St Nicolas News

75p **April 2025**







www.stnicolasbookham.org.uk
Building Faith in the Community

Services at St Nicolas

Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion - 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th

Sundays

Morning Praise - 1st Sunday, GLOW - Children's Provision

Weekday Services

8.30am Bible Reading and Open Prayer

Monday and Wednesday

10.00am **Holy Communion (Said)** Thursday

9.00am **Prayers for our church** - 2nd and 4th Saturdays

10.00 am Church Development Plan Prayers -

1st Saturday



Tots Alive! (term time) - Monday 10.00am in church with social time afterwards

For other services please see Notice Board by the Lychgate

Letter from the Ministry Team

Sadness and Joy

As we approach Easter, we see the threads of life and death interwoven. The weft of joy laced with the warp of sadness Such, is the experience of human life — triumph and tragedy intermingled.

What are we to make of it all? How are we to respond?

These are the big questions of life, but just for a moment let us reflect on the events around Easter and Pentecost, both of which we will celebrate at St Nicolas in the coming months.

Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem. He knew his death was near. He wept over Jerusalem because the people failed to recognise God's coming to them in the person of Jesus.

He then entered Jerusalem in what to all intents and purposes looked like a triumphal procession – the victorious King returning with the spoils of war! There was joy! There was celebration as the people welcomed him with singing and shouts of acclamation. But he was not riding a war-horse. He was not triumphantly leading a defeated enemy to be slaves and servants of the people. He rode humbly and on a donkey; he was offering the people himself to be their Servant-King.

He sat down to supper on the evening before his death with his closest friends, and he offered himself - his own life - his body and his blood that they might truly live. And one of them, Judas, betrayed him. He was arrested and tried. The shouts of acclamation had turned into a baying for his blood. He was tortured and crucified. His symbolic offering became real - he died that we might live. He was buried in a sealed tomb. For his followers, Friday and Saturday must have been the worst days of their lives.

Then, joy unspeakable. He burst from the tomb, full of life. His followers were stunned, amazed, overjoyed. He appeared to over 500 people before returning, this time in triumph to his rightful place – the throne of the Kingdom of God. A few weeks later the Holy Spirit poured himself out onto the gathered disciples. Pentecost had come, the church was born, new life was proclaimed throughout the world!

This is his story, and this is our song! Sadness and joy woven together.

How then do we embrace the weft and the warp of sadness and joy in our own lives?

It seems to me that there are two different approaches, or perhaps two

different types of people. There are those who become so overwhelmed by the grief of sadness that they turn in on themselves, and see no light, no hope, no future — only darkness and bitterness remain. Then there are those who seem to receive and accept the sadnesses and setbacks of this life yet somehow find a path that embraces and transforms them into something new — something that brings possibility, hope and, yes, even eventually new joy.

We are not defined by our triumphs and tragedies, but we are shaped by how we respond to them. In the grace of God our response can be the difference between death and life!

Happy Easter

Mis Hum

God Bless



Report of PCC Meeting 10th March 2025

As this was the last meeting before the APCM on 31st March there was a packed agenda. Alan opened the meeting with verses from Psalm 32, followed by prayers.

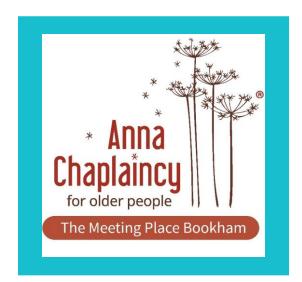
I will start with some really good news. We now have all the plans and funds in place required to refurbish the current Church Room toilets and add a third toilet! Work is now scheduled to be done in May/June. We are enormously grateful to all who have worked so hard to achieve this and to all who successfully applied for grant funding and to all who helped raise funds. There will be some disruption and change of scheduling to some events which normally take place in the Church Room, but plenty of notice will be given.

