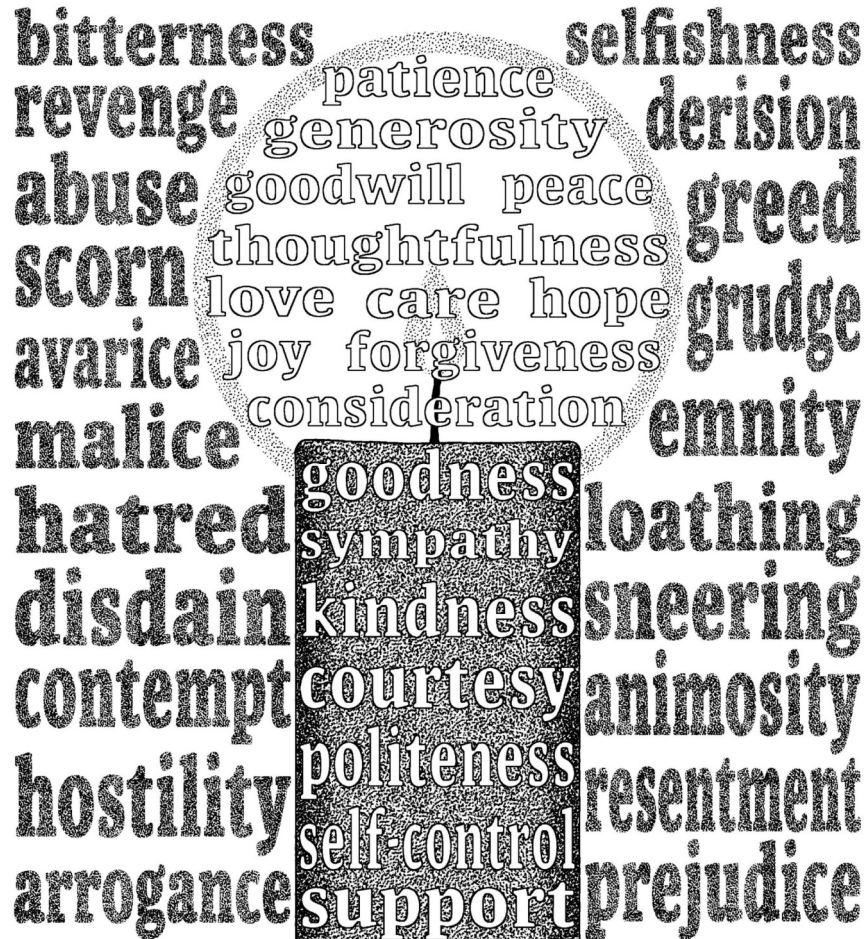


June 2020

30p

Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter



Shine as a light to the world Mt 5:16

JUNE SERVICES & EVENTS

All services at the three churches in the parish have been cancelled during the time of the coronavirus pandemic.

Keep an eye on church websites for updates or ask a friend to do this for you.



Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. *Pope John Paul II*



Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime. *Martin Luther*

The Vicar Writes:

At the time of writing we are seven weeks into lockdown. Rumour has it that some restrictions will be lifted soon... but at a (zoom) meeting this evening I asked if I was the only person who was confused, and was heartened to learn that we were all confused.

It has been seven weeks of odd experiences. It is very strange to conduct a funeral when not allowed to visit the bereaved, and when the mourners have to keep a “social distance.” It is very strange to have lost one’s weekly routines and gradually to be learning new ones. It was very strange to have the rector retire, just slipping out of the door and only realizing that he really had retired on going into an empty rectory (though we are planning for him to come back for a “proper” farewell in the autumn). But strangest of all is the absence of Easter. Whatever restrictions are lifted, in any event it seems that the whole of Eastertide will be lost.

There are those for whom the Eucharist is a commemoration of the death of Christ, others for whom it is the experience of resurrection. For some it is the last supper, for others it is the meeting of the Lord at Emmaeus in the breaking of bread. Theologically speaking it is, of course, both of these, and more, but I am certainly in the latter camp and so, without a mass this Eastertide, it is still Holy Saturday. I am doing my best with “online liturgy”, and have expanded my technical skills considerably. But even though both I and Revd Linda are doing our best to create appropriate worship for online delivery I think we are both deeply conscious that it is very much a second best. How do we “taste and see the Lord is good” when we cannot taste? How put our hands into his side and keep social distance?

