

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Today

2.00pm **Confirmation Class** in the Committee Room.

Wednesday

10.00am **Holy Communion** with Revd. Canon Kate Stowe

7.30pm **Finance & Fundraising** Meeting-Committee Room

Thursday

POLLING DAY ~ Hall in use as a Polling Station ~ regular activities therefore suspended.

Next Week - SUNDAY May 5th ~ SIXTH of EASTER

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am All-age Family Eucharist

ANNUAL VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) SUNDAY MAY 19TH 2024

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS at the **Vestry** meeting: **Two Churchwardens** to be elected by parishioners to serve for **1 year**. Along with the Vicar, they are responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the parish, including administration, plant operations, and personnel. They play an active and valuable role in the spiritual, pastoral and legal life & work of the church.

Who can become a Churchwarden? Those who stand for election as warden have usually been on the PCC and are familiar with church life. If you feel you could serve St. Peter's, think about standing for election to the PCC and 'learn the ropes'.

ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS at the **APCM**: New **PCC members** are elected by those on the Church Electoral Roll. The PCC is governed by law and, as a charitable trust, is the executive body of the parish. It consists of clergy, churchwardens and lay members from the parish. Elected PCC members serve for a maximum term of 3 years. Membership involves acceptance of legal & financial responsibilities, regular attendance at meetings, taking part in discussions, voting, & helping in relation to legal, financial, pastoral, missionary & spiritual matters of the parish.

Who can be elected to PCC? If you are on St. Peter's Church Electoral Roll and a regular communicant, you can stand for election to the PCC. This year **4 PCC members** can be elected to serve 3 years and there are **2 casual PCC vacancies** to fill places for 2 years.

To stand for election as Churchwarden or PCC members, you should be nominated, proposed and seconded on the forms available from the back of church or the Parish Office. You must be on the Church Electoral Roll in order to stand or to propose or second a nominee. Forms should be handed to either Revd. Kate or PCC Secretary, Maggie Davies.

We are looking at having a **BRING AND SHARE LUNCH** to celebrate the **60th BIRTHDAY** of the **CHURCH HALL** straight after the **APCM**. Keep your eyes open for further information.



RIP David Cox Denise Jones

WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Growing in Love, Deepening Faith,
Working for God, Welcoming All

To Newcomers:

We are especially glad to see you. By way of introduction please fill in a pew slip and return it to a Sidesperson or contact the Parish Office on 681 1940.

Pew slips can be found at the back of the church.

Please take this notice sheet home.

www.stpeterharborne.org.uk

Email: parishoffice@stpeterharborne.org.uk

SERVICES FOR

SUNDAY April 28th 2024

5th of EASTER

8.00am

Holy Communion

Green Prayer Book

10.00am Parish Communion with Holy Baptism
Common Worship ~ HA & M ~ Rizza

Organ Voluntary: Voluntary in E Minor ~ John Stanley

1st Hymn: 721

Gradual: 494

Sermon: Anne Abok

BAPTISM: Florence Ophelia Rose Round

Offertory Hymn: 463

Anthem: The Call ~ Vaughan Williams

Communion Hymn: 212

Final Hymn: 748

Recessional Voluntary: Trumpet Voluntary ~ John Stanley

6.30pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

Green Prayer Book ~ NEH

Hymn: 109

Psalm: 96

OT Lesson: Isaiah 60. 1-14

NT Lesson: Revelations 3.1-13

Anthem: O Thou the Central Orb ~ Wood

Sermon: Revd. Canon Kate Stowe

Hymn: 124

CONFIRMATION CLASSES led by Revd. Canon Kate Stowe continue today and on the following Sundays: **12th May, 9th & 16th June**. 2-3pm in the Vicarage.



The next "**First Communion**" session will be on **5th May**,

Susan Lister is coming to the end of her tenure as Church Warden after 6 years of dedicated service. We are holding a collection as a token of thanks for all that she has done. Any donations to the Parish office please.

SUNDAY APRIL 21th 2024

5th OF EASTER

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Acts 8.26-end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Gospel Reading

John 15.1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

A Note regarding the wine of Holy Communion

If you wish to receive the wine of Communion, this is received directly from the chalice; we ask that you do not intinct (dip) your wafer in the wine. As stated in a paper regarding the Common Cup from 2022 (see copy of full wording at back of church), "there is absolutely no obligation to receive the consecrated wine. It is a personal choice for each of us to make. As has always been the case, the Church teaches that whether we receive communion under one kind (usually the consecrated bread) or both kinds (consecrated bread and wine) we receive the fullness of Christ's sacramental presence. In other words, if we decide not to receive the consecrated wine from the chalice, we are not somehow "missing out"."



We would like to open the church for a couple of hours on a Thursday afternoon starting from May. If you could spare the time to volunteer as a steward, please have a word with Charlie Chadwick or the Parish Office and put your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of church.

Dates for your diary

In May 2023 the PCC voted to request permission from the Bishop of Birmingham to allow children to be admitted to communion before confirmation, following a period of preparation. The Bishop replied granting permission and expressing great appreciation and support for our ministry with children. A number of our young people have been preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time, and are now ready to take this important step. They will be admitted to communion during the Parish Eucharist on Sunday 12 May. Please do pray for them and come and rejoice with them in church that day.

Sunday 12th May at St. Mary's Church Selly Oak, at 4pm there will be a **Deanery Welcome Service** for Bishop Michael. Everyone is welcome to attend. Watch this space for further details....



Christian Aid Week 12 – 18th May: Please support as we raise funds for Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa.

Lots of ways to help: deliver envelopes, bake cakes for cake sales on 12th and 19th May (also APCM), collect on the High Street on 18th May, pray. Sign up sheets at the back of church.

Individual Fund Raising: Could you organise a quiz, do a sponsored challenge like the **'70k in May'** or host a (donations) dinner party? See the ideas on <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/>.

Give generously to help Aline and her community transform their lives and living conditions. You can give cash at church or to the parish office. St Peter's online giving details are **St Peters Christian Aid Week 2024** or our QR giving code.

If you are reading this on paper, here is the link to enter into your computer search engine <https://tinyurl.com/St-Peters-CAW-2024>.