

# Services this week

## Easter: Sunday Cycle Year A

Services/Events are at St Michael's unless stated otherwise

St Michael's open: Monday-Friday 8.30 am - 4 pm

St Mary's open: Tuesday 10 am - 1 pm (March-December)

<b>SUNDAY (26) EASTER 4</b>	Mass with Hymns (St Peter) Sung Mass	9 am 10.30 am
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Monday (27)  
Christina Rossetti Morning Prayer and Rosary 9 am

Tuesday (28)  
Peter Chanel Morning Prayer 9 am

Wednesday (29)  
Catherine of Siena Morning Prayer 9 am

Thursday (30)  
Pandita Mary Morning Prayer 9 am  
Ramabai Mass 11 am

Friday (1)  
Feria Morning Prayer 9 am

Saturday (2)  
Athanasius Morning Prayer 9 am  
Mass 9.30 am

<b>SUNDAY (3) PHILIP AND JAMES</b>	Mass with Hymns (St Peter) Sung Mass	9 am 10.30 am
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## Notices

### St Peter's Spring Sale and Afternoon Tea

Thanks to everyone who helped at or supported this event yesterday. The total raised will be announced.

### Join Mothers' Union for Afternoon Tea

Ladies invited to Afternoon Tea in St Michael's Hall on Friday 1 May at 2.30 pm. There will also be a raffle and sales table. Please book with Sandy Tout 01903 762288 and notify any dietary requirements.

### Messy Church - Friday 15 May

Messy Church is a form of church for all ages that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. We have a range of activities for people of all ages all based around a theme for the session, join together for a celebration time and finish with a shared meal. Please encourage family and friends to attend. Booking is now open at [www.chalkspringchurches.org/coming-soon](http://www.chalkspringchurches.org/coming-soon). To help with the activities contact Gill Kerney (761913).

### Saturday Afternoon Pictures at St Peter's

Saturday 30 May, 2.30 pm for a screening of 'Wonka'. Admission free - donations welcome. Book at [www.chalkspringchurches.org/coming-soon](http://www.chalkspringchurches.org/coming-soon) or with Ian Tout.

### The Star Spangled Summer Fete

Date for your diary - Saturday 4 July, 10 am - 1 pm. Theme is Stars and Stripes. Please donate Tombola items, Good as New items for Muddle stall. Cakes, Preserves and Jams on the day.

### Intercessions board

Please use the intercessions board for prayers for the sick, departed, those in need or for thanksgivings. Requests are prayed for weekly on Thursdays at Morning Prayer and the monthly Healing Mass. Requests for inclusion on the Sunday Bulletin should be emailed to [stmichaelslancing@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelslancing@gmail.com). Names are included for 4 weeks after which they have to be renewed in writing/by email.

### No parking in the church garden please

Please could we discourage any parking in the St Michael's church garden at the moment as the ground is very wet and boggy. Your support with this is appreciated.

### Used postage stamps

When saving used postage stamps to help with our fundraising, please leave 1cm of paper around each stamp donated. Pass to Ian Tout or use the box in the north porch at St Michael's.

**All items for inclusion in next Sunday Bulletin, in writing, to Ian Tout by Wednesday 12 noon. Please send emails to [stmichaelslancing@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelslancing@gmail.com)**

