

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: Rosie Pollock:

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✉ 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.

Bible Readings and Weekly Notices for the Parish of St. Peter's, Great Totham. Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity Bible Sunday - 25th October 2026



Diary for Week Commencing Monday 26th October 2026

Mon 26 09:30 Private Function in the Church Extension
Mon 26 17:30 'Rainbows' in the Church Extension
Tue 27 09:30 Private Function in the Church Extension
Wed 28 10:00 Baby Signage in the Church Extension
Wed 28 10:30 Bible Studies Group at the Honywood
Wed 28 19:30 Gt. Totham Community Choir in the Church Extension
Thu 29 10:30 Edward Bear in the Church Extension
Fri 30 10:00 'Knit and Natter' in the Honywood
Fri 30 10:00 Baby Signage in the Church Extension
Fri 30 19:45 Great Totham Bell Ringing Practice
Sun 01 10:00 Morning Service of the Word and Sunday Club

Forthcoming events:

Tue 03 Nov 09:00 Servicing of Roof and Fire Alarms
Sun 15 Nov 10:00 Blessing of Christmas Shoe Boxes
Sat 28 Nov 10:00 Coffee Morning in The Honywood
Sat 05 Dec 11:00 Christmas Fayre (until 15:00)
Fri 18 Dec 11:00 Ramblers Carol Service
Sun 20 Dec 10:00 Nativity Play
Sun 20 Dec 18:00 Nine Lessons and Carols
Thu 24 Dec 15:00 & 17:00 Christingles

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.

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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 Nehemiah 8. 1-4, 8-12

¹ All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴ The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiyah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand.

⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' ¹¹ So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Second Reading Colossians 3. 12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ➡



¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Gospel Matthew 24. 30-35

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

Glory to you, Oh Lord

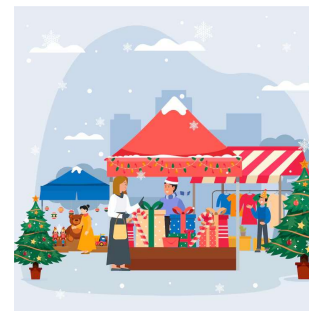
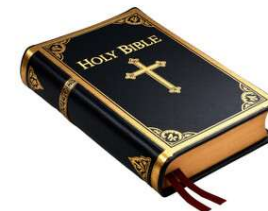
³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

³² 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)



Our Christmas Fayre takes place on 5th December, and we need your help to make it a success! There's a list of volunteer jobs at the back of the church, including baking beforehand and helping on the day. Whether you can spare a little time or a few hours, your support would be very much appreciated. Please take a look after the service and add your name where you can help. Thank you!