

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
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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.

Bible Readings and Weekly Notices for the Parish of St. Peter's, Great Totham. Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity 27th September 2026



Diary for Week Commencing Monday 28th September 2026

Mon 28 09:30 Private Function in the Church Extension
Mon 28 17:30 'Rainbows' in the Church Extension
Tue 29 09:30 Private Function in the Church Extension
Tue 29 19:30 P.C.C. Meeting at The Honywood
Wed 30 10:00 Baby Signage in the Church Extension
Wed 30 10:30 Bible Studies Group at the Honywood
Wed 30 19:30 Gt.Totham Community Choir in the Church Extension
Thu 01 10:30 Edward Bear in the Church Extension
Fri 02 10:00 'Knit and Natter' in the Honywood
Fri 02 10:00 Baby Signage in the Church Extension
Fri 02 18:00 Christmas Planning Meeting at The Honywood
Fri 02 19:45 Great Totham Bell Ringing Practice
Sun 04 10:00 Morning Service of the Word and Sunday Club

Forthcoming events:

Sat 10 Oct 09:00 Decorating the Church for Harvest Festival
Sun 11 Oct 10:00 Harvest Festival
Sat 24 Oct 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, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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 Ezekiel 18. 1-4, 25-end

Individual Retribution

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Second Reading Philippians 2. 1-13

Imitating Christ's Humility

¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Shining as Lights in the World

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Gospel Matthew 21. 23-32

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

Glory to you, Oh Lord

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' ²⁴ Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?"' ²⁶ But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." ²⁹ He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)



We will be decorating the church for Harvest Thanksgiving on Saturday 10th October commencing at 9am, If you would like to join us, please do you will be very welcome. Coffee provided. If anyone has any flowers and greenery it would be appreciated.
Contact Sue ☎01621 891220