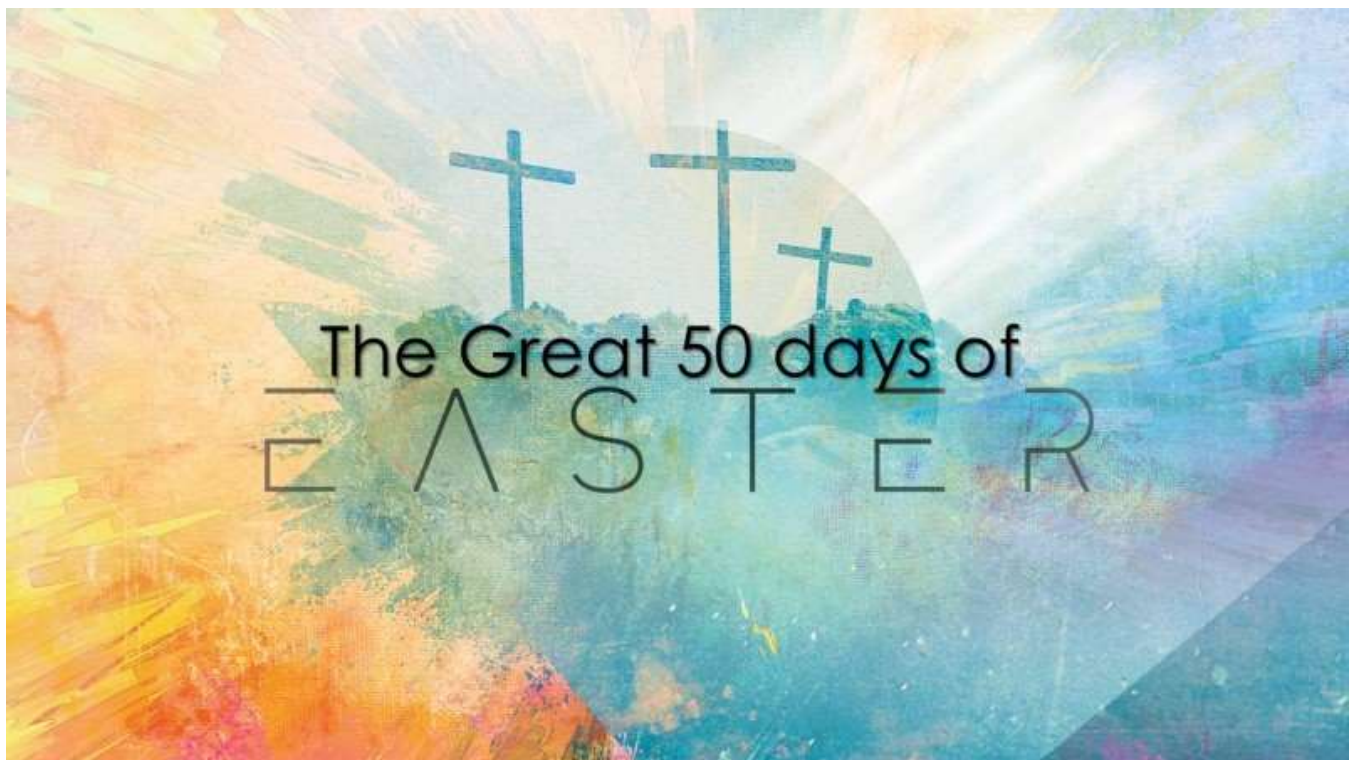




Easter Encounter

Welcome to our May edition of Monthly News which comes to us just after our celebration of Easter. The events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday are central to the Christian faith as we remember and celebrate Jesus death for us and how he was raised to life on Easter Sunday.



For many of us Easter also is a relief... as it brings to an end the restraint we may have been showing in giving something up for the 40 days of Lent. Easter is good news, and the season of Easter lasts for 50 days, which perhaps reminds us that there are more to take in and celebrate in the good news of Easter, than there are to be strict about in Lent.

