

NOTICES / DIARY DATES

Event	Date and time	Venue
Team Morning Prayer	Wednesday 11 th May (8:45 am)	St. John's Church
Meeting of the PCC Standing Committee	Wednesday 11 th May (7:30 pm)	TBC
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)	Sunday 15 th May	St. John's Church
Team Morning Prayer	Wednesday 18 th May (8:45 am)	Holy Trinity, Bledlow
Team Morning Prayer	Wednesday 25 th May (8:45 am)	St. Mary's Princes Risborough
"Jazz from the Musicals Show" Gavin Mole and singer Gary Bland will present a pilot performance of a new one-hour show which will be debuting in London later in the year. Come and celebrate with us in style with such songs as Luck Be A Lady, A Foggy Day, Strike Up The Band and many more well-known favourites. Tickets are only £10. Profits will go to St John's Church and to support our Ukrainian friends.	Saturday 4th June (7:00 pm) (Tickets include Refreshments Afterwards)	St. John's Church

UKRAINE CRISIS

Donations to the Unicef appeal for help for the children of Ukraine can be made by telephoning 0300 330 5699 or by post to Freepost RTZU-CHYK-BHJC Unicef UK, Ukraine Appeal, 1 Westfield Avenue, London E20 1HZ. Alternatively, donations may be made to UK Aid through the Disasters Emergency Committee by texting "TIMES" to "70150" or telephoning 0370 6060 900 or by post to DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, P.O. Box 999, London EC3A 3AA – donations through this appeal will be match-funded by the UK Government up to £20 million. There is a collection plate in Church for cash donations which will be forwarded on your behalf. Rotary International are appealing for medical supplies but also for blankets, mittens, knee pads, and warm socks which are to be transported by vehicle from Maidstone, and also for mother and baby supplies which will be sent through the Polish community in Banbury. We will arrange for donations of this kind to reach the appropriate dispatch point. Thank you.

Key Contacts:

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Tony Bundock	01844 347741
Team Rector:	Rev. David Williams	01844 346984
Licensed Lay Minister:	Mr Graham King	01844 343910
Churchwardens:	Mrs Pat Rushmere	01494 562140
	Mrs Margaret Gray	01844 347094
PCC Secretary & Pew Sheet editor:	Mr Mark Roberts	01296 437345
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www.stjohnschurchlaceygreen.co.uk

PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 8TH MAY 2022
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WELCOME TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

You are warmly welcomed to St. John's Church, particularly if you are new to our congregation or are a visitor.

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

- Wearing masks in church, is requested apart from for the choir when singing, for those leading worship and during actual receipt of Holy Communion. The congregation are requested to wear masks when moving around in Church, maintain social distancing and sanitise their hands.
- Singing of hymns in Church during the sung services will continue. The congregation can continue to join in the singing of hymns, but to do so wearing their masks.
- Holy Communion will continue in one kind only for the time being and will be administered from the area in front of the chancel step. We are now offering, for those who wish it, hosts intincted by the Celebrant at all Communion Services.
- The Peace will continue for the time being to be observed discreetly and following social distancing protocols.
- The congregation are asked to observe social distancing as far as possible and the Lady Chapel area will be set aside as a mandatory social distancing area for those who feel they need to socially distance themselves from others. Please respect this.
- Where possible, we will be serving coffee after the 10:00 am Service on Sundays.
- The Sidesmen have resumed taking a Collection during the Offertory Hymn. Alternatively, offerings can be left in the jar at the back of the Church. We will be getting a card reader shortly so will be able to accept electronic offerings by credit / debit card in the near future.

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

- 8:00 am In-church Said BCP Communion Service (1st & 3rd Sun)
 10:00 am In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns

TUESDAY

- 9:30 am In-church Said Parish Communion Service

FOCUS ON... SHEEP & THE SHEPHERD

The imagery of sheep, the Shepherd, resonate throughout the bible. One of the Old Testament readings for this Sunday is Psalm 23, with the familiar words of comfort "the Lord is my shepherd". Jesus also uses imagery, such as sheep, in his parables that would have been familiar to his hearers. They would know the characteristics of sheep; their tendency to wander if not looked after, but their loyalty to trust and follow the voice of a good shepherd. And also, they would know of the skill and dedication of a good shepherd. It is perhaps no coincidence that the first visitors to the Christ child were humble shepherds.

Our reading occurs at the time of the ancient Jewish festival of Hanukkah which commemorated the seizure of the Temple in c165BC by Jewish insurgents led by Judas of the Maccabees from soldiers of the Greek empire. During the festival, the priests would examine and re-commit themselves to the service of God and His people based on the rules of purity set out by Ezekiel in about 600BC. But Ezekiel warns the shepherds of Israel who "feed yourselves instead of your flocks. You drink the milk, wear the wool, and butcher your animals but let your flocks starve." And God responds "And though you were my shepherds, you didn't search for my sheep and given them a place to lie down in peace". In the context of our Gospel reading, the words of Jesus would have been explosive. Jesus was claiming that he was the Good Shepherd and, by implication, the priests and religious leaders were the bad shepherds referred to by Ezekiel.

Like sheep, we may wander off and seem lost, but Jesus will always be looking out for us and, like the Prodigal Son, welcomes us home. For as Handel wrote in the "Messiah", "we like sheep have gone astray and will continue to do so. But as Sally Welch writes in her book "Sharing the Easter Storey" which we studied in Lent, "God can see through the dark of our selfish, greedy, lazy, hateful actions to the unique and wonderful soul which we each possess". For we are an Easter people. We have a gospel of hope, of eternal love, mercy, patience and forgiveness freely flowing out to us in abundance. This can overcome all. Or as Jesus promises in our Gospel today; "I give them eternal life and they will never perish. No one can snatch them from me for my Father has given them to me and he is more powerful than anyone else". So let us hang onto this eternal truth in the dark times of uncertainty and grief and give thanks for our ever-present Father who cares so deeply for each and every one of us.

GRAHAM KING

COLLECT FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life
of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever, Amen.



READINGS FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts Ch. 9 VV. 36 – 43
Revelation No. 7 V. 9 – 17

John Ch. 10 VV. 22 – 30

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER

(This Sunday Service's Intercessions Led by GRAHAM KING)



Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for faith to follow your guidance, asking not that you lead us the easy way but the way that is right and good. And we give you thanks that by following you, we are able to live through good and ill in the confidence of life and love in rich abundance. Amen

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

This Week you are Asked to Pray for:

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ian Goodearl, Sally Zeybek, Doug Tilbury, Don White, Pat Syrett, Sally Smith, Marina Eldridge and Marcus Barthropp. Also, Margaret Karstens of Kuruman.
- The recently departed including Phillipa King. May their souls rest in peace. We pray for their families, including Stuart and Lila King, their family and friends at this difficult time.
- Kelly Safaris Silva and her family who are currently in need at this time.
- We pray for countries where there have been natural disasters, for their peoples and for the various aid organisations bringing relief.
- We pray for Peace in the Ukraine. That there will be a rapid end to the fighting and the suffering for its People.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. Particularly praying for countries where infection rates are very high and the hospitals are struggling to cope.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.

POP-UP CRAFT STALLS

With the Coffee Morning at the beginning of April being postponed, a number of Pop-up Craft Stalls will be in church on Sundays in the Social Chapel near to where Coffee is served after the 10:00 am services. These include various craft items including cards and candles. Monies from purchased items to Pat or Margaret (cards stall) or Mark (candles stall). Proceeds to St. John's Church.