

Services, Events, News, Information

(including the services for Holy Week and Easter)

Monday 23rd March

1.30 pm – Braintree Singing Club in the church hall
ABBA Magic – come and sing along to ABBA hits, led by David Wood
£5, including home-made refreshments. Proceeds to church funds.

Wednesday 25th March

7 pm – Lent Course, at the Vicarage

Thursday 26th March

9.30 am – Holy Communion *Short said service*

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

8 am - Holy Communion – *Book of Common Prayer, said service*

9.30 am – Sung Communion starting with the Procession of Palms from the church hall

Maundy Thursday - 2nd April

9.30 am – Holy Communion *Short said service*

7.30 pm - Sung Communion, with the Stripping of the Altar and Sanctuary, followed by the Watch of Prayer until 10 pm

Good Friday - 3rd April

10 am - Braintree Area Churches Together United Service at RCCG (East Street)

1.30 pm - Liturgy of Good Friday, Proclamation of the Cross and Communion

Easter Day - Sunday 5th April

8 am: Holy Communion – *Book of Common Prayer*

9.30 am - Family Communion with the Lighting of the Easter Candle and the Renewal of our Baptismal Vows. Don't forget to bring your bells!

Bible Study

Bible Study for 2026 will resume on **Thursday 9th April** at 377 Cressing Road, at 7pm, followed by **23rd April** at the Vicarage, also at 7pm. It will then continue twice monthly at 7pm on the 2nd Thursday (at 377 Cressing Road) and the 4th Thursday (at the Vicarage) each month.

Raffle

The Events Committee are holding a Raffle for a New Homemade Quilt which has been donated to us by the Quilting Group who meet in the Church Hall. Tickets will be £1.00 each and the Raffle will be drawn on **Sunday 12th April** after the service.

Items for next week's **Parish News** should be with the editor, David Wood, by 9.00 pm on **Wednesday** please. Contact: 01376 327606, davidwoodsings@gmail.com

St. Peter's Parish Church Bocking

www.stpeters-bocking.net

Vicar: The Revd. Richard Chand. Phone: 01376 322279

e-mail: fr.richard@stpeters-bocking.net

Parish News

Sunday 22nd March 2026

The Fifth Sunday of Lent: Passiontide Begins

8 am Holy Communion *Book of Common Prayer, said service*

9.30 am Sung Communion led by Fr Richard

6.00 pm Sung Evensong

Welcome to our St. Peter's parish newsletter!

In it you will find details of our upcoming services, events and things that are happening within our church community.

9.30 am Sung Communion

Please follow the service in the yellow Service Books. The hymns are in the blue book. LARGE PRINT copies of the Service Book and the hymns are available. Before the service, we observe a few moments' silence as we prepare ourselves for worship. The bell is then rung, and the service begins. The sermon slot this week is 'Parish Giving Introduction Talk' by Lesley and Anne.

Opening Hymn: 363 Lift high the cross (vs. 1, 8-12)

The Collect: See below

First Bible Reading: Ezekiel 37.1-14 *See overleaf*

Second Bible Reading: Romans 8.6-11 *See overleaf*

Hymn before the Gospel: 624 Rock of ages, cleft for me

Gospel Reading: John 11.1-45 *See overleaf for v. 30-45*

Offertory Hymn: 339 Just as I am

Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer for Lent: *See overleaf*

Choir Anthem: Wondrous Cross (Philip Wilby)

Post Communion Prayer: *See overleaf*

Closing Hymn: 113 Christ triumphant

6 pm Sung (Congregational) Evensong (green booklet/green hymn book): *at this service, the congregation are invited to join in the singing of the Responses, Psalm, Evening Canticles and hymns.*

Introit: Lord, for thy tender mercies sake (Richard Farrant); **Responses:** Ferial

Readings: Lamentations 3.19-33; Matthew 20.17-34

Psalm: 30 (Chants: W Hayes)

Office Hymn: 85 Jesu, meek and lowly

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis: Chants: J. Turle and H. Baker

Anthem: O saviour of the world (John Goss)

Closing Hymn: 79 The royal banners forward go

The 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**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (final section only)

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So 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?' Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you

always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and *singing: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...*

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**

We are very grateful to all who support St. Peter's financially as we continue to serve our community – **THANKYOU!**



If you would like to make an online donation you can do so by using the adjacent **QR code** or the following link -

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/336ef168-8791-4572-8244-59305959e3dc>

Alternatively, you can make a one off payment or set up a standing order by using these account details:

Sort Code: 30-91-14
A/C No. 00991224
A/C Name: St Peter's Church Bocking

Or, you can donate in the traditional way by putting cash into our collection plate at the back of the church. If you put your donation into a yellow donation envelope, tax payers will be able to Gift Aid their donation.

We are now also using our card reader at the 9.30am service.

Whichever way you choose to give to St. Peter's, your gift is much appreciated

PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH AT ST PETER'S – SAFEGUARDING IN YOUR PARISH

Your Parish Safeguarding Representative: Mrs Anne Tee, 01376 341076

IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN RELATING TO THE CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH SAFEGUARDING REP. at psr@stpeters-bocking.net The Diocesan Safeguarding Team can also be contacted, and their email/phone contact details are:

safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org 01245 29 44 44.

ST PETER'S CHURCH PHOTOGRAPHY / FILMING / LIVE STREAMING POLICY:

Only designated persons authorised by the PCC are allowed to take photographs or film/ stream on behalf of the parish during our services and events. Rebecca Chand, Rachel Hope and Paula Stone are the designated photographers for the parish. Photographs/footage containing children will only be taken with written permission from parents/legal guardians (see Appendix 1 Consent Form with our full Electronic /Media /Photography and Safer Working policies on our website at <https://stpeters-bocking.net/html/wordpress/> on our Safeguarding tab).

Other photographs taken of adults in services and events will have an expressed announcement that will be taken only with their permission by the Parish authorised person/s. The full PCC approved policies are on our Church website and on the noticeboards in the church and the church hall.