



***Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026***



*I am the gate, detail of Dove by Peter Koenig, 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

## ***Easter 4***

In here you'll find today's hymns and readings, and this week's notices to use alongside the Eastertide Holy Communion order of service.

*Opening Hymn: I come with joy a child of God*  
*Number 305 in Common Praise*

*Collect*<sup>1</sup>

Tenacious shepherd, whose faithfulness knows no bounds,  
We long to hear your name-speaking voice calling to us.  
More than the rich material rewards of life,  
we want to know that we are known, notice,  
and listened to by you.

We admit that we hesitate, for your abundant life frightens  
us.

We are not able to domesticate or co-opt your life  
for private purposes and projects.

So come and destabilise us with your awe  
and unpredictability, for the sake of life and love.

**Amen.**

*First Reading: Acts 2:42-47*

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at

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<sup>1</sup> Graham Turner, *Alternative Collects: Prayers to a Disruptive & Compassionate God*, Sacristy Press, 2018, page 17

home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> 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.

### *Gradual hymn: The Lord's my Shepherd*

*Number 594 in Common Praise*

### *Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>'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. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

*Offertory Hymn: God eternal, timeless moment*

God eternal, timeless moment,  
un-named Name of majesty,  
morning star and evening glory,  
source of life — its destiny:  
you yet chose to shape and name us,  
wove us in the deepest earth;  
you ordained our days before us,  
gave us freedom, gave us worth.

Jesus, helper in our sorrow,  
Christ, who helpless chose to be:  
is it sacrifice to follow  
you to Calvary's cruel tree?  
Grant us courage, grant us grace to  
die to self and love you still;  
counting all things loss to know you,  
walk your way and live your will.

Holy Spirit, word of wisdom,  
dove descending, wind and fire:  
sighing deep beyond our knowledge  
search our minds, our lives inspire.  
Tongues of flame and tongues of language  
blaze the Word of God abroad;  
may we here translate your wisdom,  
guide your world to Christ her Lord.

God beyond us, God among us,  
ever three, yet ever one:  
re-create us, re-confirm us,  
re-inspire us, lead us on.  
God eternal, go before us;  
Christ companion, come beside;  
Spirit, be the life within, through  
whom our God is glorified.

*Words: © David Lee*

*Communion hymn: Let love be real*

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,  
without the need to manage and to own;  
a haven free from posing and pretending,  
where every weakness may be safely known.  
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,  
give me your love wherever we may go:  
as God loves us, so let us love each other,  
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,  
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;  
that helps us face the risk of truly living,  
and makes us brave to be what we might be.  
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness,  
give me your love in spite of all you know:  
as God loves us, so let us love each other,  
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real, with no manipulation,  
no secret wish to harness or control;  
let us accept each other's incompleteness,  
and share the joy of learning to be whole.  
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments,  
give me your trust when all my failings show:  
as God loves us, so let us love each other,  
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

*Michael Forster ©Kevin Mayhew Ltd., (Publishers) Buxhall, Stowmarket*

*Final hymn: Let us build a house*

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive;  
built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:

a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space,  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone

to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;

let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

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### UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 10am:	Morning Prayer
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 10:30am:	Family Service: Christian Aid

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

This week's sanctuary flowers are the gift of Alan Gibbens.  
Last week's flowers were the gift of Sue and Bob Eaton.

### AN INVITATION TO A BREATHING SPACE

All are invited to our monthly gathering for silent contemplative prayer. As one participant says it is *"An opportunity for shared prayerful silence amidst our noisy world"*. And if you're unsure, or you'd like to just come and try it then *"The thought of sitting in silence with others might feel scary, but rest assured: introduction and instructions are given"*. *"45 prayerful minutes contemplating a suggested religious text, in silence, with others. What a lovely start to a Friday morning"*.

We will next gather in the vestry on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May & 19<sup>th</sup> June at 10am - 10.45am. Please access the vestry through the back door of the church in the car park. You don't have to come every time. Come when you can. If you want to know more please speak to Fran.

### JACK KNOWLES IS RUNNING THE BIRMINGHAM 10K FOR BRAKE IN MEMORY OF HIS MUM, CAROL KNOWLES

To read more about Jack's story, and the work of the charity Brake visit his Just Giving page below or by scanning the QR code where you can also sponsor him. You can also sponsor in cash – see Jack or Jess Knowles for more information.