This whole episode started with a series of confused and confusing messages; we hope it does not end in the same way, though fear it may. My hope had been that we might go back in glory, to a triumphant mass of Eastertide. My suspicion is that we will creep back slowly, with restricted services, social distancing and controlled numbers. But we will be grateful nonetheless to be back, back in our hallowed spaces and, most importantly, grateful to be able once again sacramentally to celebrate the presence in our midst of our risen and ascended Lord.

It might not be Easter any more as the fifty days will be past and Pentecost a memory; there may no paschal candle, no exultet, no renewal of baptismal vows (as sprinkling holy water is surely out!), no singing of *salve festa dies*, nor even an Easter egg hunt. But it will be Easter, because we will be able at last to experience our meeting with the Lord, as our hearts burn within us on the way and as we find in his presence the presence of the Kingdom and the triumph over death and despair through the Eucharistic consecration, the eucharistic sacrifice, the eucharistic presence, and the eucharistic meal.

Fr Alistair

7th June: Trinity Sunday, celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4: ‘Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’

Isaiah 45:22: ‘Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other.’

Genesis 1:1-2: ‘In the beginning God created... and the Spirit of God was hovering...’

Judges 14:6: ‘The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...’

John 1:1-3: ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.’

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: ‘I am going to send you what *my Father* has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (*the Holy Spirit*) from on high.’

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.

7th June: Without the Trinity, there is no Christianity

The Trinity is easier to say than to explain. Christians believe in one God, made up of three equal Persons. It is fundamental to the Nicene Creed, which sets out the definitive doctrine of the Trinity for more than two billion Christians worldwide, including all Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians and Reformed Christians.

The theologian Ian Paul, writing on the Book of Revelation, points out that chapter five has a wonderful depiction of the Trinity in action. He writes: “... another figure appears in the drama, the lion who looks like a lamb. ... Here is the one who fulfils the hopes of God’s people Israel, as the promised anointed Davidic king who was to come. Here is one who is fierce and powerful enough

to conquer their enemies, and tear them apart.

“And yet when John sees Him, He is like a weak and vulnerable lamb who has been slaughtered, just as the Passover lamb eaten by the people, the suffering servant who was ‘wounded for our transgressions’ and the lamb offered as an atoning sacrifice. He is the one who *was* slain, but *now* stands, and shares the throne with God, and with Him sends the Spirit to enact His will on earth. Here we have the most explicit (and perhaps the most complex) Trinitarian statement in the whole New Testament.”

From the Rev Dr Ian Paul’s excellent blog at: <https://www.psephizo.com/revelation/what-does-rev-4-5-tell-us-about-the-trinity/> (dated May 17, 2017)

#FaithAtHome aims to make prayer a household habit

The Church of England has recently launched #FaithAtHome, a new programme which it is hoped will “make prayer a household habit once again.”

#FaithAtHome will feature weekly video content to help families to talk about faith and pray together. The videos will be led by children, young people, staff and school leaders from across the country.

The #FaithAtHome programme will run for an initial 11 weeks, until the end of July, and can be accessed at churchofengland.org/faithathome. It will explore themes including courage, patience, generosity, resilience, love and hope.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: “The aim of these resources is to offer simple ways for families and households to approach complex and difficult topics, such as illness, fear and bereavement. The coronavirus pandemic has forced people to confront difficult and painful questions that none of us can explore on our own.

“My hope and prayer is that #FaithAtHome will not only equip children and young people to engage with difficult questions, but also inspire them.”

The Church of England’s Chief Education Officer, Nigel Genders said: "Home is the new normal, and faith at home is a habit we need to rediscover.

#FaithAtHome will offer people of all ages and faith backgrounds a chance to pause, think and reflect, and to rebuild lost habits of prayer and faithful reflection in the home.”

St Mary’s Lunchtime Concerts

The 30th Year of Saturday Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary’s!

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no Saturday Lunchtime Concerts until further notice.



Where was the social distancing?

NEXT MONTH’S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the July issue by **Sunday 14th June** at the latest!

Dave

Over 6,000 calls in first 48 hours to Daily Hope

A free phone line offering hymns, prayers, and reflections 24 hours a day while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus received more than 6,000 calls in the first 48 hours.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recently launched 'Daily Hope' as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes, during the lockdown period.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services in mind.

The service is supported by the Church of England nationally as well as through the Connections group based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

Within 48 hours the line had received more than 6,000 calls from across the country, with many being referred by friends, family or members. Calls have so far spanned more than 50,000 minutes, with some of those accessing the service listening to the music, prayers and reflections for up to 50 minutes at a time.

