



FLSHC Parish Newsletter – April 2026

The Parish of Freshford with Limpley Stoke and Hinton Charterhouse – Newsletter – April 2026

Greetings! As I write this the great season of Passiontide has begun. Jesus has a meal with his friends Lazarus, Martha and Mary (John 12: 1-3). Just think! Lazarus reclining at table, only recently raised from the dead by Jesus. That episode (John 11: 1-45) was such a learning curve for all who were there - his disciples, the Jews visiting (“Many of the Jews who had come, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him”) and especially Jesus talking with Martha – those one-to-one comments... “I am the resurrection. Do you believe this?” (11: 25-26), and “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God? (11: 40).

We then journey with Jesus as he approaches and enters Jerusalem. He knows his destiny. He is also human. Next week we will be with him, in the Garden of Gethsemane, as he prays, sweating blood in his anguish, and yet committed to God, his Father’s, will. Imagine! He is doing this all out of love for the people he has met, taught and healed, to show the way... Later that evening he will see all his disciples desert him, and hear his friend Peter deny knowing him. (The cock crowed, “...and the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter”. Luke 22: 61). How that look must have been seared in Peter’s memory.

Jesus is crucified. Then we relive the wonderful glory of Easter morning, and hearing that the first thing the risen Jesus does is call a weeping woman by her name, “Mary”. This is our Lord – the reason for the hope that we have – the certainty of hope in the mystery of God... Easter is such a positive world event.

And this hope is so needed just now, with such worrying world conflicts. We see new horror and uncertainty on our news feeds. All war is awful. Yes, there is a case there. But how do we respond? A threat to take out Iran’s power supply is met with threat to destroys Saudi Arabia’s desalination. Surely both are war crimes? And our leaders should know better. Bullies do harm. That harm is destabilising the world. Where are the world leaders with wisdom and diplomacy? There is much to pray for.

At St Peter’s we are holding a weekly hour of prayer on Tuesday evenings (7.30 – 8.30pm)



Personal coaches talk about identifying those worries that you can influence, and those you cannot (the circle of concern - Covey Habit 1). The world is a worry that most of us cannot influence, yet we see it vividly – tower blocks flattened, with us wondering who is inside? Prayer helps. To be together, and sitting in silence, or saying a few words, or reading a verse of scripture, is powerful. I believe that God’s Spirit is there, to pastor us and guide. So, wherever we are, let us draw strength from the Easter season. May God bless our Parish and people.

Revd Nigel Rawlinson - Rector



Easter Services

Sunday 29th March

10.30am

5.00pm

Palm Sunday

St John the B, Hinton Charterhouse Common Worship Communion

St Mary's, Limpley Stoke BCP Evening prayer

31st March

Liz's House, Hinton Charterhouse Evening prayer

Wednesday 1st April

Bath Abbey

Bach St Matthew Passion

Tickets <https://bathboxoffice.org.uk/whats-on/j-s-bach-st-matthew-passion-9fhy>

Thursday 2nd April

9.00am

c/o Louisa Kyle, Penny / Nigel

8.00pm

Maundy Thursday

St Peter's, Freshford

School service

St Peter's, Freshford

An informal service
to remember the Last Supper

3rd April

Good Friday

11.00am

Walk of Witness

Start: Rose and Crown, Hinton Charterhouse

Route: St John the Baptist - prayers

Hinton Priory

Pipehouse Lane

St Mary's (across the fields) - prayers

Galleries

Along to **St Peter's**

Meditation service 1.00 (an hour at the cross)

5.30pm

Bath Abbey

Free entry

Stainers crucifixion

April 5th

Easter day

6.30am

St Mary's, Limpley Stoke

Sunrise - open air Communion service

9.00am

St Peter's, Freshford

Holy Communion

10.30am

St John the Baptist, HC

Easter family Celebration and communion

Followed by Easter egg hunt

12th April Easter 1

St Peter's, Freshford

Holy Communion and baptism



News from St Peter's

There have been a few things happening at St Peter's!

