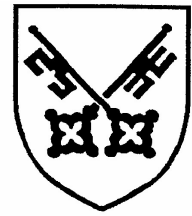


# St Peter's Church Magazine



May 2026 issue ❖ 75p (£7 subscription for one year)  
St Peter's Church, Newlands Avenue, Didcot ❖ [www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk](http://www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk)  
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## How a dying bishop said farewell to his Diocese

By Rev'd Hannah Reynolds

I first met Andrew Watson when he was the Rector of St Stephen's Church in Twickenham, whilst I was serving my title in the Parish of All Hallows, the other side of the railway lines. As I moved on to my first Incumbency, he went to be the Bishop of Aston, in the Diocese of Birmingham, and a few years later, in 2014, he was consecrated Bishop of Guildford. He came from a very musical family, and was a very fine singer and bassoon player – being in the National Youth Orchestra whilst at school.

On 10<sup>th</sup> February this year, Andrew was diagnosed with aggressive and untreatable cancer of the pancreas. After he was told that he had less than a month to live, Bishop Andrew wrote a letter to his diocese, to say goodbye and to reassure them. This is the letter he wrote:

“Only our good Lord knows exactly how long I have left, of course. But the conversation with my doctor – together with a sense that I am getting a little weaker by the day – means that my main focus now is on ‘cheerfully persisting towards a good death.’

Yesterday I signed a deed of delegation, handing over the interim leadership of the diocese to our dear Bishop Paul [Davies – Bishop of Dorking]. I'm sorry that that means I will no longer be honouring my existing commitments...

I don't fear the prospect of dying, and find to my relief that my faith in ‘the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting’ has only grown stronger over the past few weeks. I've sometimes had private worries that, when faced with the starkness of a terminal diagnosis, my faith in the Risen Christ might falter. Well, it hasn't. Or better still, God hasn't faltered. Quite the reverse.

Nor do I feel short-changed by what's happening. Of course, I have grumpy patches when I'm in pain, or not sleeping properly. (I'm only a saint in St Paul's most generous definition of the term!) But I still consider myself as deeply blessed to have been born into such a loving family, to have met with Christ as a teenager, to have spent nearly 40 years of my life so joyfully married to the ‘wife of my youth’, to have raised four remarkable

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children (all equally remarkably partnered), and to have been entrusted with a series of fulfilling ministries within my beloved Church of England.

Of all the closing words to St Paul's various letters to individuals and to church communities, perhaps the one I value most comes right at the end of his first letter to the Church at Thessalonica. We sense that the apostle is running out of parchment, and wanting to cram as much as he can into the last few inches; and he does a great job from my perspective, beautifully articulating so much of what I would want to say in what may well prove to be my last message to the Diocese of Guildford.

Could I encourage you to read these words quietly and prayerfully – so that each one of us, lay and ordained, might be freshly inspired to embrace God's call on our lives with renewed vigour and gratitude:

*'We appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do this. Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a*

*holy kiss. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.'*

Bishop Andrew died, aged 64, on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.



## Plant and Produce Sale

This year the plant and produce sale will take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May between 10.30AM and 1.00PM.

Please do come and encourage your friends to come too, as this is a vital contribution to help swell the church funds.



# St Peter's Church Quiz & Chips Dates for 2025-26

2026  
16<sup>th</sup> May  
20<sup>th</sup> June

Contact [quiz@stpeters-didcot.org.uk](mailto:quiz@stpeters-didcot.org.uk), or Hugh on  
01235 811465.

The 2025/26 Quiz season continued in April with a very close finish, which saw Umbrella Academy (pictured below) pip Ganegreen by one point, who were themselves only one point ahead of the Heretics!.

In addition to the Fish and Chip Supper, there is a bar, which now serves beer from the local brewery, Love Beer, which is proving very popular!

Speak to Hugh if you are interested in joining a team, or bringing a new team of your own.



Our Charity this month, was Didcot Baby Monday, and their founder Kath Goldsby-West gave an interesting talk about their purpose, and how they were helping young families.

She thanked us for our continuing support, acknowledging how it took a community to raise a child!

We raised £409 from the raffle for them!

