

Bulletin for the week beginning 12th May

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

The Easter season continues until Pentecost (19th May) and there are several special events and services to mark this joyful time. See below for details.

Sunday 12th May – Easter 7 (Sunday after Ascension)

09.00am: Holy Communion

10.30am: Parish Eucharist

10.30am: Brights

Readings: Acts 1. 15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5. 9-13, John 17. 6-19

4.00pm: Organ Recital – in Church

Monday 13th May

09.15am: Morning Prayer

Tuesday 14th May - Matthias the Apostle

10.00am: Ladies Fellowship

6.00pm: Exploring Faith – Meet at The Princess Charlottes

Wednesday 15th May

9.30am: Holy Communion

Thursday 16th May

Caroline Chisholm, social Reformer, 1877

Friday 17th May

09.30am: Prayer Walking

10.30am: Holy Communion at Loganberry Lodge

Sunday 19th May – Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

9.00 am: Holy Communion

10.30 am: Family Communion

5.00pm: Thy Kingdom Come - 'The Prayer' – in the hall

Thy Kingdom Come: 9th to 19th May

Christians in Stanway/Lexden will be joining in with 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer 2024:

- Six Churches will create prayer stations covering the days between Ascension Day (**9th May**) and Pentecost (**19th May**), displayed in St Albright's Church. We invite you to come in, to look, pause, be still, listen and pray.
- Our services: **Friday, 17th May** - prayer walking at 9.30am, Pentecost Sunday services at 9.00am and 10.30am
- On Pentecost **Sunday, 19th May**, young people and families are invited to gather for 'The Prayer', 5-6pm in the Hall. All Colchester Churches are invited to Kingsland Church at 6.30pm for a Pentecost celebration.

If you would like a copy of the Novena or the prayer diary, you will find them at the back of the Church. Donations welcome.

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost. These precious days can for us too, be infused with expectation and anticipation. We too can set these days apart to pray, individually and together, for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We can cry out to God for more people to come to know the life-transforming love of God.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions. For more information, go to [Thy Kingdom Come | Thy Kingdom Come](#).

There are also special videos for children [Cheeky Pandas | Thy Kingdom Come](#) and for young people [Youth | Thy Kingdom Come](#).

Organ Recital

David Tibbetts-Chaplin will be having an Organ Recital, **On Sunday, 12th May** titled 'You've heard it all before' – Music he has been playing for the last 36 years. This will take place at 4pm in the church followed by refreshments in the hall.

The Rev. Wendy Pagden

Wendy will be leaving us at the end of June. The funding for her post as Pioneer Minister was for a period of five years from October 2019 and Wendy feels that it is better for her to depart at the end of the academic year rather than at the beginning of a new one. Her final service at St. Albright's will be on **Sunday 30th June at 10.30.**

Exploring Faith

We have just begun a new 'Exploring Faith' gathering. It takes place on Tuesdays from 6.00 -7.00pm at The Princess Charlottes Pub. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 14th May.** If you would like to join us, contact Rev'd Wendy.

Mayor's Chaplain

As you may know one of our Stanway City Councillors, Lesley Scott-Boutell, is going to be Mayor for 2024/5 and she has asked Tony to be her chaplain. This will entail attending a number of civic events and Council meetings, starting with the "Mayor Making" on 22nd May, and hosting two main services at St. Albright's - the Mayor's Civic Service on **7th July** and the Mayor's Carol Service on **15th December.** More details about these anon.

Please note the change of date for the Carol Service

Roof Works

The final part of the repairs to the church roof have now been completed with the removal of the old chimney which had to be taken down because it was dangerous and in danger of collapse. Praise God for the successful completion of all these works, and many thanks to our excellent builders, John and Ian, and our architect, David. The next project is a new heating system for the church and having a proper disabled access to the building.

Church Heating etc

There is a committee of the PCC looking at the question of energy use and how we as a church can reduce our carbon footprint. This involves a better, greener heating system but is much wider than this. The Diocese of Chelmsford is proposing to nominate the Parish Church to receive funding from the Church of England to explore how to do this and to find improvements – it is called the Net Zero Carbon Demonstrators Project, and we are one of only 6 parishes in the diocese who will be nominated. This is an exciting opportunity and follows work that we as a church have already been doing, for example in having green sourced electricity supplied. If you have any ideas or expertise on this subject, do get in touch with any member of the committee – Morag Bushell is the chair with Wendy Pagden, Tony Bushell and our wardens, Pam Higham and Steve Whitfield.

