

**Bible Readings and Weekly Notices for the
Parish of St. Peter's, Great Totham.
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday 3rd May 2026**



Diary for Week Commencing Monday 4th May 2026

- Mon 04 09:30 Private Function in the Church Extension
Mon 04 17:30 'Rainbows' in the Church Extension
Tue 05 09:30 Private Function in the Church Extension
Tue 05 19:30 P.C.C. Meeting at The Honywood
Wed 06 10:00 Baby Signage Group in the Church Extension
Wed 06 10:30 Bible Studies Group at the Honywood
Wed 06 19:30 Gt.Totham Community Choir in the Church Extension
Thu 07 10:30 Edward Bear in the Church Extension
Fri 08 10:00 'Knit and Natter' in the Honywood
Fri 08 10:00 Baby Signage in the Church Extension
Fri 08 19:45 Great Totham Bell Ringing Practice
Sun 10 10:00 Morning Service of the Word and Sunday Club
Sun 10 18:00 Evensong via 'Zoom' Contact Sue Godsmark

Forthcoming events:

Sat 23 May 10:00 Coffee Morning in The Honywood



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.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading Acts 7. 55-end

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Second Reading 1 Peter 3. 2-10

² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair, and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing; ⁴ rather, let your adornment be the inner self with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God's sight. ⁵ It was in this way long ago that the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves by accepting the authority of their husbands. ⁶ Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord. You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good and never let fears alarm you. ⁷ Husbands, in the same way, show consideration for your wives in your life together, paying honour to the woman as the weaker sex, since they too are also heirs of the gracious gift of life—so that nothing may hinder your prayers.

Suffering for Doing Right

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For 'Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit;

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Gospel John 14. 15-21

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

Glory to you, Oh Lord.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

The Church Annual Meeting will be held at after this service today when the 2025 Accounts and Report on church activities will be presented and PCC members appointed. Everyone is welcome to attend although votes may only be cast by those registered on St Peter's Electoral Roll. Current PCC members have already indicated they are willing to stand again, however, we do have space for more. If you are interested in joining, please complete a nomination form (available at the back of church) and return it to Helen Mutton, 17 Goat Lodge Road. Electoral Roll forms should be returned to Colin Heaviside.

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 sides persons who 'meet and greet' people coming into church.

The Prayer for Peace in the World

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed; kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace; and guide with your pure and peaceful wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Leading your church into growth - a prayer.

God of mission, who alone brings growth to your church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship, and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The April 100+ Club draw winners are:

1st prize:Pauline Haggerty, 2nd prize:Sandra Mackie,3rd prize:Madge Dewing

In your prayer's this week please include:

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

Those who have recently died and their families: Terry Jenkins, Peter Roast

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 Honywood.

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