The treasurer presented the Annual Report and Accounts for approval and recommendation at the APCM. The meeting was also given reports including those on the Church Development Plan, Deanery Synod, Leatherhead Youth Partnership, Safeguarding and an update on the new Electoral Roll. The meeting also received progress on advertising for the new Families and Children Ministry Leader to replace Celeste after she leaves us in July. Meanwhile a 'pilot' of Messy Church has been arranged for Saturday 10th May. The Eco Team reported a profit of over £300 from their recent Coffee Morning.

Finally, the four members of the PCC who are retiring this year at the APCM, were thanked for their service - Bob Searle, Jan Williamson, Jackie Stephens and Sue White.

Sue White

LIVING WELL IN OLDER AGE



Would you like to declutter? Are you considering downsizing?

Come and meet Louise Fleming, a Homemover Specialist.

https://thehomemover.co.uk/

★ When? Wednesday 14th May 2025 (10.30am to 12pm)

★ Where? Bookham Library

★ Who? Over 65s and carers welcome

★ Booking? Contact Liz Tapp - The Anna Chaplain

Email ac@themeetingplace.org.uk or

Tel: 07518735729

★ Cost? Suggested donation of £2

Tea & coffee will be provided



anna.chaplaincy.org.uk

The Meeting Place Bookham is affiliated to Anna Chaplaincy for Older People

Anna Chaplaincy is part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), a Registered Charity (233280) **brf.org.uk**



Our Mothers' Union branch here at St Nicolas has been going through stormy waters, what with Chris and Veronica both having to spend time in hospital. It is wonderful to know that Veronica is back at home now, thank God for His answer to our many prayers. We continue to pray for Chris, that all will go well with her and the treatment she receives will prove 100% effective.

So, things have not been as active as they should be, nevertheless the work of the Mothers' Union in the wider world goes on apace. Here is a story which gives us all hope and encouragement - **Daphne's Story**

Daphne Mabbett has been knitting prayer shawls for a decade, and now at 90 years old, she's crafting her 100th piece. Her journey with the Mothers' Union began over 60 years ago, in 1961, and she is not slowing down.

Each of Daphne's shawls is a labour of love, created for a specific person in need – someone who is ill, grieving, or going through a difficult time. With each stitch, she weaves in her prayers, offering comfort and hope. She follows a unique pattern: three rows of plain stitches, three rows of purl, with the number of stitches always a multiple of three, symbolizing the Holy Trinity.

Daphne keeps an album with a photograph of each shawl and the name of the person it was made for, a testament to the deep connection she feels with her mission. Every shawl is different, each taking around 60 to 65 hours to complete. Despite the demands of caring for her husband, who suffers from dementia, Daphne remains a dedicated member of her Mothers' Union branch, embodying the spirit of service and devotion.

Daphne's story is a powerful reminder that no matter our circumstances, we can all make a difference. Her shawls have brought comfort to many, but the act of knitting them has been a blessing to her as well, filling her life with purpose and connection. Through her quiet, persistent efforts, Daphne shows that even in the smallest acts of kindness, there is great power.

May the blessings of Easter, and the risen Christ, be with each one of us.

Julia Watts

Barnabas



Fellowship

Fifteen of us attended the Barnabas men's meeting for breakfast, fellowship and discussion on the third Saturday in February at St Nicolas' Pastoral Centre. If you would like to join us at a future meeting, please contact David King.

A cold February morning gave way to warmth as we enjoyed most welcome tea and coffee as soon as we arrived and then breakfast together, which gave way to an animated 30-minute discussion around the question:

"A good friend of mine has no faith in God. Should I be concerned for the welfare of his soul when he dies?"