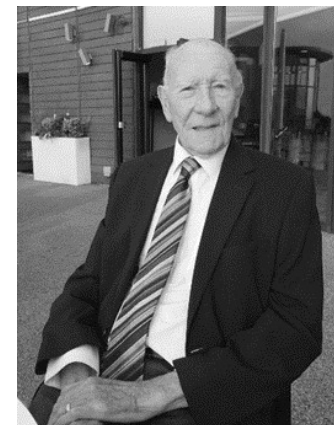
The Revd Canon Dave Male, the Church of England's Director of Evangelism and Discipleship, said: "The volume of calls shows that Daily Hope is meeting a need.

"We have a duty in these strange and difficult times to find new ways of bringing prayer and worship to people wherever they are, and this is one more way of helping people to connect with God from their own homes.

"This is such a simple idea – planned and launched all within a few short weeks by a small dedicated team – but I pray it will bring real comfort, hope and inspiration to people at this time."

Callers to the line hear a short greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

Options available include materials also made available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer, updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service.



Peter James Brown RIP

(1st January 1931 – 9th April 2020)

Peter was born on 1st January 1931 to Rhoda and Ernest at Alwyn Road, Maidenhead where he spent his early childhood. He spent happy hours helping his dad on his mobile grocery van (his dad died when he was 11), his elder sister Connie helped sometimes. He moved with his mum to Alexandra Road, next door to his friend Malcolm who became a life-long friend. They joined Maidenhead Rowing Club in 1944 and went on to win many races and cups. When he left school, he trained to be a surveyor. He did his National Service in the RAF.

He married May in 1978 at St. Giles Church, Stoke Poges, where they worshipped. They lived at 47 Buckland Avenue. May died in 2006. Peter met up with Beryl at the Thames Valley Hospice "stepping stones" after George died in 2009. He moved into 19 Park Lane in 2014. He loved having Beryl's family round and saw Sam and Luke grow up into two fine young men. He spent Christmas Days at Bracknell and enjoyed Julie's lovely roast dinners. He loved the family holidays in Devon and Cornwall, but most of all Weymouth. He also enjoyed his Warner Holidays.

The highlight of his week was to go and pick Malcolm up and take him for lunch at various places where a lot of reminiscing was done.

After many years of heart trouble and treatment, his heart couldn't take anymore and after five weeks in Wexham Park Hospital he came home. With the care of the Hospice nurses, he died peacefully on 9th April at home where he wanted to be.

He has a niece Lindsay, who made many a happy visit to her Uncle from Cornwall and kept in touch throughout his lifetime. His great niece Freya and two great-great nieces Poppy and Lana, also live in Cornwall.

Rest in peace Peter.

Beryl Bond

Then there was Peter's church life. Finding it increasingly difficult to traipse to Stoke Poges, he found a warm welcome at St Laurence's. He joined the Mothers' Union and as a member of the Parish Prayer Group (later MULLing It Over), he always asked searching questions in study. He followed most of Revd Alistair's sermons, eager to learn and read more. Socially he enjoyed Tabitha Teas, church lunches and quiz nights at St Peter's. He was generous with his time and money, donating to the restoration of St Laurence's front gates. He was a stalwart at covering church opening stints, not to mention bottles, brass cleaning and sides rotas as well as many other occasions.

Peter was always keen to assist in FUNdraising events, being able to attach gazebo curtains and poles without a step stool, whilst carefully watching his head and fingers. Peter never had a bad word to say about anyone, though frozen damsons and elderberries, whilst preparing them for jam, could be a different story. He was a willing chauffeur, though he always looked as if he was a back-seat driver with his seat so far back, realistically no one could sit comfortably behind him.

The list of Peter's attributes could go on, but we will leave these for a proper farewell at St Laurence's when the circumstances permit. For now, we will say a big Thank You and Rest in Peace.

Julie James



On why holding an Arts Festival in church is not a good idea

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

Your decision to hold a Summer weekend Arts Festival in church, bringing culture to your inner-city streets, was most commendable. Pity, how it all turned out.

The Friday evening started well with the concert of Scott Joplin piano music. Obviously knowing that the pieces were originally played in seedy bars on pianos wildly out of tune with several notes missing, your committee must have gone to endless trouble to find precisely the right instrument. Your stage-hands, were, however, less careful and hadn't noticed that the platform had a noticeable list to port. After each piece, the pianist had to relocate the piano stool closer to his nomadic piano, with the last piece being performed with both entirely out of sight behind the pulpit.