St Albright's Gardeners

We have been blessed over the last few years to have had Snowy Barron dedicate so much of his time to looking our wonderful church grounds. We now must act to continue his work and dedication. I know others have always been there too to help and support which has been much appreciated.

Now is the time of year where things begin to need doing to keep on top of it. You will have noticed no doubt all the rain and the growing sun strength and long daylight hours will make things happen.

My proposal is to assemble a team of keen people, St Albright's Gardeners, to help maintain the outside space in a way that glorifies the best of our grounds. This is an opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of being outside whilst enjoying the nature on our 'church step'.

If you'd like to be part of this please send me a text or email and I will add you to our WhatsApp group. With the longer evenings, we can meet at any time across a week.

There is no experience needed- if you can push a mower that will be amazing, if you can make a cup of tea and give words of encouragement, that too, is often what will be needed.

Please contact Stephen (Churchwarden) on 07833472766
or s.whitfield07@btinternet.com

Open the Book – Stanway Primary School

Our second 'Open the Book' assembly in Stanway Primary School happened on 22nd April, and was warmly received. We have two more this term. A team of eight from four different churches have come together and will be taking assemblies every half term. If you would like to be involved in the initiative, there is still room for you.

Stanwell Hub

'Time to Talk Tuesday' is on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at the Stanway Lakelands Centre, Western Approach CO3 8WD at 12.45pm – 2.00pm. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 21st May**. A representative from Colchester Foodbank will be coming to share about their work. If anyone would like to bring donations to the foodbank, they will be welcomed.

For further information, please contact Rev. Wendy. You can also find details of what is happening at Time to Talk Tuesday and other wellbeing matters on StanWell Hub Facebook page [here](#).

Reflex-18 in collaboration with StanWell Hub, has a new Stanway walking group: 'Walk with a Physio'. This takes place on Fridays between 12-1.00pm, beginning at the Stanway Lakeland Centre and finishing at the Café with the option of staying to socialise over a cup of tea or lunch.

For more information, call 01206 616 989, or go to the StanWell Hub Facebook page [here](#).

Community coffee morning

Our community coffee morning takes place every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, between 10.30am - 12 noon. Our next gathering will be on **Wednesday, 22nd May**. Everyone is welcome.

A Place for Grace

Our intergenerational All Age worship service, 'A Place for Grace', takes place on the first Sunday of every month from 5.30 to 7.00 pm, with a meal and various activities. The next one will take place on **Sunday, 2nd June**. Contact Wendy or Tony for more details.

Children at St. Albright's

Children are welcome at all of our services. There are always crafts and activities available in church focussed on the theme of the day.

Family Communion

On the third Sunday of the month, the 10.30 Eucharist follows a shorter and simpler form, and families are particularly welcome to this service. Baptisms usually take place on this day too. The next Family Communion will be on **Sunday, 19th May**.

St Albright's Tots

A great playgroup for younger children which meets every Tuesday, except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 10.00 to 11.30 in the hall during term time.

The next gathering will be on **Tuesday, 21st May**.

There is an opportunity available to join the Tots leadership team. Please contact Rev Wendy if you are interested.

Holy Communion at home

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you know anyone who might, then please contact any member of the ministry team. There is also a Parish Pastoral Support Team whose members are able to visit, help and support those in particular need.

Thought for the week written by members of the ministry team and others is available [here](#)

Giving

We now have a card reader in church so that donations may be made using a debit or credit card.

It is also possible to donate to St. Albright's online. There is a dedicated page on the website to make giving much easier.

If you would like further details about how to give, and there are many ways to do so, then please contact any of the ministry team or churchwardens. We particularly welcome regular giving, however small, either using weekly envelopes or by standing order, and, if you are a taxpayer we can reclaim Gift Aid.

It is also possible to sponsor a day in the life of the church. You may wish to make a one-off donation in memory of someone or to celebrate a particular event. Please contact any of the ministry team or Churchwardens.

Flowers. If you would like to donate towards the cost of providing the beautiful flowers in church then please speak to any of the ministry team.

For your prayers

Collect for Seventh of Easter (Sunday after Ascension)

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Collect for Matthias, Apostle

Mighty God, who in the place of the traitor Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the twelve: preserve your church from false apostles and, by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers, keep us steadfast in your truth; 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.

