

Pew Sheet for 26th April 2026

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Saturday 25th April

5-7pm Youth Church St Mary's Woodford Halse

Sunday 26th April

9.30am BCP Communion at Aston le Walls
11.00am Holy Communion at Byfield

Wednesday 29th April

9.45am Morning Prayer
11.15am Prayer Group at Hinton Methodist Chapel

Sunday 3rd May

9.30am Holy Communion at Boddington
10.00am BCP Morning Prayer at Eydon
10.00am Café Church at Woodford Halse
11.00am Holy Communion at Byfield

Wednesday 6th May

9.45am Holy Communion at Byfield
11.15am Prayer Group at St Mary's Woodford Halse

Thursday 7th May

11.00am Funeral at Byfield

Sunday 10th May

9.30am Holy Communion at Eydon
10.00am Morning Prayer at Boddington
11.00am Common Worship Communion at Aston le Walls
11.00am Café Church at Byfield

Tuesday 12th May

11.30am Funeral at Eydon

Our lectionary includes a reading from the book of Acts for every Sunday throughout the Easter season. In some ways this can feel as though we are jumping over the resurrection by looking past the resurrection to a time after both the Ascension and Pentecost, but I think that reading from Acts as we travel through the Easter season, rather than distracting us from the importance of the resurrection, reminds us of the way that the resurrection changes everything. The book of Acts was originally written as a continuation of Luke's gospel, and it explains how the resurrection changed everything and what that meant for the followers of Jesus. Acts reminds us that the resurrection, amazing as it was, was not the end of God's plan to heal and restore broken people in this broken world.

Reading Acts we see how Peter is transformed from someone who denied even knowing Jesus into someone who could preach about the importance of Jesus and his resurrection to a crowd of thousands. Reading Acts we are introduced to Saul who is transformed from an arch sceptic and persecutor of Jesus followers into one of Jesus' greatest advocates by an encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus, changing his name to Paul in the process. Reading Acts we discover how, through the power of the Holy Spirit, followers of Jesus are able to continue what Jesus started, showing how God's love can heal and restore relationships.

The book of Acts explains what happens to people who encounter the risen Jesus and reading the book of Acts reminds us that we are part of this story too. As we continue to celebrate the resurrection let's pray that we may be transformed by the power of the resurrection and let's look for what we can do, however small, to share in God's work of healing and restoring this broken world.

Every blessing, Clare

Sunday 26 April 2026 Fourth Sunday of Easter

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the
resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness,
that we may seek those things
which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Either **Acts 2:42-end**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Many were baptised and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Or **Genesis 7**

PSALM Psalm 23

R I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green
pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they
comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who
trouble me;

you have anointed my head with
oil and my cup shall be full.
Surely goodness and loving mercy
shall follow me all the days of my
life,

and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

Either **1 Peter 2:19-end**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Brothers and sisters: It is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Or **Acts 2:42-end**

GOSPEL John 10:1-10

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to
be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down
his life and rise again:
keep us always under his
protection,
and give us grace to follow in his
steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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