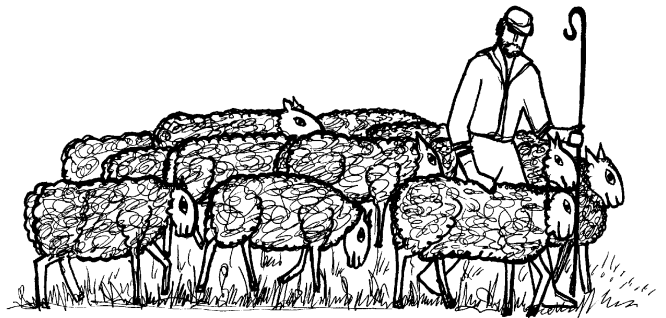
# SUNDAY BULLETIN

Bulletin No. 448

26 April 2026

**St Michael and All Angels, Lancing  
St Mary the Virgin, Sompting  
St Peter the Apostle, Sompting**

## Fourth Sunday of Easter



**Welcome to our worship today.**

**Celebrant and Preacher: Father Ben Scott**

*Father David Pike is the celebrant at St James the Less*

Refreshments are available after both services

## For your prayers...

**BIRTHDAYS:** Fr Michael Hart

**SICK OR IN NEED:** Ben Hollins, Kathy Goldstraw, Olive Leonard, Richard Thompson, Daphne Gaitley, Laurette Gaitley, Mark Gilbert, Rena Gaitley, Julie Laraway, Susan Walpole, Patricia Barrett, # Beth Ayling and Ben Stanton # (#= due for renewal)

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** Glenda Jackson and Lorna Drain

**THE DEPARTED COMMEMORATED THIS WEEK:** Frank Wood, Anne Stenchen, Reginald Hodges (Priest), Edith Putland, Leonard Greenfield, Pat Wilson, John Castledine (Priest), John Lloyd-James (Priest), Cyril Knight and Stanley Young

**PARISH:** Our First Responders and Retained Fire Service

*Names of the sick are included on the Bulletin for 4 weeks after which they have to be renewed in writing.*

## Events this week

*Full list of services on the back page*

*Services/Events are at St Michael's unless stated otherwise*

Thur: Mass 11 am; Funeral Lorna Drain RIP 12.30 pm

Fri: Mothers' Union afternoon tea 2.30 pm

Sat: Mass 9.30 am

Sun: Philip and James: 9 am Mass with Hymns (St Peter); Sung Mass 10.30 am

**Curate: Father Ben Scott**

07492 930704 [chalkspringscurate@outlook.com](mailto:chalkspringscurate@outlook.com)

**Parish Administrator: Heather Crookes**

01903 750286 [office@chalkspringchurches.org](mailto:office@chalkspringchurches.org)

**Parish Safeguarding Officer: Gill Kerney**

[southlancingandsomptingpso@gmail.com](mailto:southlancingandsomptingpso@gmail.com)

[www.chalkspringchurches.org](http://www.chalkspringchurches.org)

## Calendar

### APRIL

- Saturday 18 Mass 9.30 am; Annual Parochial Church Meeting 10.30 am; Wedding of Codie Levett and Billy Hannan 1 pm (St Mary); Chalk Spring Supper Club (Time and venue TBC)
- Sunday 19 Easter 3: 9 am Mass (St Mary)
- Thursday 23 St George: Mass with Anointing 11 am
- Friday 24 Memory Lane Cafe 2 pm
- Saturday 25 Mass 9.30 am (Walsingham Cell); Spring Sale 2.30 pm (St Peter)
- Sunday 26 Easter 4: Services at usual times

### MAY

- Friday 1 Mothers' Union Meeting 2.30 pm
- Sunday 3 Easter 5: Alive! (Children's group)
- Monday 4 "The Net" (Summer) printing
- Tuesday 5 Craft Club 10 am
- Wednesday 6 Ecumenical Morning Prayer 8 am (St Peter); Social Afternoon 2 pm (St Peter)
- Thursday 7 Church cleaning 9.15 am; Mass 11 am
- Saturday 9 Mass 9.30 am; Mothers' Union Members Day
- Sunday 10 Easter 6: Services at usual times
- Thursday 14 Ascension Day: Mass 11 am; Parochial Church Council meeting 7.30 pm
- Friday 15 Messy Church 3.15 – 5 pm
- Saturday 16 Mass 9.30 am; Mini Market 10 am - 12 noon

16-23 May: Nine Days of Prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost focused on 'Thy Kingdom Come'