It created much innocent entertainment for the audience, but the fault really should have been remedied before the Saturday evening choir concert. Discarded kneelers and rotting hymn books do not form a stable base for a stage supporting an 80-strong choir. So when it came to the enthusiastic rendering of hits from 'Oklahoma', with copious hand movements, it came as something of a relief that the stage took this as the moment to signal defeat, tipping the tenors behind the altar. The audience's thunderous applause, assuming this was a carefully choreographed part of the performance, was quite touching. I am sure all the compensation claims will soon be sorted

out.

Your one great mistake was to take on responsibility for organising the refreshments afterwards. Church entertainments committees have centuries of collective experience in judging the numbers of ham sandwiches and bottles of milk required. I am forever proud that our own ladies – through years of experience – can now get five cups of tea from every tea bag and can butter bread so thinly that one pack can last several months.

What you now do with 29 surplus loaves of bread is a problem you have brought upon yourself. You could possibly use them for supporting the stage next year.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

A Scientist Reflects on God's Heart for the Suffering

It's difficult as a scientist to hear information that is fascinating, but which also involves so much suffering for other people. I worked for a time in a leukaemia research lab. We had to let other people's pain drive our research without it crippling our ability to concentrate on our work. But, writing this under lockdown, I have found myself – as a biologically-educated bystander – avoiding looking into the science of COVID-19 because the reminders of its impact on people's lives are everywhere that I look.

One of the ways I have been managing my own feelings during the pandemic is by digging deeper into what God has revealed to us about His character, letting that fuel my faith, my prayers, and my actions. For more academic types like myself, study – particularly of the Bible – can be one of the primary ways we connect with God and hear from Him. It's not wrong to be comforted by books, so long as the contents turn our eyes upwards and outwards.

First of all, God hears: "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted" (Psalm 34:18a). In Jesus God took on human form, and He showed us His heart for the world. When His friend Lazarus died, He wept (John 11). God is "the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Human sin has affected the whole of creation, and I believe this is largely the direct impact of our mismanagement of creation and mistreatment of each other. COVID-19 may well be another animal's friendly virus, pushed by human activity into causing havoc in bodies where it doesn't belong.

But God's world remains good. It is still fruitful, praising Him, as Psalm 19 describes. Even pictures of a deadly virus can seem beautiful – especially to a biologist! These good things are hints of the promised "new heavens and new earth" mentioned in the New Testament. One day "creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay" (Romans 8: 21), and for everyone who follows God, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 21: 4).

Behind the debates about suffering is sometimes the assumption that God doesn't care. My experience is that God does care deeply, and He invites His Church to care for those around them – especially the most vulnerable. He is with us, He hears us and grieves with us, He helps us and promises a better future.

