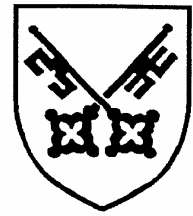


St Peter's Church Magazine



April 2026 issue ❖ 75p (£7 subscription for one year)
St Peter's Church, Newlands Avenue, Didcot ❖ www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk
Like us on Facebook.

We are an Easter People, and Alleluia is our song!



On the 18th February, Ash Wednesday, we started praying that we might have a 'Holy Lent' or a 'Good Lent.'

So, have you had 'a good Lent'? Were you able to make the journey with Jesus through the turmoil of those last days of his earthly ministry as he set his face to go to Jerusalem, knowing that he would die there on a cross? I find the Lenten journey, particularly Holy Week (the week leading up to the crucifixion) harrowing, and by the end of the Easter Vigil I, and many of those who observe the full Triduum, can be left feeling emotionally drained.

All of which makes Easter Day and the weeks that follow, with the joy and reality of new life, so much the sweeter.

No wonder Christians make this the most important day of the year – much more so than Christmas. God, in the resurrection of Jesus, has vindicated the way of love, truth, sacrifice and service, kindness and hope over the self-serving and grubby ways that seek power, self-advancement, privilege, hatred and division. Hallelujah!

It's all summed up in the poem 'Easter Wings' by the 17th century poet and priest George Herbert. For me, it's not the words of the poem so much as its shape – it's written in the shape of a butterfly's wings. Now that's clever; – to let both shape and words express something lovely, like the freedom and beauty of a butterfly on the wing. That sums up Resurrection life.

We are not asked to explain how the Resurrection took place. That is known to God alone, and we would trip ourselves up in all sorts of ways as we seek to find a rational explanation as to how it happened. But we are invited to live it ourselves, as we ask the Risen Lord to lead us through each day. In time, this constant invitation to live out the Resurrection changes our whole being, as we try, in the words of Mother Teresa to 'do little things with great love.'

The more I try and live out Resurrection life (more properly, the more I allow Jesus to live the Resurrection life through me) the

(Continued on page 6)

Inside this month

Looking at God
(page 20)

Quiz 'n' Chips
(page 2)

Plant Sale (page 3)

Prayer Diary for April
(pages 4 & 5)

Faith Notes
(page 6)

U3A (page 7)

Sustainable Church
Flowers
(page 7)

Calendar of Events for
April (page 8)

Looking at God

Quiz 'n' Chips

The Cross of Jesus

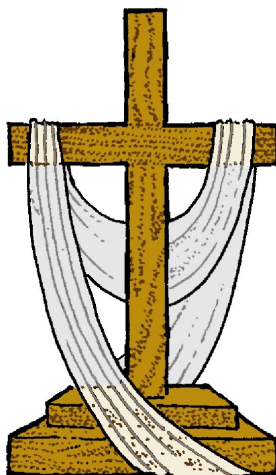
*The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace;
a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing;
a picture of death, yet the key to life;
a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power;
a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;
a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love;
a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.*

The cross really is the key to everything! Although a horrifying instrument of torture and death, it is also a symbol of God's love and peace. On the cross Jesus died to deal with the problem of our sin and defeat the powers of death and evil. He identified with our sufferings and set us an example of self-sacrificial love.

As Peter writes, *'He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed'* (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus died in our place on the cross and took away our guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin. Access to God's presence is now open to all, symbolised by the Temple curtain being torn in two from top to bottom. The barrier between us and God was torn down in order *'to bring us to God'* (1 Peter 3:18).

The idea of substitution lies at the heart of understanding what Jesus did on the cross: *'For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be.'* (John Stott).

Canon Paul Hardingham



February Quiz



Gangreen—winners of the February quiz.



Emma from Reducing the Risk giving her talk for which the charity raffle raised £405.

St Peter's Church Quiz & Chips

Dates for 2026

18th April

16th May

20th June

Contact quiz@stpeters-didcot.org.uk,
or Hugh on 01235 811465.