- Sunday 17 Easter 7: Services at usual times; 9 am Mass (St Mary); Evening Worship 6.30 pm (St Peter)
- Tuesday 19 Craft Club 10 am
- Wednesday 20 Evergreen 2 pm
- Thursday 2 Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary Mass 7.30 pm
- Friday 22 Memory Lane Cafe 2 pm
- Saturday 23 Mass 9.30 am (Walsingham Cell); "The Net" (Summer) Folding 10 am; Baptism of Phoenix Smith 11 am (St Mary)
- Sunday 24 Pentecost: Services at usual times; "The Net" (Summer) distribution
- Saturday 30 Mass 9.30 am; Saturday Afternoon Pictures 2.30 pm (St Peter)
- Sunday 31 Trinity Sunday: Morning Worship 9 am (St Peter); Sung Mass 10.30 am; Choral Evensong 5 pm (St Mary)

### JUNE

- Tuesday 2 Craft Club 10 am
- Wednesday 3 Ecumenical Morning Prayer 8 am (Sompting URC); Social Afternoon 2 pm (St Peter)
- Thursday 4 Church cleaning 9.15 am; Mass 11 am
- Friday 5 Mothers' Union meeting 2.30 pm
- Saturday 6 Chalk Spring Supper Club
- Sunday 7 Corpus Christi: 9 am Mass with Hymns (St Peter); Alive! (Children's group); 10.30 am Sung Mass, Procession and Benediction - Celebrant and Preacher: TBC; Parish BBQ 12 noon.
- Thursday 11 Barnabas the Apostle: Mass 11 am; Standing Committee meeting 7.30 pm
- Saturday 13 Mass 9.30 am; Mini Market 10 am - 12 noon; Wedding of Lauren Phillips and Wayne Ward 2 pm; XYZ
- Sunday 14 Trinity 2: Services at usual times;
- Tuesday 16 Craft Club 10 am
- Wednesday 17 Evergreen 2 pm
- Saturday 20 Mass 9.30 am; The Boundstone Chorus Summer Concert 7.30 pm (Rehearsal 2-5 pm and Hall to be booked from 1 pm)
- Sunday 21 Trinity 3: Services at usual times; 9 am Mass (St Mary)
- Thursday 25 Mass with Anointing 11 am
- Friday 26 Memory Lane Cafe 2 pm
- Saturday 27 Mass 9.30 am (Walsingham Cell); Rooted 5.30-7pm
- Sunday 28 St Peter the Apostle: Services at usual times; Mass 9 am (St Peter) - Patronal Festival -

## Fr Ben writes...

This month the Church celebrates two principal saints:

The Feast of St George – 23rd April (Mass at 11am at St Michael's) St George's Day invites us to look beyond the dragon-slaying legend to the deeper witness of a Christian who chose courage over comfort. George was a soldier in the Roman army, yet his true loyalty lay with Christ. When commanded to renounce his faith, he refused, accepting martyrdom rather than compromise. His story has inspired generations not because of mythical beasts, but because he shows what steadfast faith looks like under pressure. For Christians today, St George becomes a reminder that discipleship often calls for quiet bravery: standing up for what is right, holding firm to our values, and trusting God even when the path is costly. His feast day encourages us to pray for those who face persecution, and to ask for the grace to live with the same integrity and courage in our own daily lives.

The Feast of St Mark – 25 April (Mass at 9.30am at St Michael's) St Mark, traditionally understood as the author of the earliest Gospel, gives us a vivid, urgent portrait of Jesus. His writing is full of movement: Jesus' teaching, healing, challenging, and calling people to follow him immediately. Mark's Gospel is often described as the "good news in a hurry", yet beneath its pace lies a profound message of hope for those who feel uncertain or overwhelmed. Mark himself knew something of fragility - he abandoned Paul and Barnabas on an early missionary journey - but he also knew the power of second chances. His life shows that God works through imperfect people, and that the Gospel is entrusted to those still growing in faith. On his feast day, we give thanks for the gift of Scripture and for the ways Mark helps us encounter Christ afresh.