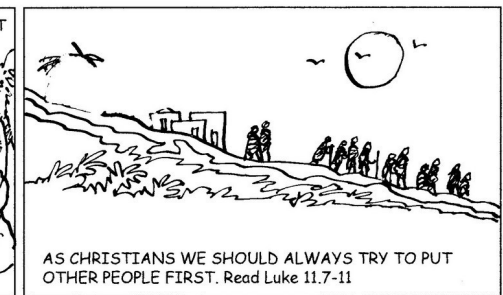
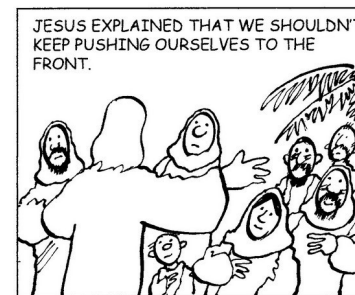
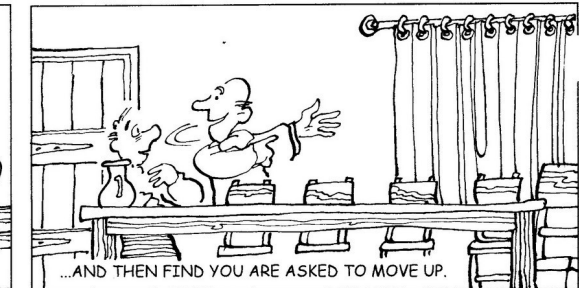
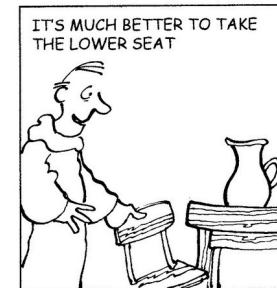
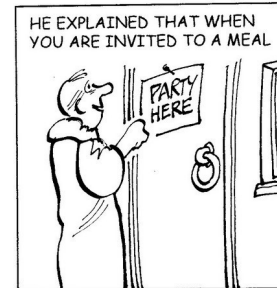
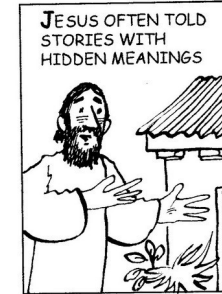
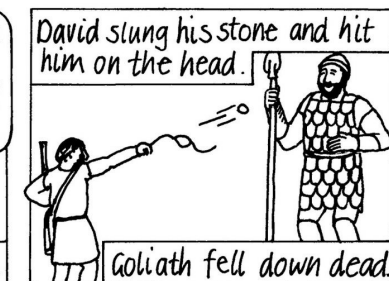
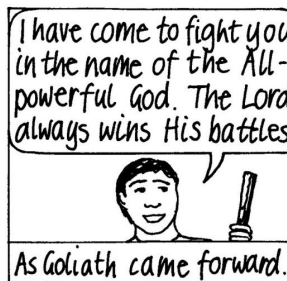
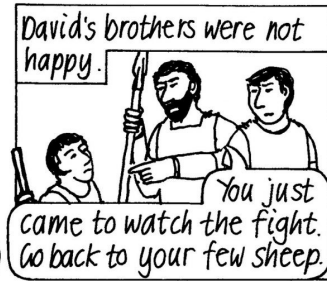
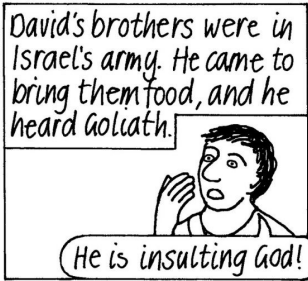
Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge

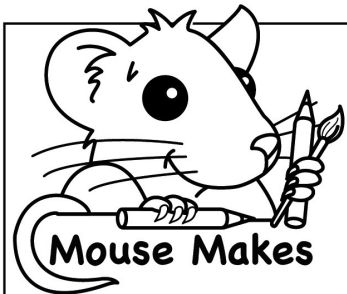
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..





Mouse Makes

When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

READ Nehemiah's story in the *Old Testament* book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRAY | <input type="checkbox"/> GATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RUBBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> BEAM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REPAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> BOLT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RESTORE | <input type="checkbox"/> BAR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILD | <input type="checkbox"/> STEP |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> TIMBER | <input type="checkbox"/> POOL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WALLS | <input type="checkbox"/> FINISH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLOOR | <input type="checkbox"/> DEDICATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROOF | <input type="checkbox"/> DOOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CELEBRATE | |

How many gates were repaired? Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?

Jun20 © Deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME

All are open meetings and are joint meetings unless otherwise stated

2020 Theme: "Building with Confidence"

Meetings with a talk, either:

Third Wednesday of the month at St Laurence's Upton. Coffee and chat at 10.15am. A short service at 10.45am. Talk at 11.00am followed by a light lunch.

OR

Third Monday of the month at St Mary's Church Centre, Langley, 2.00pm

First Tuesday of the month: 2.30-4.00pm "Mulling It Over": Tea, Study and Prayer Group led by Revd Linda Hillier (see notice sheet for venues), open to all.

Second Thursday of the month at St Laurence's: 10.00am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no meetings until further notice.

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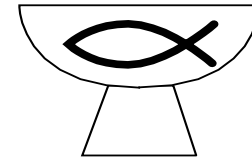
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Revd Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Rob Walker (Licensed Lay Minister)	
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden:	
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
District Churchwarden (SM): Derek White-Taylor	Ex-dir
District Churchwarden (SL): David Kill	01628 776856
District Churchwarden (SL): Albert Lawrance	01753 523222
District Churchwarden (SP): Eddie Ijeomah	01753 857923
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07464 718909
Verger (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651
Mothers' Union: Julie James	01753 532425

Clergy days off:

Revd Alistair Stewart Tuesday

Magazine Editor: David Kill

Tel: 01628 776856 E-mail: david.kill@btinternet.com

Web-sites:

<https://stmarys-slough.org.uk/>

www.saint-laurence.com

<https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk/>