I think we all benefitted from the breadth of responses and consideration of the reasons given for them. A summary here cannot do justice to our rich and extensive discussion, but here are some of the points raised and explored:

- No need for concern. We have a kind, gracious God and he will look after your friend even after death. He and all of us will go to heaven, whether or not we have faith in God.
- Not so. If everyone goes to heaven, why did Jesus die for us? Does our acceptance or rejection of Him make no difference? Does our faith in Him, or lack of it, make no difference? If not, why not just go for the immediate, if superficial, gratification in this life with as much sin as possible?
- Why would anyone with no faith want to go to the heaven that is presided over by this God with whom they want no truck?
- In Luke 16 Jesus tells a parable that speaks about heaven and hell. In it, one man dies and goes to a place of torment and another to a place of peace and comfort and there is no possibility of crossing from one to the other.
- Hell is a place where you must live without God. Not sure about the fire and brimstone but simply having to live without God would be terrible.
- Your friend is responsible for his own eternal destiny. It's his future, not yours.
- Yes, but I still want the best for my friend, so I pray for him.
- Some people reject God but more often than nor they make a good job of keeping to the moral code taught by Jesus.

Alan White

Journeying with Jesus in Holy Week

We come to God at this culmination of the season of Lent however we feel — tired, weary, hopeful... perhaps wishing that we had kept more rigorously to the practices we chose at the start. Whatever has gone before us, we know that God welcomes us to journey with Jesus in the here and now. God's loving invitation to deepen our faith during this holy week stands.

One way to approach this week is to consider what Jesus experienced each day of his life that week. To help imagine what was happening at various moments, here is an outline of the events.

Join in praying:

Lord Jesus Christ, as we enter into the events of this Holy Week, I come to you in humility, confessing my wrongdoing and receiving your forgiveness. May the events of this last week of your life be brought alive to me, that I might know you more intimately and be more grateful for your sacrifice which gives me life. I join the crowds to shout out with joy, "Hosanna to the King of kings! Blessed are you who come in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Saturday

Evening celebration, at which Mary anoints Jesus with precious nard as an outpouring of her love (John 12:2-8).

Sunday

- Jesus enters Jerusalem, with the crowds bearing palm branches (Matthew 21: 1-11; Mark 11:1-10, John 12:12-18)
- In Jerusalem, Jesus visits the temple but doesn't stay, it being late (Mark 11:11)
- Jesus returns to Bethany (Matthew 21:17; Mark 11:11)

Monday

- Jesus returns to Jerusalem and curses the fig tree along the way (Matthew 21: 18-22)
- Jesus drives out those buying and selling in the temple (Mark 11:15-17)
- Jesus and his friends return to Bethany (Mark 11:19)

Tuesday

 Peter reacts to the cursing of the fig tree as they return to Jerusalem (Mark 11: 20-21)

- Debates with the religious leaders in Jerusalem, and Jesus teaches in the temple. (Matthew 21:23 – 23:39; Mark 11:27 – 12:44)
- Jesus with four of his friends on the Mount of Olives, speaking of future times before they return to Bethany (Matthew 24:1 – 25: 46; Mark 13:1- 37).

Wednesday

- Jesus and the disciples remain in Bethany.
- Judas returns to Jerusalem to plan his betrayal of Jesus (Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11)

Thursday

- Preparations for Passover (Matthew 26:17-19; Mark 14:12-16)
- Passover meal and Last Supper, in which Jesus washes his friends' feet (Matthew 26:20-35; Mark 14:17-26)
- Farewell discourse Jesus prepares his friends for his death and for life with the Advocate (John 13 – 17)
- Praying in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36- 46; Mark 14:32-42)

Friday

- Perhaps in the very early hours, Judas' betrayal and the arrest of Jesus (Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52)
- Jewish trial three phases: Jesus appearing before Annas (John 18:13-24), before Caiaphas and part of the Sanhedrin (Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-65), and before the fully assembled Sanhedrin (Matthew 27:1-2; Mark 15:1)
- Roman trial three phases: Jesus appearing before Pilate (Matthew 27:2-14; Mark 15:2-5), Herod Antipas (Luke 23:6-12) and Pilate again (Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15)
- The crucifixion of Jesus (Matthew 27:27-66; Mark 15:16-39)

Saturday

A day of waiting

Sunday

- Jesus is alive! The women visit the tomb and meet Jesus (Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12)
- Resurrection appearances, including on the road to Emmaus and breakfast on the beach (Matthew 28:9-20; Luke 24:13-52; John 20-21)

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, in dying you conquered death and rose again in glory. Through your great love and sustaining grace, we will one day be with you in your heavenly kingdom.