## Prayer Intentions: May 2026

<p><b>1st: Philip and James</b> Readings: Psalm 139; Proverbs 4:10-18; James 1:1-12.</p> <p>Philip, the disciple who introduced Nathanael to Jesus, and James the Lesser.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Church Street, East Street. St Peter's Plant and Produce Sale, all the volunteers and those coming to buy.</p>	<p><b>2nd: Athanasius</b> Readings: Psalms 57, 61; Exodus 40: 17-end; Luke 4: 31-37.</p> <p>Champion of Trinitarian Christianity against Arianism in the 3rd Century. Associated with the long creed.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> High Street, Bourne Street. All Ordinands and those exploring their vocation.</p>	<p><b>3rd: Easter V</b> Readings: Psalms 30; Ezekiel 37: 1-12; John 5: 19-29.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Northbourne Court, Pease Place. For peace in the Holy Land.</p>	<p><b>4th: English Martyrs</b> Readings: Psalm 145; Numbers 9: 15-end and 10: 33-end; Luke 4: 38 –end.</p> <p>All those martyred during the Reformation period.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Ridgeway Road, Beech Lane. All those who are persecuted for their faith around the world.</p>
<p><b>5th:</b> Readings: Psalm 73; Numbers 11: 1-33; Luke 5: 1-11.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Sinodun Road, Bridge Close. Our Didcot Police station and PCSOs.</p>	<p><b>6th:</b> Readings: Psalm 30; Numbers 12; Luke 5: 12-26.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Kynaston Road. Those who attend Wednesday Church and their carers.</p>	<p><b>7th:</b> Readings: Psalm 57; Numbers 13: 1-3, 17-end Luke 5: 27-end.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Broadway, Vicarage Road. Those undergoing treatment for cancer and other live-limiting conditions. Those in remission.</p>	<p><b>8th: Julian of Norwich</b> Readings: Psalm 138; Numbers 14: 1-25; Luke 6: 1-11.</p> <p>Julian was an anchoress. Norwich became a place of pilgrimage with many seeking her advice.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> St Andrew's Road, St Peter's Road. The Community at Wantage.</p>
<p><b>9th:</b> Readings: Psalms 146; Numbers 14: 26—end; Luke 6: 12-26.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Wessex Road. Those with dementia and all who care for them.</p>	<p><b>10th: Easter VI</b> Readings: Psalm 66; Job 14; Revelation 21: 22-22:5.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Lower Broadway, Roebuck Court. Those who provide refreshments after services and at events.</p>	<p><b>11th:</b> Readings: Psalm 65; Numbers 16: 1-35; Luke 6: 27-38.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Hagbourne Road. Pebbles Baby Church. Families with young children.</p>	<p><b>12th: Gregory Dix</b> Readings: Pss 124-127; Numbers 16: 36-end; Luke 6: 39-end.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Ernest Road, Edmund's Court. The world-wide work of the Mothers' Union.</p>
<p><b>13th:</b> Readings: Psalm 132; Numbers 17: 1-11; Luke 7: 1-10.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Fairacres Road, Marlborough Court. Areas of conflict, including Ukraine, Syria, Haiti, Nigeria, Sudan and Gaza</p>	<p><b>14th: Ascension Day</b> Readings: Psalm 110, 150; Isaiah 52: 7-end; Hebrews 7: 11-end.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Oatland Road, Samor Way. Christians Against Poverty, SOFEA, and those providing advice to people in difficulty in Didcot.</p>	<p><b>15th: Matthias</b> Readings: Psalm 16; 1 Samuel 2:27-35; Acts 2:37-end.</p> <p>Chosen by lot by the 11 remaining disciples to replace Judas.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Mereland Road, Laburnum Grove. For the mission of St Peter's in Didcot</p>	<p><b>16th:</b> Readings: Psalm 47; Numbers 21: 4-9; Luke 7: 18-35.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Abbott Road, Abbott Close Those who work making Quiz &amp; Chips successful, our regular Quiz teams.</p>