First, we are very pleased to report that the incline of the path up to the churchyard on the left, as you come into St Peter's, has been reduced to make for easier access. We are waiting to have a handrail fitted to add extra safety.

The churchyard is looking beautiful, full of daffodils and other spring bulbs. Thanks to professional pruning (thank you, Alan and team) of all the shrubs and yew trees it is looking very tidy as well. Do come and have a look, and rest for a while on the seats provided at the back of the church. It really is a lovely peaceful spot.

Inside the church, thanks to the amazing effort of Sue Cordon, we have 'chair-back book holders'. These are to hold the hymn books, service books and bibles during services. It always was a juggling act! Now we no longer have to use the floor to hold the books. Thank you so much, Sue.

Finally, we have placed some of the old kneeler tapestries inside frames and put them on the wall to the left of the vestry door. Mary Wang has been the driving force behind this and has chosen some great frames to set them off. Thank you Mary and thanks to Steve for hanging them on the wall.

We have two services at St Peter's this Easter; Good Friday at 1pm and on Easter Sunday at 9am - see details below. We would love you to join us this Easter. *Debbie*

News from St Mary's

We had a fantastic turnout for our spring cleanup of St Mary's church and churchyard and even the undercroft was cleared out and a skip filled (thank you, Sam). Thank you to all who took part and reached those parts of the church not usually reached! It was all done in time for our Mothering Sunday service the following day. Posies made by a team from St Peter's were handed out, and further ones taken to others unable to get to the service.

We now look ahead to the services leading up to and celebrating Easter. The 6.30am sunrise service overlooking Salisbury plain on Easter Sunday is very, very special!

Save the date! Sunday 28th June 3.00pm, St Mary's. Informal concert by the Quercus Quintet, a local woodwind group. *David*

News from St John's

The month started with a morning service with Communion on 1st of March. And weekly Evening prayer has continued on Tuesday at 5.30 in Liz's house. We will return to St John's after Easter.

On the 29th March, instead of the usual Cafe Church, we are celebrating Palm Sunday with a morning service at St John's at 10.30am. Each person will be given a palm cross – with a message.

On Good Friday, 3rd April at 11.00am all (human and canine) who like exercise will meet at The Rose and



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Crown and walk to St John's, over the fields past Hinton Priory to St Mary's, then down to The Galleries and finally St Peter's. Prayers will be said en route and there will be a Good Friday Meditation at St Peter's.

We then look forward to our April 5th, Easter Day Family Communion Service, followed by an Easter Egg hunt for the children. Anyone who would like to help is welcome at the church on Saturday, 4th April to help with flowers and cleaning. This is slightly tricky at present as the kitchen and part of the children's area is covered in scaffolding. Work will start on repairing the ceiling after Easter. *Liz*

News from the School

With Easter fast approaching, we are looking forward to our upcoming school Easter services at St Peter's. After the Easter holidays, we are delighted that the Year 6 children will be practicing in the church for the inter-schools Shakespeare festival. This takes place on alternate years in July and, this year, the children will be performing the Tempest. When we undertook the reordering of the church, part of our vision was for it to be a flexible space, suitable for community events, so we are delighted that they can use the church in this way. *Penny*

Ladies Wednesday walking group

The next date for the walking group is the 8th of April, 13th of May, 10th of June and the 8th of July. There won't be a walk in August. Dates from September onwards to follow.

Wednesday afternoons - Tea, cake & chat

Please do come and join us in the Old Bakery on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 – 4.00 for tea, coffee.

Zoom sessions

If you don't get out much and feel like a chat, a small group of us zoom together for 45 minutes on a Monday morning. To give it a try, please contact Penny Jones on jonespennyg@gmail.com. *Penny*

Need a lift? Think LINK

A reminder that the Limpley Stoke and Freshford LINK service is available to residents in both villages who lack the means to get from A to B. Volunteer drivers will transport you to a doctor's appointment or local hospital, as well as to shopping or social visits. The service includes the delivery of prescriptions from the Galleries for those unable to collect them. If you have a car and some free time, why not consider becoming a LINK driver. Details at freshford.org.uk or you can contact the LINK co-ordinator on 07714 169216.



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