Bible Readings and Weekly Notices for the Parish of St. Peter's, Great Totham.
Second Sunday before Advent
15th November 2026
Blessing of Christmas Shoe Boxes

Diary for Week Commencing Monday 16th November 2026

Mon	16	09:30	Private Function in the Church Extension
Mon	16	17:30	'Rainbows' in the Church Extension
Tue	17	09:30	Private Function in the Church Extension
Tue	17	09:00	Servicing of Roof and Fire Alarms
Wed	18	10:00	Baby Signage in the Church Extension
Wed	18	10:30	Bible Studies Group at the Honywood
Wed	18	13:00	Art Class at the Honywood
Wed	18	19:00	Art Class at the Honywood
Wed	18	19:30	Gt. Totham Community Choir in the Church Extension
Thu	19	10:30	Edward Bear in the Church Extension
Fri	20	10:00	'Knit and Natter' in the Honywood
Fri	20	10:00	Baby Signage in the Church Extension
Fri	20	19:45	Great Totham Bell Ringing Practice
Sun	22	10:00	Morning Service of the Word

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.
Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed o destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading *Zephaniah 1. 7, 12-end*

7 Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has
prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who
rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not
do good, nor will he do harm.' 13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses
laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant
vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The Great Day of the Lord

14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day
of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of
wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness
and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle
cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such
distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned
against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the
Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a
full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need
to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day
of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, 'There is peace and
security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come
upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, beloved, are not
in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of
light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So then, let
us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7 for those
who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since
we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath
but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

[10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. *This is the word of the Lord.* - **Thanks be to God.**

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Gospel *Matthew 25. 14-30*

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

Glory to you, Oh Lord

The Parable of the Talents

[14] 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16] The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." [21] His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." [23] His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." [26] But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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!
Daphne Taplin would appreciate filled jars for the Tombola Stall please.



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.**

Forthcoming events:

Tue 24 Nov 12:00 W.I. meeting in the Honywood
Sat 28 Nov 10:00 Coffee Morning in The Honywood.
Tue 01 Dec 12:00 W.I. Meeting in the Honywood
Sat 05 Dec 11:00 Rudolph's Red Nose 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

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: 07908 776750
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.