## Prayer Intentions: May 2026

<p><b>17th: Easter VII</b> Readings: Psalm 47; Isaiah 65: 17-end; Revelation 21: 1-8.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Richmere Road, The Croft; Our Sunday School leaders.</p>	<p><b>18th:</b> Readings: Psalm 93; Numbers 22: 1-35; Luke 7: 36-end.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Marsh Cottages, Jubilee Way, Regent Gardens Northbourne, Willowcroft and Aureus Primary Schools and St Birinus School.</p>	<p><b>19th: Dunstan</b> Readings: Psalm 99; Numbers 22: 36-23: 12; Luke 8: 1-15.</p> <p>10th Century Abbott of Glasonbury, later Bishop of Winchester, London then Archbishop of Canterbury.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Saxon's Way, Viking Drive. Our new PCC.</p>	<p><b>20th: Alcuin</b> Readings: Psalm 29; Numbers 23: 13-end; Luke 8: 16-25.</p> <p>8th Century Northumbrian scholar, called "the most learned man anywhere to be found."</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Oriell Court, Lincoln Gardens. Those who produce the Magazine &amp; weekly sheet.</p>
<p><b>21st: Helena</b> Readings: Psalm 24; Numbers 24; Luke 8: 26-39.</p> <p>Mother of the Emperor Constantine. Finder of the "True Cross", and other holy sites and relics.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Beaufort Close, Worcester Drive. For the coming of Christ's Kingdom on earth.</p>	<p><b>22nd:</b> Readings: Psalm 28 ; Numbers 27: 12-end; Luke 8: 40-end.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Exeter Court, Magdalene Court. Those who are lonely.</p>	<p><b>23rd:</b> Readings: Psalm 42, 43; Numbers 32: 1-27; Luke 9: 1-17.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Merton Close, Somerville Those who are anxious, or suffering from depression and other mental health issues.</p>	<p><b>24th: Pentecost</b> Readings: Psalm 87; Genesis 11: 1-9; Acts 10: 34-end.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Nuffield Close, Dirac Place Eucharistic Ministers and those who receive Home Communion.</p>
<p><b>25th: Venerable Bede</b> Readings: Psalm 123-126; Joshua 1; Luke 9: 18-27.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Fleet Way, Kibble Close; Our colleagues in Churches Together in Didcot and District.</p>	<p><b>26th: Augustine</b> Readings: Psalms 132; Joshua 2; Luke 9: 28-36.</p> <p>The first Archbishop of Canterbury.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> St John's Close, Ruskin Close St Stephen's House and Cuddesdon Theological Colleges</p>	<p><b>27th:</b> Rdgs: Ps 119: 153-end; Joshua 3; Luke 9: 37-50.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Shannon Road, Severn Road The Fire Station, Ambulance station and paramedics based in Didcot.</p>	<p><b>28th: Lanfranc</b> Readings: Psalm 143; Joshua 4: 1-5: 1; Luke 9: 51-end.</p> <p>Italian monk who was made Archbishop of Canterbury after the Norman Conquest.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Kennet Place, Thames Court. Our Bishops, Steven and Gavin. Staff at Church House, Oxford</p>
<p><b>29th:</b> Readings: Pss 142, 144; Joshua 5: 2-end; Luke 10: 1-16.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Bradbery Gardens. Our choir and Director of Music.</p>	<p><b>30th: Joan of Arc</b> Readings: Psalm 147; Joshua 6: 1-20; Luke 10: 17-24.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> Western Avenue. Didcot Community Hospital.</p>	<p><b>31st: Trinity Sunday</b> Readings: Pss 86; Isaiah 6: 1-8; John 17: 1-11.</p> <p><b>Prayer intentions:</b> The Didcot Emergency Food Bank, its volunteers and all who use its facilities</p>	

The clocks have gone forwards, so what better way than to go into Spring if you have recently **retired or are semi retired** and living in Didcot or the surrounding area and looking for new interests whilst making new friendships, then look no further and consider joining the **Didcot & District U3A** to . . . . . **‘Learn, Laugh, Live’!**

With warmer days just around the corner and being ‘time rich’ for any newly retired or semi retired individuals, lazy days can be achieving days; **‘Learn, Laugh, Live’**, why not learn a new language, or delve into your family history, enjoy walking with friends, learn to play an instrument by joining the **Didcot & District U3A** and with over **30 Interest Groups** (full details can be found on **Didcot.u3a site.uk**) there must be something for You ?!

New members are always warmly welcomed to join (first visit is ‘free to see’) and chat over tea and biscuits at the monthly meetings 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 2:30 pm.**

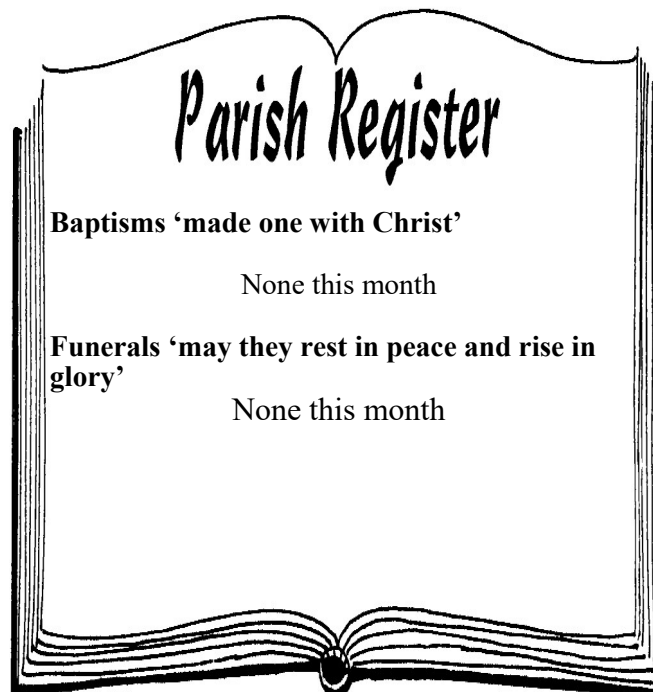
**Meetings for the coming months in 2026 will include:**

**May 19<sup>th</sup>** AGM plus **Emma Teasdale**, who will be raising the awareness of domestic abuse by reducing the risk.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** an ABC of Victorian painters from **Simon Evers**. The Victorian era was the time of Queen Victoria’s rule following the Georgian and Edwardian periods. They reacted to the social issues of the day by leveraging their positions as prominent personalities to publish articles in political periodicals, give their artworks to charity auctions, create banners or posters for social movements, or paint scenes that addressed the country’s most urgent problems.