Plant & Produce Sale

plus

Mini Spring Fair

**St Peter's Church
Newlands Avenue**

**Saturday 2nd May
10.30 am—1.00 pm**

Prayer Intentions: April 2026

<p>1st: Weds of Holy Week Readings: Psalm 102; Wisdom 1: 16-2: 1, 2:12-22; Luke 22: 54-end8</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Loyd Road, Elder Close. Those with learning disabilities or dementia, their carers, and all who help or attend Wednesday Church.</p>	<p>17th: Maundy Thursday Readings: Psalms 42, 43; Leviticus 16: 2-24; Luke 23: 1-25.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Cockcroft Road, Mowbray Road. Those who watch and wait with those close to death, and those who are suffering.</p>	<p>3rd: Good Friday Readings: Psalm 69; Genesis 22: 1-18; Hebrews 10: 1-10.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Barnes Road, Barnes Close. Those who are grieving, that they may know the comfort of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>4th: Easter Eve Readings: Psalm 142; Hosea 6: 1-6; John 2: 18-22.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Park Road; Park Close. Edwin Road. Those who clean the church and prepare the church for worship.</p>
<p>5th: Easter Day Readings: Psalms 114, 117; Exodus 14: 18-18, 26-15:2; Revelation 15: 2-4.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Green Road; Green Close. For an end to war, and for peace, particularly in the Holy Land, Iran and Ukraine.</p>	<p>6th: Monday of H W Psalms 111; Exodus 12: 1-14; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Royal Berkshire Close. Those who are alone, those who are lonely, those who despair.</p>	<p>7th: Tuesday of H W Readings: Psalms 112; Exodus 12: 14-36; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-19.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Queensway; Hardings Strings. Didcot Community Hospital, its patients and all who work there.</p>	<p>8th: Weds of H W Readings: Psalms 113; Exodus 12: 37– end; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Tavistock Avenue; Bowness Avenue. Our house-bound members of St Peter’s, the Eucharistic Ministers.</p>
<p>9th: Thursday of H W Readings: Psalms 114; Exodus 13: 1-16; 1 Corinthians 15: 29-34.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Warner Crescent; Morse Road. Persecuted Christians and all those who suffer and die for their faith.</p>	<p>10th: Friday of H W Readings: Psalms 115; Exodus 13: 17-14: 14; 1 Corinthians 15: 35-50.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: South Park Avenue; Downs Road. Churches Together in Didcot and District</p>	<p>11th: Saturday of H W Readings: Psalms 116; Exodus 14: 15-end; 1 Corinthians 15: 51-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Newlands Avenue. Larch Drive. Didcot Police Station, our PCSOS, and the Fire and Ambulance Stations.</p>	<p>12th: Easter II Readings: Psalms 81; Daniel 6: 6-23; Mark 15: 46-16: 8.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Glebe Rd; Lynmouth Rd. St Peter’s Outreach to the community.</p>
<p>13th: Readings: Psalms 2, 19; Exodus 15: 1-21; Colossians 1: 1-14.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Craven Way; Hillary Dr; Lockinge Close. Those who pray for the Church and the intercessors on Sundays.</p>	<p>14th: Readings: Psalm 8, 20, 21; Exodus 15: 22-16: 10; Colossians 1: 15-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Cullen Place; Hanover Court. Our flower arrangers.</p>	<p>15th: Readings: Psalm 16, 30; Exodus 16: 11-end; Colossians 2: 1-15.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Clarence Place, Frideswide’s Court. The work of the Mothers’ Union worldwide.</p>	<p>16th: Readings: Psalms 28, 29; Exodus 17; Colossians 2: 16-3: 11.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Wantage Road; Colbourne Road. All those who are struggling with their mental health.</p>

