

**Bible Readings and Weekly Notices for the
Parish of St. Peter's, Great Totham.
Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
16th August 2026**



Diary for Week Commencing Monday 17th August 2026

Mon	17 09:30	Private Function in the Church Extension	
Mon	17 17:30	'Rainbows' in the Church Extension	SUMMER BREAK
Tue	18 09:30	Private Function in the Church Extension	
Wed	19 10:00	Baby Signage in the Church Extension	SUMMER BREAK
Wed	19 10:30	Bible Studies Group at the Honywood	SUMMER BREAK
Wed	19 19:30	Gt. Totham Community Choir in the Church Extension	
Thu	20 10:30	Edward Bear in the Church Extension	SUMMER BREAK
Fri	21 10:00	'Knit and Natter' in the Honywood	SUMMER BREAK
Fri	21 10:00	Baby Signage in the Church Extension	SUMMER BREAK
Fri	21 19:45	Great Totham Bell Ringing Practice	
Sun	23 10:00	Family Communion	NO SUNDAY CLUB
Sun	17 18:00	Evensong via 'Zoom' Contact Sue Godsmark	

Forthcoming events:

- Sat 29 Aug 10:00 Coffee Morning in The Honywood
Sun 13 Sep 10:00 Pet's Service at St. Peter's
Sun TBA 10:00 Harvest Festival



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.

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 *Isaiah 56. 1,6-8*

The Covenant Extended to All Who Obey

¹Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant - ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Second Reading *Romans 11. 1-2,29-32*

Israel's Rejection Is Not Final

¹¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

²⁹for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)



Gospel Matthew 15. (10-20)21-28

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

Glory to you, Oh Lord

Things That Defile

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' ¹³ He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.' ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' ¹⁶ Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?' ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'

The Canaanite Woman's Faith

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶ He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷ She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)



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.**



In your prayer's this week please include:

Our 'Friendship Church' - Bragernes Kirke, Drammen, Norway.

John Gladdish, Andrew Marsden, Nina Pearce

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.