bits of wax. Collection point **until 28 April 2026** – St Peter and St Paul's Church, Kedington. Organised by Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership. For any questions about the collection, call Emily 07988 195800

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Forthcoming events: Please send me details of events you wish to publicise by email or phone, and I will do my best to include it (subject to space).

Fr Chris Giles – stourheadbenefice@gmail.com 01440 762901

Church Coffee Morning “Dolce Gusto” 10am until 12 noon every Tuesday at St Peter and St Paul’s Church in Kedington.

Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday 2 April 7pm at St Mary’s Great Wrating. Sung Eucharist – remembering Jesus’ Last Supper

Good Friday 3 April 2pm at All Saints Barnardiston. A quiet hour before the cross of Jesus.

Stations of the Cross for Children Saturday 4 April from 10.30am. Hear the Easter Story with Fr Chris, craft activity and egg hunt. Refreshments available.

Easter Vigil Saturday 4 April 8pm St Peter and St Paul Kedington. The first celebration of Easter. This ancient, joy-filled service marks the transition from darkness to light.

Easter Sunday 5 April Sung Eucharist 10am All Saints Little Bradley

Friday 24 April 2026 Bingo! in aid of St Peter and St Paul’s Church, Kedington. Kedington Royal British Legion Hall. £10 for six games plus a flyer. Over 18’s only please. Doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tea and coffee on sale and a raffle. To book, please call Marion 07833 431184

Monday 4 May Kedington Duck Race

Friday and Saturday 8 and 9 May, Contemporary Art Exhibition at St Mary the Virgin Great Bradley. Private viewing on Friday tickets £10 available from karl@linton59.co.uk Open day on Saturday, free entry. 10% of art sales and all ticket sales to Friends of Gt Bradley Church.

Saturday 16 May Benefice Garden Party at Little Thurlow Hall. 5pm until 8pm BBQ and bar. Free event for all in our communities. Please e-mail Amy if you wish to attend pa@thfamily.co.uk giving any dietary requirements.

Saturday 6 June Great Wrating Fete 2pm.

Safeguarding – Safeguarding is about caring for one another and our community. As Christians, this is something we all need to do. If you would like any training or have any questions; please contact Fr Chris or another member of the Ministry team. Benefice Safeguarding Officers are Naomi Shelmerdine and Ruth Hopper. Contact phone number 07405 624132

The Stourhead Benefice News is produced every other month. Hard copies are printed by the Barnardiston School. It is also available on the Stourhead Benefice page of “**A Church Near You**”:
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/1948/news/notice-sheet/grid/>