Prayer Intentions: April 2026

<p>17th: Readings: Psalms 57, 61; Exodus 18: 1-12; Colossians 3: 12-4:1.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Barleyfields; Elbourne. Our Director of Music and choir.</p>	<p>18th: Readings: Psalm 63, 84; Exodus 18: 13-end; Colossians 4: 2-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Drake Avenue; Collingwood Avenue. All those preparing for their weddings this year.</p>	<p>19th: Easter III Readings: Psalm 23; Haggai 1: 13-2: 9; 1 Peter 5: 1-11.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Park Road; Park Close. The APCM, those who have served faithfully in the past, and those standing for election as church officers.</p>	<p>20th: Readings: Psalms 96, 97; Exodus 19; Luke 1: 1-25.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Garden Close; Rutherford Place. Didcot TRAIN, ECHO and their Youth Workers.</p>
<p>21st: Anselm Readings: Psalm 98, 99, 100; Exodus 20: 1-21; Luke 1: 26-38.</p> <p>Archbishop of Canterbury under William II and during the period of Pope Urban II and Antipope Clement. A Benedictine scholar and founder of Scholasticism.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Norreys Road; Norreys Close. Those who raise funds and those who donate for the ministry of St Peter's.</p>	<p>22nd: Readings: Psalm 105; Exodus 24; Luke 1: 39-56.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Meadow Way; Brunel Road. Those who work maintaining the Church grounds.</p>	<p>23rd: George Readings: Psalms 5, 146; Joshua 1: 1-9; Ephesians 6: 10-20.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Portway; Wheatfields. Our Government, both Local and National and Our King, Supreme Governor of the Church of England.</p>	<p>24th: Mellitus Readings: Psalm 107 Exodus 28: 1-4a,29-38; Luke 2: 1-20.</p> <p>First Bishop of London, and then third Archbishop of Canterbury. Part of a mission to convert the Anglo-Saxons in London and Kent to Christianity.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Cromwell Drive; St Ann's Court. Bishop Steven, Bishop Gavin, Archdeacons David and Jane and their staff.</p>
<p>25th: Mark Readings: Psalm 45; Isaiah 62: 6-10; Acts 12: 25-13: 13.</p> <p>Presumed to be one of the 70 disciples sent out by Jesus. Little is known as fact about the writer of the Gospel of St Mark.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: St Hilda's Close; St Hugh's Rise. All those who read lessons during worship at St Peter's.</p>	<p>26th: Easter IV Readings: Psalm 29 Nehemiah 9: 6-15; Ephesians 2: 11-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Campion Hall Drive; Pebble Drive. Those who provide refreshments for services and events at Church.</p>	<p>27th: Christina Rossetti Readings: Psalm 103; Exodus 32: 1-14; Luke 2: 41-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Stonesfield; Mansfield Gardens. Didcot Library, its users and staff.</p>	<p>28th: Readings: Psalms 139; Exodus 32: 15-34; Luke 3: 1-14.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Linacre Close; Balliol Drive. Northbourne, Willowcroft, Aureus Primary and St Birinus Schools</p>
<p>29th: Catherine of Siena Readings: Psalm 135; Exodus 33; Luke 3: 15-22.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Sycamore Way; Willow End; The Communities at Wantage and Cuddesdon, the former community of Alton Abbey, and all those following the Religious Life.</p>		<p>30th: Pandita Mary Ramabai Readings: Psalms 118; Exodus 34: 1-10, 27-end; Luke 4: 1-13.</p> <p>Born and educated in a Brahmin family in 1858, She travelled to England, converted to Christianity. She returned to India to establish foundations to care for and educate young girls and women.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Buckingham Close; Balmoral Road. Our partners in the Gospel in Didcot, particularly All Saints, Ladygrove and the GWP Church.</p>	

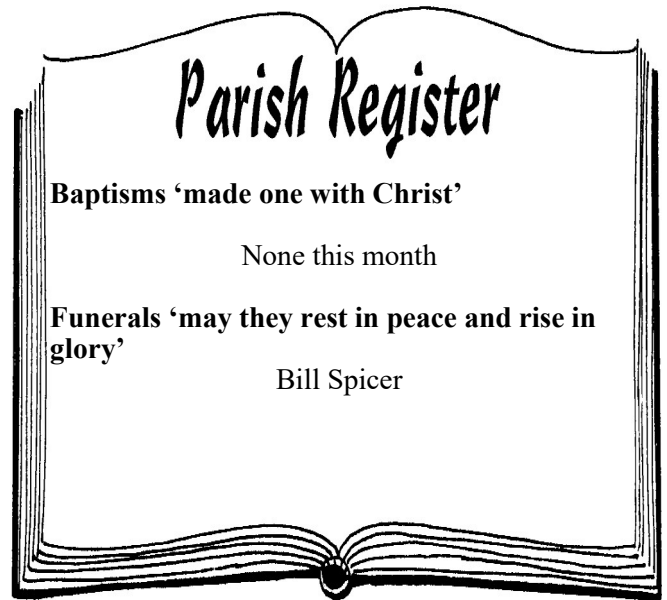
Easter People

(Continued from page 1)

more boundless I find it. We are given the season of Eastertide (and Ascension-tide), which lasts between the day of Resurrection and Pentecost, to allow this stupendous fact of the Resurrection to sink into us, call out a response from us.

