

**Pew Sheet
8 March 2026**

Third Sunday of Lent

A warm welcome to all visitors to church on this day

Today's Services:

8am Said Eucharist St Peter and St Paul Kedington

10am Sung Eucharist All Saints Great Thurlow

3pm Lent Course "In the Dust of Jesus" 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 – Mothering Sunday

10am Sung Eucharist St Peter's Little Thurlow

10am Family Service St Mary's Great Wrating

Ministry Team:

Fr Chris Giles 01440 762901

Jill Davis 01440 713137

Ruth Hopper 01440 783125

Peter Smith 01440 783278

Mary Upton 01440 706237

Collect: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 Exodus 17 v 1 - 7

Second reading Romans 5 v 1 - 11

Gospel reading John 4 v 5 - 42

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Hear The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do

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the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you O Christ

Post Communion prayer: Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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 – Rev Bob Torrens
Paul Allard – Steve Watts – Iris Eley – Frank Underwood – Orla – Peter Phillips
Stephen Giles – Hannah Carpenter – Caroline Sharples – Judith Jesky
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

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

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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

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.

Lent Course “In the Dust of Jesus”. Sunday 8 March. In St Peter and St Paul’s Church, Kedington. 3pm until 4pm. All are welcome to join this informal discussion group as we study the Bible together over tea or coffee. Each session stands alone.

Lent Lunch 12 noon Friday 20 March St Peter and St Paul’s Church, Kedington. A simple lunch of bread and soup. No charge – charity donations invited.

Date for your diary – **Saturday 16 May 2026 Benefice Garden Party at Little Thurlow Hall.** More information to follow.

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/>