At the beginning of next month we celebrate with our Sister Parish their Patronal Festival:

The Feast of St Philip and St James – 1 May (Transferred to Sunday 3rd) Philip and James, two of the lesser-known apostles, offer a quieter but equally important witness. Philip is remembered for his honest questions - "Lord, show us the Father" - and for bringing others to Jesus with simple, invitational faith. James the Less, often overshadowed by more prominent figures, reminds us that discipleship is not about fame but faithfulness. Together, they show that the Church is built not only on dramatic moments but on steady trust, curiosity, and the willingness to follow Christ in the ordinary. Their feast day encourages us to value the quieter ministries in our communities and to recognise that every act of service, however small, contributes to the life of the Church.

*Father Ben*

## Another bishop, another bottle

*Pam Pashley*

Well, the 60th anniversary celebration has continued at St Peter's.

On 31st March 1966 the then Bishop of Lewes, Bishop Lloyd Morrell consecrated the Church of St Peter the Holy Apostle, in Sompting.

It was therefore fitting that the current Bishop of Lewes, Bishop Will Hazlewood, came on Palm Sunday to help us celebrate the consecration. *[It was discovered just before the celebration that the first Eucharist took place on Palm Sunday so Bishop Will's visit was particularly appropriate.]*

We were rather hesitant to be too lavish with the celebrations as it was Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week.

After some research it was decided that biscuits, made as medieval 'pax cakes' with the sign of peace iced on them would be appropriate, accompanied of course, by the obligatory glass of Prosecco.

David proposed a toast to the church and we all sang a version of Happy Birthday to you, giving thanks for our church.

What a privilege to be able to come to this place for worship and fellowship during the past 60 years!

Bishop Martin came last summer to mark the laying of the foundation stone, and now Bishop Will has celebrated the consecration anniversary.

Two bishops in a matter of months! We are becoming quite adept at entertaining clerical hierarchy. I wonder what Dame Sarah Mullally is doing next Sunday?

## Chrism Mass at Chichester Cathedral

*Victor Olliver*

On 1 April a group of us, mainly from St Michael's, joined a large gathering of clergy and laity for Chrism Mass at Chichester Cathedral. Total attendance was reported at 488, including many priests, bishops and deacons from across the diocese.

The service included the blessing and distribution of holy oils for parishes and the reaffirmation of ordination vows by the clergy. Bishop Martin was presiding at the annual service for the last time as Bishop of Chichester. He is due to retire at the end of May.

In his address, Dr Warner said: "Our task as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ is to nurture in the minds and hearts of the people of this generation that instinct for the truth revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds."

He said he was reminded this year of the words of St Augustine of Hippo: "For you I am a bishop, with you I am a Christian", urging the congregation to stay true to their calling to be a household of faith serving East and West Sussex.

The Cathedral Choir were on top form providing superb music, and readings were offered by members of the Bishop's Palace Staff with team members from Church House Hove leading the prayers. Ian Tout, the Bishop's Palace Administrator, gave the Old Testament Reading from 1 Samuel 3:1-10.

Among the attending priests it was good to see past vicars of St Michael's, Fr Barry Carter (1995-2016) and Fr Felix Smith (2017-2025).

After the two-hour service, some of us had a late lunch at a local restaurant.

A recording of the Chrism Eucharist can be viewed at: [youtube.com/watch?v=0C5nYZUz-RM/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0C5nYZUz-RM/). Or just go to the Chichester Cathedral Live channel on YouTube.

## Reflecting on Easter

Once again we have celebrated the week of all weeks, Holy Week with a richness and reverence that left a deep impression on all who journeyed through it leaving a sense of unity, devotion, and renewed hope.