This brings us to think about the whole idea of seasons and celebrations in the church's calendar. They really are a bit misleading sometimes. The reason I say that is that Jesus is alive... and is always alive and has been since he was raised from death. So, it's not that Jesus is any less

raised or alive as we celebrate Good Friday or Christmas or whenever. The seasons and special days are just there to remind us of the different important events in Jesus' life, so that we can learn from them and celebrate what these parts of Jesus life tell us about Him and about God's purposes.

So having mentioned all these things about the season of Easter it is worth us doing an Easter Exploration and trying to think about what Jesus being raised from the dead tells us about God... and about God's purposes for us. We should forgive the first disciples for seeming slow to learn about the massive significance of Jesus being raised from the dead. But for us, with many Christian writers down the ages pointing out the importance of what God has done, we can learn a lot if we are willing to think and reflect on this wonderful news.

In this Easter period, I am especially glad that we can learn that God will not let evil and suffering have the last word. When things go wrong and there seems to be no way out, we can learn from Jesus death and resurrection, that God will not let things stay as they are... but will be working out a way to bring good out of the bad.

If you, or someone you know, is in a difficult time at the present moment, then maybe this part of the Easter story is something to think about afresh. God turns the evil and suffering of Good Friday inside out by raising Jesus to life... and used the bad of Good Friday to bring about the great rescue of humanity and offers forgiveness to us all.

Whatever this Easter season brings to us, may we know God near to us and be open to the Holy Spirit working His good purposes in our lives in the weeks ahead.

Richard Westwood

Things are moving at St Anne's



Have you noticed a few things changing in the fabric of St Anne's in recent weeks? We were delighted to have generous and expert help from Swaffield's Stonemasons in April as some of their team of staff helped to safely move the bust of John Robinson McClean to a new location in the welcome area in the church. Many thanks to Adam Swaffield and his helpers who made a difficult job very straight forward.

We are also very grateful to Allan Brookes for his speedy and skilful work in fitting the wooden panelling over the glass window in the choir vestry and then staining it to match the existing frames.

All this moving and work is to help us have a better and more suitable area for the children in our church and the children's groups who use the church. We hope that these developments, along with the hospitality seating in place of some pews are changes that everyone will welcome, as we seek to look after our church building well, and at the same time make it suitable for the changing ways we need to use it.