Lord, we pray that we may make each day of our earthly life worthy of your great sacrifice on the cross.

Thank you that we can find sanctuary in your love because you have chosen to love us just as we are with all our faults and failings, and that if we truly repent you will forgive our sins. Amen

Christ is Risen, Alleluia Pass it on.

Deborah Gallacher

MEMORIAL SERVICE, 4th May 2025

for all who have been bereaved.

Each year we hold two services, in May and November, where those who have died are remembered by name. The relatives of all whose funeral services have been taken by our Ministry Team are invited by letter to these, for the first year. However, anyone who has been bereaved and wishes simply to remember, is most welcome to come, no matter how long ago a loved one died, or whether they lived locally. The names of all who are being remembered are noted down and read out, and there is the chance to light a candle in their memory.

If you would like to remember in this way, then please do come along to the next service on Sunday 4th May at 3 pm.

A fortnightly group for carers and partners living with dementia

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Jan. 2nd, 16th and 30th

Feb. 13th and 27th

March 13th and 27th

April 10th and 24th



and activities



For more information please contact Gill on 01372 457987 email gillconnect1@gmail.com

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An after-Easter prayer

Don't leave our Lord amidst the lilies Within a hallowed sphere Don't praise Him only in your churches In Easter hymn and prayer...

Keep Him beside you through
The business of ordinary days,
In the common place encounters
Along the humdrum ways.

Our Master told us very simply What He would have us do.... He taught: "Love one another Even as I love you."

By Elsie Campbell



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Lent Daily Prayer

Father God, open my heart to your heart, my soul to your Spirit, my mind to your Word, and my strength in your service.

Open my ears that I might hear, and in hearing listen, and in listening understand, and in understanding come to receive fullness of life through your Son Jesus.

Open my soul to your Spirit that I might learn to live in the power of your Spirit, that my life may be transformed day by day to show more of the fruit of your Spirit, that I might be open to receive the gifts of your Spirit.

Open my mind to your Word. Give me a thirst to learn, and a desire to be changed by your written Word. May your Word be living and active in my life.

Open my diary, take control of my time, reset my priorities that I may learn more and more how to serve you with all of my strength. Help me to see others as you see them and to respond as you would respond. Amen

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Eco Team - encouraging others

When St Nicolas earned its prestigious Eco Church Gold Award last September, the team was approached by several other churches and local societies to give advice and talks. They wanted to know what our church had achieved on our journey to becoming only the second church in the Diocese to be awarded the Gold accolade.



This was an enormous encouragement and quite overwhelming.

Our first talk was given to 'The Golden Years' group at one of their meetings



in Eastwick Road Church. Three of us went along to tell them more about recycling and upcycling which many older people can do when perhaps they are not so active. There were a number of questions which was great as they were really engaging with things they can do to support the environment.

Rather than tackle the requests from churches piecemeal, the Eco team decided to hold an 'open drop-in session' for local churches to visit St Nicolas, tour the grounds, see some of our efforts and ask questions. We chose a

Saturday afternoon in February and were incredibly blessed with glorious Spring sunshine which showed off our lovely church in all its glory. The churchyard was bursting with life, from crocuses and snowdrops to robins and bluetits.



Around twenty members of six different churches took advantage of our invitation, most of them staying for two hours. They loved the tidy churchyard (thank you Angela) and were extremely impressed by

Bird Houses constructed from used wine corks, place mats and old inner tubes for weather proofing

Jacqy's wildlife corner adjacent to the Pastoral Centre. Also the bog garden, bird feeders, nesting boxes for swifts and our bat box showed how we were encouraging wildlife.