For further U3A details or information for those wishing to **‘Learn, Laugh, Live’!** head over to **Didcot.u3asite.uk**

Thank you all, as ever, for your continued support in spreading the benefits of joining your local U3A, the **Didcot & District !**



### *Year’s Mind for May*

- |    |                   |                     |
|----|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1  | Olga Everitt      | Sidney Cherrill     |
|    | Percy Major       | John McNamara       |
|    | Frank Martin      | Clifford White      |
| 2  |                   | Nellie Hornblow     |
| 3  | Alfred Macken     | 20 Phyllis Young    |
|    | Gladys Snow       | 21 Henry Hitchcock  |
|    | Ivy Stevens       | John Wicks          |
| 4  | Samuel Berry      | John Whitehead      |
|    | David Fernback    | Anthony Cook        |
| 5  | Alice Drewitt     | 22 Dorothy Butler   |
|    | Frederick Goodall | Jack Harrison       |
| 6  | Florence Abbott   | Roy Culliford       |
|    | Walter Morgan     | Lucy Elizabeth      |
|    | Fred Peppard      | Saunders            |
| 7  | Marcus Shorrocks  | 23 Eileen Yates     |
|    | Maud Calvert      | Henry Mole          |
| 8  | Bill Bond         | Edgar Crawford      |
|    | Jean Bentham      | Louisa Beaven       |
| 9  | Terence Daley     | 24 Pauline Cathcart |
|    | Frank Hill        | Edwin Beard         |
|    | Phyllis Powell    | Margaret North      |
| 10 | Elliot Goodall    | Dorothy Almond      |
| 11 | Stanley Chandler  | Stella Holt         |
|    | Frank Rushen      | Donald Orr          |
| 12 |                   | 25 Ronald James     |
| 13 | Christopher Brown | Jack Goodall        |
|    | George Wall       | 26 Fernley Dodd     |
|    | Kenneth Wicks     | Louisa King         |
|    | Lillian Davis     | 27 Stanley Wadley   |
| 14 | Muriel McGibbon   | 28 Hartley Abbott   |
|    | Ken Missenden     | Harriet Lyttle      |
| 15 | Charles Osborne   | 29 Iris Miles       |
|    | Grace Talbot      | Mavis Burren        |
|    | Linda Hunt        | 30                  |
|    | Paul Hill         | 31 Jim Wyatt        |
| 16 | Thomas Mathews    |                     |
|    | Reginald Dawson   |                     |
| 17 | George Wigley     |                     |
| 18 | Lynne Atkinson    |                     |
|    | Robin Buckley     |                     |
|    | Norman Calvert    |                     |
| 19 | Florence Mitchell |                     |

## 14th May – 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.



... When Jesus had finished speaking, as His disciples watched intently, He was taken up into heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight. Acts 1:7-9

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

### **Next issue**

Wednesday 27 May 2026 is the next magazine deadline. Please email the editor with any articles—[Maurice.Meardon@ntlworld.com](mailto:Maurice.Meardon@ntlworld.com)

# Church Calendar for May 2026

## SERVICES IN CHURCH THIS MONTH

**Sunday 3 Easter V**  
10.00AM—Parish Mass  
12.00—Holy Baptism

**Wednesday 6**  
10.00AM—Wednesday Church

**Thursday 7**  
9.30AM—Said Mass

**Sunday 10 Easter VI**  
10.00AM—Parish Mass

**Monday 11**  
9:15AM—Pebbles Baby Church

**Thursday 14 Ascension Day**  
9.30AM—Said Mass

**Sunday 17 Easter VII**  
10.00AM—Parish Mass

**Thursday 21 Helena**  
9.30AM—Said Mass

**Sunday 24 Pentecost**  
10.00AM—Parish Mass

**Thursday 28 Lanfranc**  
9.30AM—Said Mass

**Sunday 31 Trinity Sunday**  
10.00AM—Parish Mass



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

Email:  
hclairereynolds@gmail.com

## ONLINE SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS MONTH

**Monday - Thursday & Saturday**  
9.00AM Morning Prayer

**Sunday**  
10.00AM - Parish Mass—live streamed  
from church

### Associate Minister



The Revd. Fran Childs  
01235 816166

### Safeguarding Officers

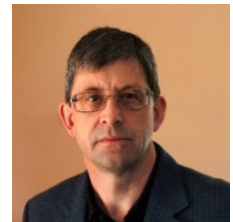


Gail & Paul Hedley  
07775 675401

### Church Wardens



Alan Wilson  
07817 061752



Tim Scane  
07785 308160