

HOLY TRINITY SOUTH CHATHAM

Parish Newsletter - Issue No. 98

50th

April 2026

St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill, St David's, Lordswood,
and St William's, Walderslade



Easter, Spring... and the Quiet Miracle in nature

Every year Easter arrives with a sense of familiarity: the hymns we know by heart, the flowers arranged around the altar, and the joyful proclamation that Christ is risen. Yet Easter is never simply a repetition. Like spring itself, it returns with something new each time, a reminder that renewal is not a one-off event but a living promise. In these weeks the world around us begins to change almost overnight. Trees that looked bare and lifeless in February suddenly show tiny green buds. Gardens fill with daffodils and crocuses. Birds are busier and louder in the mornings, as if they too are celebrating the lengthening days. Creation itself seems to echo the message of Easter: life is stronger than death, and hope quietly pushes through even the coldest soil.

The Christian story of Easter tells us something profound about this rhythm. The resurrection does not erase the sorrow of Good Friday; instead it transforms it. What seemed like an ending becomes a beginning. This truth has comforted generations of believers facing their own winters of worry, grief, or uncertainty. Easter reminds us that God's work is often hidden at first, like a seed beneath the ground, but life is growing there all the same.



LOVE ♦ ACT ♦ SUSTAIN

'turning the holy ordinary and the ordinary holy'

And now for something a little unusual.

If you spend a few moments in a garden this spring, you may notice something easily overlooked: moss. It spreads softly over old stones, quietly turning grey surfaces into cushions of green. Moss has no dramatic flowers, no bright colours, and no grand display. Yet it thrives in the smallest spaces and in the quietest corners. In a curious way, moss is a small parable of Easter. It grows slowly, patiently, and almost invisibly. Where stone seems hard and lifeless, moss gently brings colour and softness back. It reminds us that renewal does not always arrive with trumpets and fanfare. Sometimes it comes quietly, steadily, and faithfully.

The resurrection of Christ is the greatest renewal of all, the promise that God's life will ultimately overcome every place of darkness or despair. Yet we often glimpse that promise in small things: a new leaf, a bird's song, a green patch of moss on an ancient stone.

So, this Easter, perhaps take a moment to notice the quiet miracles of spring. In gardens, in our landscape, and in our own lives, new life is appearing, sometimes in the most unexpected places.

Christ is risen, and the world is waking up.

Rev. Ann Ruby
Team Curate

Worship in April 2026

Wednesday 1 April

10am **Holy Communion** in the Chapel at St William's

Monday 30 March - 1 April — Holy Week

7.30pm **Night Prayer** Live-streamed on Facebook

Maundy Thursday — 2 April

7.30pm **Holy Communion** at St David's

Good Friday — 3 April

10.10am **Walk of Witness** from St David's to St William's

11am **Joint Service** with Christ the King and Pip & Jims'

2pm **An Hour at the Cross** at St David's

Sunday 5 April (Easter Sunday)

6am **Sunrise Service** at the View Point, Blue Bell Hill followed by breakfast at St Alban's

10am **Holy Communion** at St William's, Walderslade

Sunday 12 April (Easter 2)

10am **Morning Worship** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

Sunday 19 April (Easter 3)

10am *Family Vibes & Morning Worship* at St David's

Sunday 26 April (Easter 4)

10am **Morning Worship** at St William's, Walderslade



On the Social side

Coffee & Cake at St David's on the second Friday of each month between 10.30am and 12pm. *Hot drinks, cold drinks, lots of cake and good company!* Next dates: **10 April & 8 May**

Tea at Three usually takes place at St William's on the third Monday of each month at 3pm. Unfortunately, the event is postponed in April. Tea at Three will return on **Monday 18 May**.

Holy Communion (or Morning Worship!) & Coffee Morning at St Alban's on the third Wednesday of each month. Next dates: **15 April & 20 May** (*worship at 10am, refreshments from 10.30am*).

Cornerstone Coffeeshop at St William's in Walderslade Village is open most days throughout the week; **Monday - Friday** 10am - 2pm and **Saturdays** from 9am.

People of the Parish

The People of the Parish feature returns this month with a piece on Carole Anne Bunn, one of our regulars at St Alban's

Age 84

Married to Reg for 64 years

Born in All Saints Hospital

What is your church background?

I lived on Wayfield and went to Pip & Jim's when it was on Wayfield. Then I went to Christ Church, Luton with my friend and we were confirmed in the Cathedral. Later I went to St Stephen's and met Pam and Ozzy Maton. I really enjoyed Bible studies at their house. I did flower arranging at church. They started at St Alban's and I went too. I still enjoy our services, especially the Holy Communion on Wednesdays.