They were interested to hear from Margaret who has championed recycling in the community for over 20 years and we showed them lots of photographs and talked about the Green Fair, Fashion shows and our Fairtrade coffee mornings, as well as some of the energy saving initiatives in our buildings (with thanks to the Fabric team).

One visitor from St John's, West Byfleet, thanked us afterwards, saying: "It was an inspiring afternoon. You had all worked so hard to make the visit informative, enjoyable and, in St John's case, made us determined that we could try to work our way up to a Gold Award."

Just a couple of days later in February, two of the Eco Team addressed the Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society, about ecofriendly gardening, biodiversity, composting and



reducing our carbon footprint. Margaret spoke about planting for pollinators and the work we had done in the Pastoral Centre garden over the years. Various eco leaflets were on display and complemented a looped slide show of our activities.

Jacqy spoke in detail about attracting wildlife into gardens especially the Pastoral Centre garden wildlife corner and also ways to repurpose everyday things to make shelters and habitats for beneficial wildlife. To finish off we talked more generally about the work of the Eco Team at St Nicolas and during question time we enjoyed swapping gardening and eco-living hints and tips.

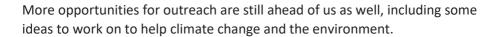
This was soon followed by our annual Fairtrade Coffee morning in church where we welcomed visitors from the church and village who enjoyed browsing the different stalls. Upcycled Easter cards were a great attraction as were the bright primulas in pots. The tombola captivated others who won useful, as well as tasty, prizes. Then the great bric-a-brac stall provided customers with the opportunity to buy

something they had not realised they wanted! Then of course delicious cakes and coffee gave an opportunity to chat and relax.

We were able to send £283 to
Transform Trade (formerly
Traidcraft Exchange,
https://www.transform-trade.org/
and £60 to Ripple Effect Garden
Twinning

https://rippleeffect.org/getinvolved/giving/garden-twinning/ to enable the Pastoral Centre

garden to be linked with one in rural Africa.





We are so grateful to all those who have taken on board many of the aspects of helping the environment.

Eco team – Margaret Hibbert, Joy Lord, Val Lambert, Jacqy Faull, Fiona Jones, Sarah Heafield and Zena Rose



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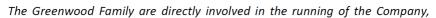
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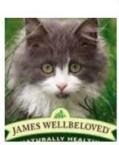
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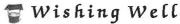
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A Guildford Diocese initiative, in partnership with the **NHS** and St Nicolas Church,

Bookham



A FREE service for people with NHS hearing aids includes:

Basic maintenance
Battery supply
Cleaning & re-tubing
Trouble-shooting
Advice

Bookham Baptist Church on Saturday 10am-12.00 noon

April 19th

Bring your brown NHS Battery Book (which includes your settings and requirements) and wear your hearing aid.

All our volunteers have been trained by the audiology departments of Epsom & St Helier Hospital or the Royal Surrey County Hospital and hold training completion certificates.



Do you have 1-2 hours free a week? Would you like to make a difference to someone's life? Yes?



Then Age Concern Mole Valley has the perfect opportunity for you. We are looking for volunteers to join our Befriending Service across Mole Valley.

We have a waiting list of older, lonely and isolated people who need a Volunteer Befriender. **Can you help?**

For more details, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Diana Webb on: **07821 649683 / 01306 899104** or email: diana@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1111678

Great Bookham's very own PCSO, Marion Hawkins, will be holding a Surgery at The Meeting Place Warm Space in Bookham Baptist Church on:



Tuesday 1st April Tuesday 29th April Tuesday 27th May

She is happy to talk about any issues you may have, and just generally. She looks forward to meeting you.