[https://www.justgiving.com/page/runforbrake?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=WA](https://www.justgiving.com/page/runforbrake?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=WA)

### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you for all your sponsorship and support that enabled me to run the ultra. I really appreciate each of you and send much thanks from The Feast who will enable your donations to help young people. Jenni.

### **APRIL ECO TIPS**

Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags. For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open). For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes. For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April. As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

### **APCM- SAVE THE DATE!**

Our APCM will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 12, after the morning service. If you are not on our electoral roll and would like to vote please fill in a form and return it to Liz Farrier. Anyone over 16 who is baptised and has been worshipping with us for 6 months can join. If you are interested in standing for PCC please ask Jenni or James Atkinson for a helpful booklet about the process.

### **FAIRTRADE STALL – 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY**

The next Fairtrade stall will be available after the service on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Pam sells food items including tea and coffee, gifts and cards. She

accepts cash and card payments.

### **WOMEN'S THEOLOGY**

Mother Diane our curate and Mother Charlotte Gibson, who works for the diocese of Birmingham, run a Women's Theology Group fortnightly during term times. We meet on Thursday evening at St George's vicarage Edgbaston and on Friday morning at a cafe on Harborne High St. It's open to anyone who identifies as a woman and is 18 years of age and over. It's ecumenical, which means people come from a variety of churches in the local area. No preparation is necessary and it's suitable for all levels of knowledge and ability. Each week is a separate session so you can come as and when you like. We look at women's stories in the Bible and see how God shows the good news of themselves to the women and ourselves. If anyone is interested in coming along, speak to Mother Diane and she can give you more details. The next dates are: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July.

### **PONDERING NEURO-DIVERSITY**

Pondering will be back this June, thinking through neuro-diversity theologically as well as practically. We will run the same session twice on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm** and **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 10:30am**. If you have expertise, experience or a desire to help shape this session please speak to Jenni; she would love to hear from you.

**Ascension Day Holy Communion Service and farewell to our Area Dean Mike Sermon – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 7:30pm, St Mary's Selly Oak.**

A joint service with our Deanery. Mike Sermon will be retiring as Area Dean of Warley and Edgbaston on 17<sup>th</sup> May. We are hugely grateful for his service not just in this role but in the diocese over many years. Mike's deanery farewell will be on Ascension Day, Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 when he is preaching at St Mary's Selly Oak at 7.30pm. This is a service which everyone is welcome to join, either for the Eucharist or for refreshments and the presentation afterwards, from about 8.30pm. We are grateful to the Rev'd Hazel White and the PCC for their kind hospitality. Please let Jenni know if you intend to come/stay for refreshments, to help St Mary cater accordingly. Please also let Jenni know if you can offer a lift, or need one, so we can carpool.

**VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**DUTY WARDENS**

Duty Wardens are responsible for getting the church ready on Sundays, including setting up the altar for Holy Communion, lighting candles, managing the collection, and clearing up at the end of the service. Most duty wardens serve once a month. Full training will be given. As with all church roles Basic Awareness Safeguarding training will be need to be completed before starting.

Please see Church Wardens Ian or Julie to find out more.

**HOLY COMMUNION SERVER(S) NEEDED**

We are seeking a new member (or perhaps members!) to join our team of Holy Communion servers. This role includes assisting with the preparation of the altar, helping with the distribution of Holy Communion and clearing at the end of the service. Due to the nature of our building Servers need to be able to use stairs. Full training will be given, including Basic Awareness Safeguarding which is imperative for any volunteer role in the church. Please speak to Jenni or Ian if this interests you.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: PARISH SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

Our current team, Anne Harris, PARISH SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR (PSC) and Mike Baynham, PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (PSO) are looking for help with managing our Safeguarding needs, including the writing and reviewing of policies. Anne Harris will eventually be stepping down and we are seeking to recruit in time for a smooth handover from Anne and for the next PSC to work alongside Mike Baynham and others as part of a team.

