

Pew Sheet
29 March 2026

Palm Sunday

A warm welcome to all visitors to church on this day

Today's Services:

10am Sung Eucharist St Mary's Little Wrattling
4pm Songs of Praise at All Saints Barnardiston

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

Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday 2 April 7pm at St Mary's Great Wrattling. 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

Ministry Team:

Fr Chris Giles	01440 762901
Jill Davis	01440 713137
Ruth Hopper	01440 783125
Peter Smith	01440 783278
Mary Upton	01440 706237

The Stourhead Benefice

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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 Isaiah 50 v 4 - 9
Second reading Philippians 2 v 5 - 11
Gospel reading Matthew 27 v 11 - 54

Hear The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you O Lord

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time, they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the

The Stourhead Benefice

tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!

This is the Passion of the Lord.

All Praise to you O Christ

Post Communion prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

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. **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 Jackson – 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:

Bryan Chambers – Rev Bob Torrens – Chris Turner – Keith Simpkin

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

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.

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@lthfamily.co.uk giving any dietary requirements.

Saturday 6 June Great Wrattling 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/>