What are your hobbies?

Taking photographs. The loft is full of them but I can't get up there. I have thousands, and slides too! I enjoy social afternoons in the Blue Bell Hill Village Hall once a month on a Monday.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to work in an office and I ended up working as a shorthand typist at County Hall at Springfield.



Do you have any childhood memories?

We often went to Cliftonville on holiday and sometimes we went on a train to Sheringham where my father came from to stay with his parents. He taught me to swim in the sea and I still love swimming.

What is your favourite holiday destination?

Sharm el Sheik. We used to go a lot after going on a cruise on the Nile for the history. We went snorkelling: the water was so warm and clear and the fish were beautiful.

When are you closest to God?

When I am quiet and still, usually at night.

Do you have a favourite hymn?

‘Will you come and follow me if but call your name?’ [The Summons]

What is your favourite film?

I am not a cinema lover but I did enjoy the Downton Abbey film. I also like live theatre. I like *Les Miserables*.

What do you watch on TV?

Quizzes, cooking and travel programmes.

Favourite food?

Roast dinners and Italian food.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

I have had two new shoulders!

My greatest joy is seeing my grandchildren grow up.

In our prayers

We remember before God:

- our world; wherever there is injustice, suffering and pain; especially for the situation in the Middle East with the war between Iran, U.S., Israel and allies
- His Majesty King Charles III and the Royal Family
- UK Government, Ministers of Parliament and Local Councillors
- the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev. Dame Sarah Mullally
- Rochester Diocese, our Bishops, and the parishes of this Deanery
- the Methodist Southeast District, the churches of the North Kent Methodist Circuit
- those awaiting or receiving medical treatment and those adjusting to new surroundings in residential accommodation or a nursing home
- for couples preparing for their wedding day and future life together
- those preparing for baptism and confirmation
- the family of Ronnie Waters, Avril Tallett and all those who have lost loved ones recently.

Dates: April 2026

Chrism Eucharist at Rochester Cathedral on Maundy Thursday (2 April)
from 11am

Midweek Communion at Woodlands Court on Monday 6 April at 6.30pm

Electoral Roll Revision begins on Sunday 12 April

Woodlands Study Group (Residents only) at Woodlands Court on
Mondays 13 & 27 April at 11am

Bible Study Group (for everyone) in the Chapel at St David's on Mondays
13 & 27 April at 2.30pm

Reading & Praying during Easter

Easter Day - 5 April

*Isaiah 49.1-13,
Psalm 118.1-11,
Hebrews 11.1-2, 23-24, 28-39
& Matthew 28.1-10 or
John 20.1-10 (11-18)*

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of
death and hell:
fill your Church with faith
and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
through Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.



Easter 2 - 12 April

*Acts 1.3-5, 12-14 or
Deuteronomy 5.1-10,
Psalm 41.1-4, 12-13,
Romans 7.1-23 &
John 20.19—end*

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked,
no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice
and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.
Amen.

Easter 3 - 19 April

*Acts 1.6-8 or
Deuteronomy 5.11-12,
Psalm 78.1-7,
Romans 13.8-10 &
Matthew 22.23-33*

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with
boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your
risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Easter 4 - 26 April

*Acts 22.22-24 or
Deuteronomy 18.15-22,
Psalm 9.9-14
2 Corinthians 4.7-12 &
Luke 7.18-23*

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your
Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice and
to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered
into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Keeping in contact

More information about the Parish is available via weekly emails which you can sign-up to receive from our website, achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham, or by using the QR code below. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Team Rector: Rev. David Kichenside 01634 862265 david.kichenside@gmail.com
(Rest Day: Saturday)

Team Curate: Rev. Ann Ruby 07565 402121 reverendann@hotmail.com
(Parish Days: Wednesdays and Sundays)

Church Wardens	Pat Long Bary Horwell	01634 309180 01634 308552
Pro-Warden & Gift Aid Officer	Pauline Bowdery	01634 669215
Church Steward	Sylvia Wigglesworth	01634 683789
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mark Salter	07719 183940
Prayer Co-ordinator	Mary Horwell maryhorwell@blueyonder.co.uk	01634 308552
Church Bookings	Jean Small	01634 315106

www.achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham
@southchatham on Facebook and @htscuk on Instagram



HOLY TRINITY SOUTH CHATHAM

One church of St Alban, St David and St William serving Blue Bell Hill, Lords Wood and Walderslade.
A partnership between the Church of England and the Methodist Church

Registered Charity No. 1135416