Church Development Plan Prayer Focus			
6th April	Inspiring each member of the church family to take the next step in their journey of faith		
13 th April	Bringing the Good News to bear in response to the needs and concerns of our community		
20 th April	Increasing our capacity to take forward the mission of the church		
27 th April	Inspiring each member of the church family to take the next step in their journey of faith		

Would you like to join a housegroup?

Have you ever wondered what it's like being part of a housegroup? Could it be for you?

Here's your chance to find out. The 10am service on Sunday 18th May will have a special focus on housegroups – a good opportunity to find out more about our eight different groups.

Do come along and find out more or e mail: housegroups@stnicolasbookham.org.uk



Citizens Advice

Need help with benefits, debt or employment problems?

We're here to help, whatever the problem.

To get free, confidential and impartial advice, you can contact us on these channels:

Call Adviceline

0800 144 8848 (textphone 0800 144 8884) Mon-Fri: 9am – 5pm

Visit our website

www.citizensadvicemolevalley.org.uk

Email our offices

dorking@camv.org.uk leatherhead@camv.org.uk





In partnership with
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND



READINGS AT THE SUNDAY SERVICES April 2025



6th Fifth Sunday of Lent Rom 12:1-8; John 13:1-17

13th **Sixth Sunday of Lent (Palm Sunday)** 1 John 4:7-12, 19-21: John 12:12-16

20th **Easter Sunday** Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18

27th Second Sunday of Easter Acts 5:27-32; John 20:19-31

St Nicolas Cycle of Prayer April 2025

Please remember the following missions, St Nicolas groups and residents of Great Bookham roads in your prayers

6 th	The Meeting Place Margaret Hibbert Val Lambert	Thursday Coffee Ali Sangwine	Allen Road Springvale Close
13 th	Bible Society Suzie and Alan Jenkins	, , , , sungwine	Flint Close Southend
20 th	Fairtrade and Eco Team Margaret Hibbert and Team	Friends of St	Dawnay Road Pelham Way Pelham Court Pelham Heights
27 th	Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Val Lomax Catherine Clark	Nicolas Angela Stevens	Howard Road

Occupation for April: Agriculture, Food Industries

Calendar April 2025

Please note that although the calendar has events scheduled, these may happen in different forms. Please check beforehand (see 'Contact' person on the back page or the St Nicolas website).

27 th The	1040	Holy Communion (Church)
		Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
	ri 1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
30 th St	ın 0200	Daylight Saving begins
		Mothering Sunday
31st Mo	on 0830	Morning Prayers (online)
	1000	Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)
	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
	2000	Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Church and Church Room)
April		
1st Tu		Tuesday Coffee
	1330	Lent Study Group
2 nd We		Morning Prayers (online)
3 RD The		Holy Communion (Church)
	1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
4 th Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
5th Sat	1000	CDP Prayers
6 th Sun	1000	Morning Praise (Church)
7 th Mon	0830	Morning Prayers (Online)
8 th Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee
	1330	Lent Study Group
9th Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
10th Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (Church)
	1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
12 th Sat	0900	Saturday Prayers (online)
14 th Mon	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
	1500	Interment of ashes for Nigel Fenner
15 th Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
	1330	Lent Study Group
16 th Weds		Morning Prayers (online)
17th Thurs	;	Maundy Thursday evening service
		Joint service with Bookham Baptist Church
18 th Fri	1200	Good Friday
		3-hour devotional service
19 th Sat	0830	Barnabas Men's Fellowship (Pastoral Centre)

20 th	Sun	1000	Easter Sunday Celebration services
0.4 at			F. C. M I
21st	Mon		Easter Monday
22 nd	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
23 rd	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
24 th	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (Church)
		1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
25 th	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
26th	Sat	0900	Saturday Prayers (online)
28 th	Mon	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
		1000	Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)
		1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
29 th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
30 th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
May			
1st	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (Church)
		1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
2nd	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
3RD	Sat	1000	CDP Prayers
4th	Sun	1500	Memorial Service (Church)
9th April - Copy for May 2025			



Parish Contacts

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