### **Palm Sunday: A Bishop's Visit and a Procession of Faith**

Palm Sunday was celebrated at all three churches in the parish. Bishop Will, bishop of Lewes joined the people of St Peter's for their Palm Sunday celebrations and also marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church's consecration. Bishop Will's homily encouraged us to walk the coming days with courage and attentiveness, reminding everyone that Holy Week is not a mere recollection but a living encounter with the heart of Christian faith.

At St Michael's the blessing of palms, the procession recalling Christ's entry into Jerusalem, and the solemn proclamation of the Passion invited the congregation into the mystery of the week with both celebration and contemplation.

Then in the late afternoon we gathered at St Mary's for a tremendous Choral Evensong led by the St Mary's Singers under the direction of Aedan Kerney. Two great Palm Sunday hymns were sung, together with "God so loved the world" from Stainer's *Crucifixion*, which was very moving

### **Brother Steven's Homilies**

Throughout the week, Brother Steven from the Community of the Resurrection offered homilies that were both thoughtful and deeply pastoral. His preaching wove together scripture, tradition,

and lived experience. His reflections helped us all to enter more fully into the emotional and spiritual landscape of the Passion.

Whether speaking about the humility of Christ's service, the loneliness of Gethsemane, or the transforming power of the Resurrection, Brother Steven's words provided a steady guide through the intensity of the week.

### **The Triduum: The Great Three Days in All Their Beauty**

The celebration of the Triduum - the sacred summit of the Christian year - was marked with particular care and solemnity.

**Maundy Thursday** invited us into the Upper Room, where the washing of feet and the institution of the Eucharist were commemorated with tenderness and reverence. The Watch at the Altar of Repose was held in silence punctuated by chants.

**Good Friday** brought the stark beauty of the Solemn Liturgy. The veneration of the Cross was carried out with profound devotion, as individuals approached the wood of the Cross with gestures of love, sorrow, and gratitude. In the morning many of us also braved the wet weather to join our brothers and sisters from the other churches for an open-air service in the village centre.

**The Easter Vigil** - the "mother of all liturgies" - was celebrated with a sense of joyful anticipation. The lighting of the new fire, the Exsultet ringing out in the darkened church, the unfolding of salvation history through the readings, and the renewal of baptismal promises all built toward the triumphant proclamation of the Resurrection. The church, once dim and still, burst into light and song as the alleluias returned, the bells and organ rang out.

### **Easter Day: Joy Renewed**

Easter morning continued the celebration with vibrant worship and a sense of shared joy. Flowers, music and laughter all contributed to the atmosphere of renewal. After the intensity of the preceding days, Easter Day felt like a deep breath of hope.

In walking together through Christ's Passion and Resurrection, we have rediscovered the heart of its faith - and the joy of being a people shaped by hope.

## Heritage Open Days

*Judy Excell*

The Friends of Sompting Church will be taking part in Heritage Open Days run by the National Trust involving Heritage sites throughout the UK from September 11th to the 20th. Not all sites will be open all the days.

We had tours of the church last September, which received several compliments.

This year the theme is Everyday Histories sponsored by findmypast. This is exploring daily working life through the ages so I am asking if anyone has any bit of history for Sompting, Lancing or Cokeham that they could contribute this year?

We can only be open for the days for which we have enough volunteers. Would anyone consider assisting for one or two days or half-days, please? Volunteers are needed to be in the church while it is open. Lifts could possibly be arranged.

If you have any history stories to contribute or would like to volunteer as a steward, please contact me on email: [friends@stmarysompting.org.uk](mailto:friends@stmarysompting.org.uk) or telephone: 01903 245639.

Perhaps you would also like to look up other sites that will be open this year at <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> Keep looking as registration of events continues until 13 August.

## Shop online to raise funds

You can now support all of our churches via easyfundraising who have over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation which doesn't cost you a penny extra!

Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/) and add **stpeterssompting/** (St Peter), **stmichaelallangelsppc/** (St Michael) or **stmaryssompting/** (St Mary) to sign up.

Download the Donation reminder that will prompt you to support the church every time you shop