These roles are; to work with the incumbent and PCC in promoting safeguarding within the parish, and to ensure that church leaders are implementing the Church of England's safeguarding guidance. The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is the key link person between the parish and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, and the PSOS support this role. These roles requires an enhanced DBS and completion of several training modules offered by the Diocese. Good computer literacy is essential for this as it includes working with a database. If you think this might be something you would be interested in and God is calling you to consider it, please speak to Anne Harris or Jenni Crewes. We can offer you more detailed role descriptions. Please pray for the right people to be recruited for this essential aspect of parish life, and whether this could be you.

### **Tidying the garden at the front of the church**

From 11<sup>th</sup> April, weather permitting, the monthly Saturday morning sessions to tidy the church front garden will resume. These will be on the first Saturday of each month, between 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. If you are free, your help would be appreciated at any time during those mornings. Experienced and inexperienced gardeners are all welcome. The 2026 dates will be: 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 5<sup>th</sup> September, and 3<sup>rd</sup> October. If you have any queries, please speak to Rob Eaton or Anne Harris. As with all volunteering roles volunteers will be required to complete Basic Awareness Safeguarding training prior to starting.

**This week please pray for;**

- Jenni and Diane as they offer chaplaincy at Cygnet hospital.
- Jenni and Diane as they take an assembly at Annie Lennard school.
- Our church to be an open and safe place for all.
- Those standing for office in our up-coming elections.



# Explorations of the Early Church: St George's Talks 2026

## ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, EDGBASTON

**Friday 20th March, 7pm**

### **WAS THERE A BIBLE IN THE EARLY CHURCH?**

The Revd Dr Sam Gibson  
Vicar, St George's Church, Edgbaston

**Friday 26th June, 7pm**

### **ST AUGUSTINE: A THINKER ROOTED IN THE EXPERIENCE OF THE AFRICAN CHURCH**

Lord Rowan Williams of Oystermouth  
World-renowned Poet and Theologian  
104th Archbishop of Canterbury

Bishop Rowan will also be  
preaching at St Alban's Church,  
Highgate, for the Patronal Festival  
Mass: Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>, 11am  
followed by parish lunch

**Friday 18th September, 7pm**

### **A BODY SHARED: MICROCHIMERISM AND THE MYSTERY OF MARY'S ASSUMPTION**

The Revd Charlotte Gibson and The Women's Theology Network

**Friday 13th November, 7pm**

### **THE REST IS DARKNESS: KEY FIGURES IN EARLY AFRICAN CHRISTIANITY**

The Revd Jarel Robinson-Brown  
Vicar, St German's Church, Cardiff



## Useful Contacts

Rev'd. Jenni Crewes	Vicar (day off Monday)	07377363915 or 0121 429 1384 <a href="mailto:revjennicrewes@gmail.com">revjennicrewes@gmail.com</a>
Mother Diane Reeves	Curate (working days Wednesday- Sunday)	07977464696 <a href="mailto:dianereeves89@gmail.com">dianereeves89@gmail.com</a>
Mrs Julie Batham	Churchwarden	07931133951, <a href="mailto:juliebatham60@gmail.com">juliebatham60@gmail.com</a>
Mr Ian Dickinson	Churchwarden	07950666654, <a href="mailto:ian_fatbudgie@hotmail.com">ian_fatbudgie@hotmail.com</a>
Mrs Fran Ellis	Reader	0121 429 6267
Liz and Jon	CAMEO	<a href="mailto:sthildascameo@gmail.com">sthildascameo@gmail.com</a>
James Atkinson	Eco Church PEC	<a href="mailto:jda85@hotmail.com">jda85@hotmail.com</a>
Enquires about hiring hall or church		<a href="mailto:sthildasbooking@gmail.com">sthildasbooking@gmail.com</a>
Safeguarding Team		07942919308 <a href="mailto:sthildasafeguarding@gmail.com">sthildasafeguarding@gmail.com</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/sthildas-safeguarding">https://bit.ly/sthildas-safeguarding</a>
<p><u>Safeguarding information</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Never promise to keep a secret.</li> <li>2. Assure the person that what they say will be taken seriously.</li> <li>3. You might say "I will have to talk about what you have told me to the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or the Vicar or the Bishop's Safeguarding Advisor, and this will be with as much confidentiality as is possible".</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk/SAFEGUARDING.html">http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk/SAFEGUARDING.html</a></p>		

To use our church wifi connect to BT-Q9C22K. Password is 'Hilda680'



**Inclusive  
Church**

*St Hilda's is proud to be a member of the Inclusive Church Network.*

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