Enjoy your Easter eggs, whether you hunted for them or not, and the rest of your Easter break; in fact, have a great Easter. But don't let the Resurrection pass you by. It's the gateway to what Jesus calls 'life in all its fulness'.

Revd. Hannah



Year's Mind for April

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Daisy Parris | 17 | Edward Hall |
| | Agnes Bennett | | Frederick Turner |
| | Nellie Warne | | Evelyn Taylor |
| | Roy Hammond | | Edith Gibbens |
| | Muriel Breeze | | Bernard Measor |
| 2 | Gladys Rhodes | 18 | Roland Evans |
| 3 | Edward Green | 19 | Horace Parsons |
| | Denis Day | | Dorothy Butler |
| 4 | Herbert Sturt | | Florence Mitchel |
| | Stephen Smith | | Frank Swadling |
| | Albert James | | Hilda Jamison |
| | Annie Town | 20 | Vicki Shunker |
| 5 | William Parris | | William Price |
| 6 | George Hill | | Hilda Timson |
| | Clifford Bradbeer | 21 | George Hill |
| | James Glen | | Louis Tierney |
| 7 | Craig Williams | 22 | Catherine Stephens |
| | Maud Town | | Eva West |
| | Alfred Barham | | Laura Meredith |
| 8 | Ruth Turner | | Doris Cracknell |
| | Arthur Hine | 23 | William Marshall |
| 9 | Kate Goldring | | Doreen Stevens |
| | Christopher Purdy | 24 | |
| | Alec Oakes | 25 | George Eustace |
| | Marjorie Cox | | William Cole |
| 10 | John Lang | | Christopher Cooke |
| | Barbara Hughes | | Leona Cooke |
| | Margaret Williamson | | Ida Blow |
| | Mary Ann Thomas | 26 | James Hall |
| 11 | Gladys Wear | | Mary Hill |
| 12 | William Burrows | | Eric Thurman |
| | Ronald Davis | | Victor Parsons |
| | Sarah Powditch | 27 | Bob Pease |
| 13 | (Clive) Fraser Smith | | Frederick Church |
| 14 | Rose Hitchcock | 28 | Laura Milne |
| | Olive Sheffard | | Clifford Jones |
| 15 | Eliza Rickett | | Mary Evans |
| | Caroline Edge | | Alma Tanner |
| 16 | Clara Gorton | | Graham Hatt |
| | Norman Thrift | 29 | Charles Ackerman |
| | | 30 | Ellen Price |

Easter Wings

Lord, Who createdst man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poore:

With Thee
O let me rise,
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day Thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

My tender age in sorrow did beginne;
And still with sicknesses and shame
Thou didst so punish sinne,
That I became
Most thinne.

With Thee
Let me combine,
And feel this day Thy victorie;
For, if I imp my wing on Thine,
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

New members are always warmly welcomed to join (first visit is ‘free to see’) and chat over tea and biscuits at the monthly meetings that are held on the **third Tuesday of every month** for this nationwide self-help teaching and learning organisation in the **Didcot Civic Hall, meetings start at 2:30pm.**

Meetings for the coming months in 2026 will include:

April 21

Members' monthly meeting:

Forensic Science Experience

Speaker: Hayley Scott

An opportunity to hear about the life of a real ‘Crime Scene Investigator

May 19

Members' monthly meeting:

AGM

plus Emma Teasdale who will be raising the awareness of domestic abuse by reducing the risk.

For further information concerning all matters U3A and wishing to ‘**Learn, Laugh, Live**’ ... **then go to the NEW WEBSITE: didcot.u3asite.uk**



Next issue

Wednesday 22 April 2026 is the next magazine deadline. Please email the editor with any articles—se.scane@ntlworld.com

The General Synod recently backed a Diocesan Synod Motion from the Diocese of Worcester encouraging churches and cathedrals to explore ways of arranging flowers that are both beautiful and environmentally responsible.

The Sustainable Church Flowers movement began as a grassroots initiative in the small rural parish of Harpley, Worcestershire, when volunteers started exploring how traditional flower-arranging methods could reflect the Church’s commitment to caring for creation. It has since grown into a national and ecumenical network offering practical support to parishes, arrangers and clergy.

