

**Bible Readings and Weekly Notices for the
Parish of St. Peter's, Great Totham.
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sunday 22nd March 2026**



Diary for Week Commencing Monday 23rd March 2026

Mon	23	09:30	Private Function in the Church Extension
Mon	23	17:30	'Rainbows' in the Church Extension – Easter Break
Tue	24	09:30	Private Function in the Church Extension
Wed	25	10:00	Baby Signage Group in the Church Extension
Wed	25	10:30	Bible Studies Group at the Honywood
Wed	25	19:30	Gt. Totham Community Choir in the Church Extension
Thu	26	10:30	Edward Bear Group in the Church Extension
Fri	27	10:00	'Knit and Natter' Group in the Honywood
Fri	27	10:00	Baby Signage Group in the Church Extension
Fri	27	19:45	Great Totham Bell Ringing Practice
Sat	28	10:00	Church & M.U. Coffee Morning at The Honywood
Sat	28	15:00	Essex Young Bell Ringers, Bell ringing @ St. Peter's
Sun	29	18:00	United Benefice Service at Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Forthcoming events:

Sun 03 May 10:00 Church Annual Meeting and Report



DONATIONS

To donate to St Peter's Church: Scan the QR code; make a BACS payment to St Peter's Church Great Totham (sort code 20-54-30, account number 20882739), send a cheque (payable to 'St Peter's Church, Great Totham') to 17 Goat Lodge Road CM9 8BU or use the link on our website:
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6657

Collect.

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading *Psalm 130*

Waiting for Divine Redemption - A Song of Ascents.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. ² Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! ³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. ⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; ⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. ⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. ⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Second Reading *Romans 8. 6-11*

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Gospel *John 11. 1-45*

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

Glory to you, Oh Lord.

The Death of Lazarus

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸ The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹ Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going



➡ there to awaken him.' ¹² The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴ Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷ She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord - Praise to you, O Christ.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)



There are many people who undertake small tasks which help to run St Peter's. We now need some roles to be covered and would be very grateful you would consider doing this. Please speak to Karen ☎01621 892122) or Helen ☎01621 891067) for further details. Compiling and maintaining the church and extension cleaning rotas. Joining either (or both) cleaning rotas (training given and all equipment provided)! Serving refreshments after the 10am Sunday service (about once a month). Joining the rota of sidespersons who 'meet and greet' people coming into church.

Easter Lilies If you would like to donate towards the cost of an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one, please contact me on ☎01621 891220. We are suggesting a minimum donation of £5. We will be decorating the church for Easter from 9am on Saturday, 4th April. If you would like to help, you would be most welcome. Greenery and spring flowers would be much appreciated.
Sue Keyes

In your prayer's this week please include:

Our 'Friendship Church' - Bragernes Kirke, Drammen, Norway.
John Gladdish, Nina Pearce, Peter Roast.

Parish Magazine We currently need volunteers to help deliver the Parish Magazine in Maypole Road ten times a year. If you can help (the rounds can be shared or split), please contact Helen on
☎01621 891067 or e-mail ✉parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk

PARISH CONTACTS

Benefice Administrator: ☎07908 776750
Rosie Pollock: ✉office.blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com
Diocesan Safeguarding Team: ☎01245 294444
✉safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org
Parish Safeguarding Representative: Vacancy
Churchwarden: Vacancy

Notices: If you wish to include any item on the weekly 'Notices' please contact Chris Munton E-Mail ✉cmmunton@ukmm.com ☎01621 891817 who also maintains the consolidated diary for the Church, Church Extension and The Honeywood.

Please inform ALL bookings to avoid the possibility of any conflicts.