

The Stourhead Benefice

Pew Sheet

26 April 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

A warm welcome to all visitors to church on this day

Today's Services:

10am Sung Eucharist St Mary the Virgin Great Bradley
6pm Evensong St Peter and St Paul's Kedington

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

Next Sunday

10am Sung Eucharist St Peter and St Paul's Kedington

Ministry Team:

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

Collect: Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

First reading	Acts 2 v 42 - 47
Second reading	1 Peter 2 v 19 - 25
Gospel reading	John 10 v 1 - 10

The Stourhead Benefice

Hear The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord

'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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you O Christ

Post Communion prayer: 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. **Amen**

Evensong Readings:

Celebrating St Mark, the Evangelist

Psalm 45, Ezekial 1 v 4 - 14 and 1 Timothy 4 v 1 - 11

Home Communions - 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 – Peter Phillips – Stephen Giles
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:

Richard Hopper – Caroline Sharples – Hannah Carpenter

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

LAST CALL FOR 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

The Stourhead Benefice

Do you know someone who can play the piano or keyboard who might be interested in discovering more about the organs in the Benefice or even able to join the rota of regular organists? Please put them in touch with Paul or Jill Davis, 01440 713137

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.

Bank Holiday Monday 4 May Kedington Duck Race. Starts at 1pm in Silver Street Park. Tickets £1 each in advance from Kedington Butchers or Spar Shop or on the day on the riverbank. Cash prizes £25, £15, £10. BBQ, licensed bar and soft drinks on the meadow from 1.30pm

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 Wratting 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/benefice/33-280BR/> Weekly pew sheets and the Benefice News are also available via this QR code:

