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Easter 4 Sunday 26 April 2026

Hymns, Readings & Notices

9.30am Holy Communion

Opening	(664) How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
Reading 1	Acts 2.42-end Rod Gayton
Reading 2	1 Peter 2.19-end Agboola Bamigbele
Gradual	(204) If Christ had not been raised from death
Intercessions	Liz/Anna
Offertory	(671) I will sing the wondrous story
The Anthem	Brother James Air - Bain arr Jacob
Communion 1	(681) In heavenly love abiding
Communion 2	(458) Here proclaim the glorious mystery
Final	(593) At the name of Jesus

6.00pm Sung Evensong

Reading 1	- Ezra 3.1-13 Arnaud Courmarane
Reading 2	- Ephesians 2.11-end Liz Tymms

Opening Prayer - Richard of Chichester

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

the **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.**

Reading 1 Acts 2.42-end

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. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reading 2 1 Peter 2.19-end

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when

you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, 'For he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever towards Israel.' And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reading 2 - Ephesians 2.11-end

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus

you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

the **Gospel - John 10.1-10**

Alleluia...Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to St John.

'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.

Glory to you, O Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ
to be the good shepherd,
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please remember in your prayers...

Those unwell or recovering, amongst them:

Rev Howard (as he prepares for his operation), Rev Simon Pritchard, Joan Barrett, David, Janet Decrem, Sue Blackhall, Jim Ellard, David & Mary Everitt, Mark Holt, Angela Kilmartin, Rod Lane, Carl & Ann Lee, Ralph Milite, Marion Redgwell, Rena Stewart, Brenda & Keith Talbot.

Friends and family of those recently deceased:

Dot Reed, Gladys Emily Burgess

man of God. They set up the altar on its foundation, because they were in dread of the neighbouring peoples, and they offered burnt-offerings upon it to the Lord, morning and evening. And they kept the festival of booths, as prescribed, and offered the daily burnt-offerings by number according to the ordinance, as required for each day, and after that the regular burnt-offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the sacred festivals of the Lord, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill-offering to the Lord. From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt-offerings to the Lord. But the foundation of the temple of the Lord was not yet laid. So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from King Cyrus of Persia.

In the second year after their arrival at the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their people, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upwards, to have the oversight of the work on the house of the Lord. And Jeshua with his sons and his kin, and Kadmiel and his sons, Binnui and Hodaviah along with the sons of Henadad, the Levites, their sons and kin, together took charge of the workers in the house of God.

Sung Evensong

Opening Hymn (291) Christ is made the sure foundation

Opening+Sentences Pages 16-1 (one or more of these)

Opening Preces Ferial

Psalm ps29.1-10 Page 378

Hebrew Scripture Ezra 3.1-13

Office Hymn (18) Light of gladness, Lord of glory

Magnificat Set C

New Testament Ephesians 2.11-end

Nunc Dimittis Set C

Apostles' Creed Page 22

Preces Ferial

Today's Collects Page 139

Other Collects Page 24

Anthem I give to you - Nardone

Pre-Sermon (200) Christ the Lord is risen

Final Hymn (806) There's a wideness in God's mercy

Final Responses Ferial

Blessing

Reading 1 - Ezra 3.1-13

When the seventh month came, and the Israelites were in the towns, the people gathered together in Jerusalem. Then Jeshua son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his kin set out to build the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt-offerings on it, as prescribed in the law of Moses the

Notices

Sunday 26 April

Jonathan will be preaching the 10.15am service at St Andrews in Hatfield Peverel this morning.

APCM - Sunday 17 May

This year, the APCM will take place in the Church Hall at 4.00pm on Sunday 17 May.

Thy Kingdom Come

The Church of England has set aside the days between Ascension & Pentecost as a time of prayer for church growth. They have called this Thy Kingdom Come. Please start to pray for people who you think might come to faith. Watch this space for details about further services.

Feast of Pentecost - Sunday 24 May

Pamela Taylor has very generously offered to cook a communal meal for our church. This will take place around midday. Pamela is a professional chef who runs her own catering business. And her food is stunning. Details and sign-up sheet to follow.

Mediaeval Fayre Grand Draw

We urgently need to replenish our wine & spirit hampers. Please speak to Rodney Cullum any Sunday morning. Thank you.

Evensong Consultation

The PCC would like your opinion on a proposed change in the time and pattern of Evensong. Forms are available at the back of the church.

Sound Team

We have a small team of members from the congregation who operate the sound system for services. It would be good to expand the team. No technical expertise is required as training can be provided. Interested? Want to learn more? Please speak to anyone working the sound system (Marian Mitchell, Ian Lucas, Robert Fleming, or Andrew Balfour).

Pastoral Care Team

Do you know of anyone who would benefit from a visit from one of the team? Or would you like to explore the idea of joining us to help grow this valued ministry. Please speak to Deirdre or Petrina.

100 Days of Prayer: 18 February to 29 May

It's not too late to join Bishop Guli's 100 days of prayer. This is to help us prepare for a conversation about how we Sustain Ministry in the Dioceses of Chelmsford. This will begin in the Autumn.

Tuesday Praise May dates - Witham URC 12.30pm

5: Vicky Zarb

12: Lorna Bantock

19: Marina Price

26: Ian Wilson

Sunday Concert Series - 10 May

The next concert entitled **A Woman Alone** features **Lorraine Ely**, a soprano, who is accompanied by **Hans Montañana** on the piano.

Free admission, but a retiring donation is very welcome in aid of church funds.

Weekly Events at St Nicolas

9.00am Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday
5.00pm Evening Prayer: Tuesday - Thursday
(Monday evening is in Terling)

Monday 27 April

10.30am - 12.00noon Chatterbox (0-4yrs)

Tuesday 28 April

Wednesday 29 April

10.00am Open Door chat & tea in church hall

7.00pm Being with the Bible at the Rectory

Thursday 30 April

10.00am Midweek Communion

Friday 1 May

5.30pm Youth Group (4-14yrs)

Saturday 2 May

3.30pm Junior Confirmation @ the Rectory

Sunday 3 May

9.30am All Age Communion

6.00pm Choral Evensong