

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



A message from the rector

I am writing this having just watched the consecration of Revd Simon Robinson as Bishop of Warrington, in a glorious service streamed from York Minster. Several of us who knew him when he was curate here in 2014 gathered in St Peter's Church to watch it. It was lovely to see his smile. He wears a cross given to him by St Peter's congregation.



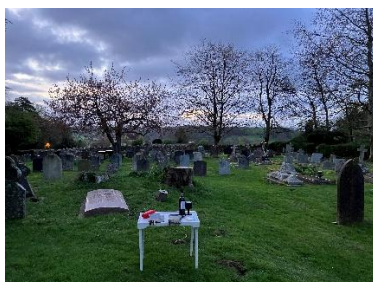
There was such a sense of continuity. And in a service tradition going back hundreds of years, reminding us of the **heritage and hope** that we have in Christ.

We see this in the Easter season – the resurrection of Jesus - the great fact that changed the world. The week from Palm Sunday, through Good Friday to Easter Day - a tiny point in the world's time-line spanning millions of years (just think!) – is the week that opens heaven to humankind – in Jesus's name – the hope that we have. And he is with us always.

And we have been outside - the spring season itself bringing new life.



On Good Friday we walked the cross to all our churches, from Hinton Charterhouse past St Mary's to St Peter's Freshford.



Then on Easter Day we began our celebration of the resurrection at dawn, at St Mary's Limpley Stoke. And all our churches were transformed by Easter flowers – fantastic.

And on April 12th Tom, a graduate from the university of Bath, and a rugby player, was baptised in a service of celebration and welcome. Olly, his rugby teammate who came in support, was baptised in the sea in Sydney, Australia (“dunked” he says) last summer. It was good to showcase different ways to mark the same thing - a new life in Jesus. It was then a joy to welcome the 15th Bath (Freshford) Scout Group, who walked up from the hall to St Mary's to renew their scout promise in a service for St George's Day – again reminding us of our Christian heritage.



We have continued our weekly hour prayer vigils on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 in St Peter's, to pray for the world. The King's visit to the USA has bought new hope of restoring a relationship with that country.



Glorious dawns are a daily reminder of the hope that we have - a hope in all circumstances. And we, as the Christian church, are in the season that remembers how the friends of Jesus saw him leave earth, and then waited for the Holy Spirit he promised. The Holy Spirit is the gift of God for us – a power that then, 2,000 years ago, grew the testimony of 12 people into a world - wide faith, and now, continues to guide us and give us hope.

We are holding the Annual meeting of the parish in St Peter's on May 10th – a meeting that will look ahead to new things – an improved message of inclusion, empowerment and long-term preparation – as we seek to support our community.

And this will depend on the presence of the Holy Spirit. We continue to try and live out Acts 2: 42-47. There the scripture tells us that when they were united in praise, worship, learning and prayer, and joyfully being part of the community, then “the Lord added daily to their number.”

Amen

News from St Peter's

After a wonderful Easter weekend, we continued celebrating with an adult baptism on April 12th.

The weekly prayer vigils continue on Tuesdays at 7.30pm, and the Romans bible study is resuming on Thursdays at 10.30am.

The newly formed St Peter's Service Leadership Team led a service of Morning prayer on 26th April that was very well received.

We are delighted to welcome the school in to use the church to rehearse Shakespeare's "The Tempest" – to be performed in July – watch this space. We apologise that the church has to be closed to visitors for this time for safeguarding reasons.

In May the 5th Sunday (31st May) cafe church is being replaced by a celebration service. Rachel Moore and Pat Rawlinson are being introduced as new Anna Chaplains. Wendy Haslam (Bath and Wells Diocese Lead of Anna Chaplaincy) is joining us. *Nigel*

News from St Mary's

April saw 'very much behind the scenes' activity preparing the church for the year ahead. Having had a tremendous spring cleanup, all the electrical equipment has been PAT safety tested, the fire extinguishers tested and serviced, and the roof alarms also checked and serviced.

The May services this month are:

Sunday 3rd May 12.30pm BCP Communion service (said)

Sunday 17th May 10.30 CW Communion

Sunday 24th May 5.00pm BCP Evening service – note a different Sunday this month

Dates for your diary

We have two amazing Summer Concerts coming up at St Mary's...

Sunday 28th June at 3.00pm, the Quercus Quintet, a local woodwind group and then on Sunday 12th July at 3.00pm, a Harp Recital given by Morgan Williams from Bristol.

Prosecco, cake and free entry! (retiring collection in aid of Parish Music Fund).

Please come and join us. *David*

News from St John's

Easter Day was on the first Sunday in April and we had a wonderful family Communion service with a good congregation. Despite it being Nigel's third service of the morning, he was still full of energy and enthusiasm (no surprise there!). This was followed by coffee outside and an Easter egg hunt which had children darting happily round the grounds of St John's.

Tuesday evening prayer continues at my home but is reverting to St John's in May now the weather is warming up. The trees in the churchyard have all been checked over recently and the work required will be completed before September when safe to do so for birds and bats. The porch has recently been lime washed and looks so much better.

The Loss Adjuster from the insurance company visits on the 1st May to examine the ceiling after which we hope the repairs will be able to start. The scaffolding should be down by the end of May, and we plan a

working party to do maintenance and cleaning on the Spring Bank Holiday on 25th May. Anyone able to help that day will be warmly welcomed. *Liz*

News from the School

As the new term begins, we have been delighted to be able to welcome the children back into the church for their Shakespeare rehearsals and hope they are enjoying the acoustics that the church building offers! These will continue all day on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons during school times, until the beginning of July when the children will participate in an Interschools' festival. We wish them well with that.

We also continue to attend collective worship on a weekly basis, another busy term ahead!

Penny

Services

3 rd May 10.30	St John's, Hinton Charterhouse	Common Worship Holy Communion
3 rd May 12.30	St Mary's, Limpley Stoke	BCP Communion
5 th May 5.30	St John's Hinton Charterhouse	Evening prayer note – we are back in church this month
10 th May 10.30	St Peter's, Freshford	Common Worship Holy Communion
12 th May 5.30	St John's, Hinton Charterhouse	Evening prayer
17 th May 10.30	St Mary's, Limpley Stoke	Common Worship Holy Communion
19 th May 5.30	St John's, Hinton Charterhouse	Evening prayer
24 th May 10.30	St Peter's, Freshford	Common Worship Morning prayer
24 th May 5.00	St Mary's, Limpley Stoke	BCP evening prayer note new week this 5 Sunday month
26 th May 5.30	St John's, Hinton Charterhouse	Evening prayer
31 st May	St Peter's, Freshford	Celebration Service and Blessing of Anna Chaplains Rachel and Pat

Ladies Wednesday walking group

The next date for the walking group is the 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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