It encourages churches, wherever possible, to consider using seasonal, locally sourced flowers and foliage, and to phase out single-use floral foam - a 1950s-era plastic product which cannot be recycled or composted, sheds micro-particles when handled, and contains the equivalent of up to ten carrier bags’ worth of plastic per block. The Royal Horticultural Society has already prohibited floral foam at its shows, including Chelsea, since 2021.

The motion highlights long-established alternatives such as reusable vessels, twigs, moss, chicken wire, and metal “frogs”, which for centuries enabled churches to create arrangements without single-use plastics. It also celebrates the creativity of volunteers and the opportunity to support local growers and community gardens.

The Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick, said: “The Sustainable Church Flowers movement rejoices in flowers and foliage in church, and encourages us to source them locally and seasonally wherever possible: remember Jesus on that hillside, rejoice in what’s around you. Think simple, natural, beautiful.”

The Sustainable Church Flowers provides online resources, tutorials and local ambassadors.

More at: <https://suschurchflowers.com>

If you would like to write an occasional front page article for the St Peter’s Magazine, please talk to Revd Hannah.

Church Calendar for April 2026

SERVICES IN CHURCH THIS MONTH

Wednesday 1 *Wednesday of Holy Week*
10.00AM—Wednesday Church

Thursday 2 *Maundy Thursday*
9.30AM—Said Mass
7.30PM—Mass & Foot Washing

Friday 3 *Good Friday*
2.00PM—Liturgy of Good Friday
9.00PM—Compline

Saturday 4 *Holy Saturday*
7.30PM—Easter Vigil

Sunday 5 *Easter Day*
10.00AM—Parish Mass.

Sunday 12 *Low Sunday*
10.00AM—Parish Mass

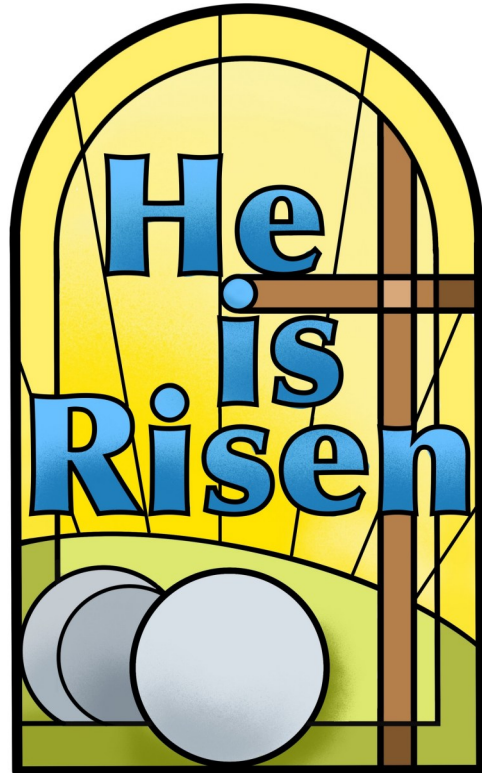
Thursday 16 *Isabella Gilmore*
9.30AM—Said Mass

Sunday 19 *Easter III*
10.00AM—Parish Mass
(followed by APCM)

Thursday 23 *Mark the Evangelist*
9.30AM—Said Mass

Sunday 26 *Easter IV*
10.00AM—Parish Mass

Thursday 30
9.30AM—Said Mass



ONLINE SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS MONTH

Monday 8.30AM Morning Prayer
Tuesday - Thursday & Saturday
9.00AM Morning Prayer

Sunday
10.00AM - Parish Mass—live streamed
from church



Vicar
The Revd. Hannah Reynolds
The Vicarage,
47A Newlands Avenue,
Didcot
01235 812114

Email:
hclairereynolds@gmail.com

Associate Minister



The Revd. Fran Childs
01235 816166

Safeguarding Officers

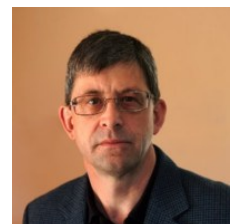


Gail and Paul Hedley
07775 675401

Church Wardens



Alan Wilson
07817 061752



Tim Scane
07785 308160