We pray for peace in the Middle East:

Almighty God, from all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle we pray in the hearts of all the true love of peace, and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; 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.

We continue to pray for the people and nations of Ukraine and Russia. For peace and for the relief of suffering. The prayer tree will be remaining in the church until the conflict is over.

A Prayer for Ukraine:

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen

Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

We pray for our King, HM King Charles III, our sovereign and Governor of the Church of England

In our church community, please pray for:

Our churchwardens and PCC

Our director of music and the choir

All who help lead our worship - especially readers, intercessors, servers and sidespersons

The ministry and pastoral teams as we seek to help those in particular need.

Those who care for the hall.

Our Architect and the building team

All those who are to be baptized and confirmed

Pray for all those who have been baptised and for our continued connection with baptism families.

All those who are to be married in St. Albright's in 2024 and all who will have their banns called here.

Our outreach, particularly with young people and to the schools in the parish

In the diocese of Chelmsford, please pray for the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt. Rev. Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, and for the Bishop of Colchester, the Rt. Rev Roger Morris. Please also pray for our Archdeacon, the Ven. Ruth Patten, and for all the other parishes in the Colchester Deanery. Our Area Dean is the Rev. Erwin Lammens, vicar of Wivenhoe, and the Assistant Area Dean is the Rev. Hannah Cooper, vicar of St. Luke's, Highwoods. Please also pray for those recently ordained. For **Thy Kingdom Come** (9th -19th May), there will be Prayer Stations in Chelmsford Cathedral.

In the Anglican Communion, please pray for our Archbishops, the Most Rev Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and the Most Rev, Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York.

Please also pray for the Provincial Episcopal Visitors - The Bishop of Richborough, the Rt Rev Norman Banks, and the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, the Rt Rev Dr Rob Munro and the Bishop of Oswestry the Rt. Rev Paul Thomas.

The diocese of Chelmsford has links with several overseas dioceses in the Anglican communion: in Kenya - Embu, Meru, Mberere and Marsabit; and the diocese of Trinidad and Tobago. There are also links with the diocese of Karlstad in Sweden and the Archdiocese of Iasi in Romania. Please pray for the bishops, clergy and people of these places.

In the wider Church, please pray for the Orthodox Patriarchate of Ukraine, for the Church in South Sudan, for Christian communities in Israel and Palestine, and for all Christians persecuted for their faith.

In the wider world, please pray for a better and wiser stewardship of our natural environment.

For the peace of the world wherever there are conflict.

All the nations of the world and their leaders.
Our Prime Minister and government.

In our Community

Please pray for : The Stanway Environment Group.

The medical and caring professions.

Other Christian denominations - the Tollgate Methodist Fellowship, Stanway Evangelical Church, The Kingsland Church, St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Lexden.

Colchester Foodbank

Colchester CAP Debt Centre

Colchester Koban Project

The StanWell Hub

All families with young children, and for all our schools.

The elderly, vulnerable and those who have to isolate, and for all those who support them, especially their families.

Loganberry Lodge - all residents, staff and supporters and all who are in care homes and hospital at this time.

All our elected representatives - our MPs, county, city and parish councillors.

Those who have asked for our prayers: John Lemon, Karl, Sheila Bradfield , Joan Alexander, Debra, Daniel, Carol Harvey, Gordon Harvey, Keith, Ida Totham, Penny Miller, Daniel Butcher, Ann Booty, Marcus, Mark Claydon, Allison, Sophie, Jo and Richard, Doreen Hales, James Lay, Jenny Richardson, Brian Greenaway, Ann and John, Graham and Viv, Alex, Alexander, Simon, Roy Webber, Joshua, Jill Dixon, Mervyn, Antony Watson, Maxine Humes, Jean Needs, Suzannah

If you have a particular prayer request there is a box in the church into which you can place a card writing the request or person's name on it. Alternatively you can send a message to the office.

The monthly prayer diary for **March** is on our website with printed copies in the church and distributed to those without access to the internet.

There is also the Church of England **Prayer Line** which is open 24/7 and is free: **0800 804 804**

RIP

Emma O'Connell, Sylvia Bannister, John Currell, Eileen Spurgeon, Richard Van Aswegen, Robert Radcliffe, Phyllis Evelyn Clark, Richard Ives, Shirley McCormack, Snowy Barron, Stephen Spice, Veronica Morgan.

We hope you find this bulletin helpful. If you have any contributions, comments or questions then please contact the office or any of the ministry team.

With best wishes,

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