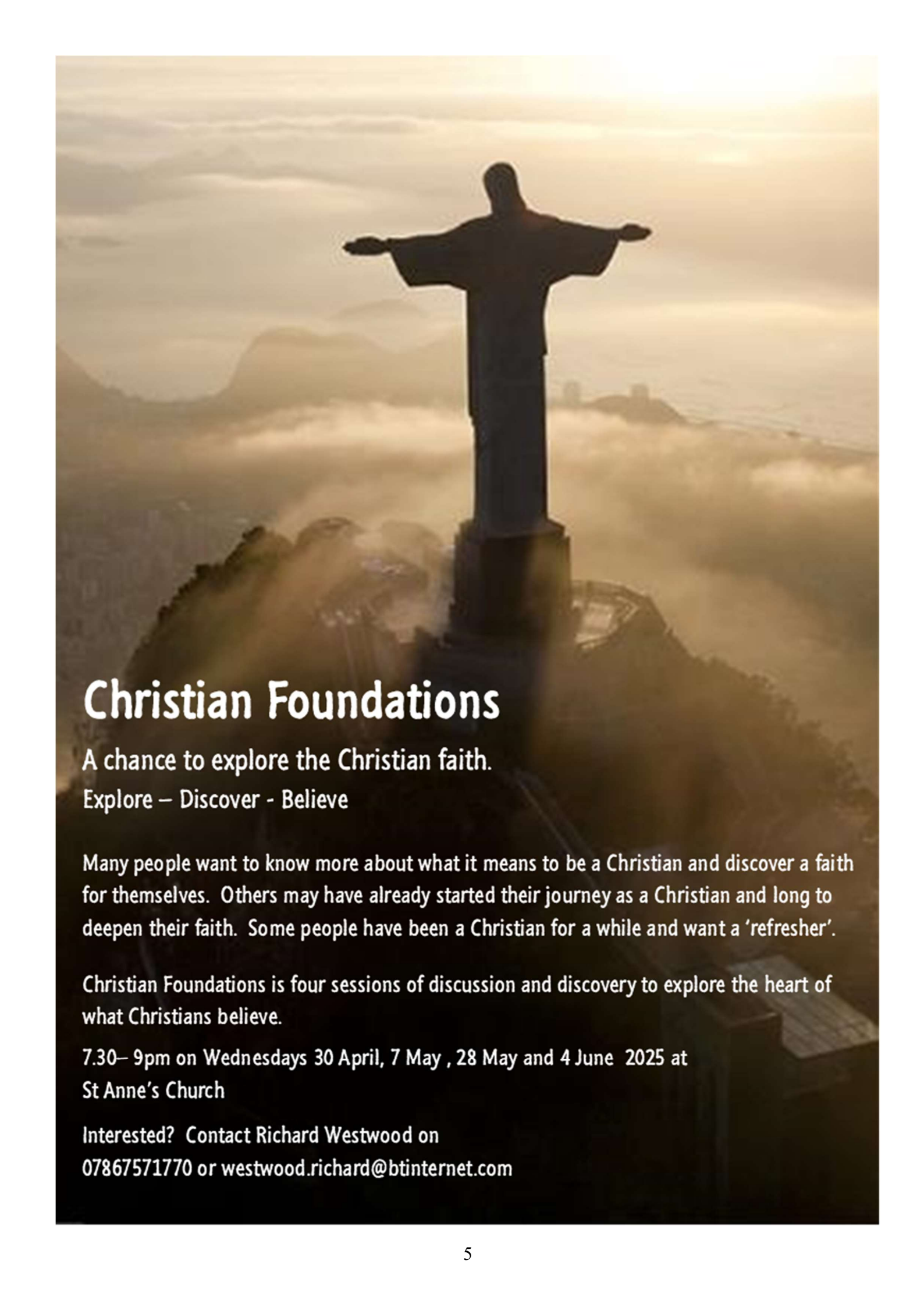
**St Anne's Chasetown APCM
(Annual Meeting)
Sunday 11th May 2025 at 12 Noon**



Each year every church in the Church of England has an annual meeting to review the highs and lows of the previous year, to check through finances, hold elections and make plans for time ahead. This meeting is called an Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). For the first time we are holding our APCM on a Sunday after the morning service and we hope that it will mean that more people can get involved in the discussion and plans involved. Anita Brookes is our PCC Secretary and she can give details about what is involved. If you want to vote in the elections for Church Warden and for PCC membership, then you will need to make sure you are listed on the Electoral Roll for the church and Anita can give you information about this too. Annual Reports and finance information for 2024 will be available soon on our website <https://stanneschasetown.com> with paper copies available, or if you prefer you can view them via this link...

https://1drv.ms/f/c/5e54c0a38eb52c10/EhAstY6jwFQggF7mbwAAAAABxjq_D9soBsSjj6uwhrZ8ag?e=El6AOJ

Please make every effort to come to the APCM on 11 May this year and hear about what God has been doing in and through St Anne's in 2024 and also find out about what the future may hold so that we can pray for God's guidance and help.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue is silhouetted against a bright, hazy sunset sky. Below the statue, a thick layer of clouds fills the valley, with the city of Rio de Janeiro visible in the distance. The overall tone is warm and spiritual.

Christian Foundations

A chance to explore the Christian faith.

Explore – Discover - Believe

Many people want to know more about what it means to be a Christian and discover a faith for themselves. Others may have already started their journey as a Christian and long to deepen their faith. Some people have been a Christian for a while and want a 'refresher'.

Christian Foundations is four sessions of discussion and discovery to explore the heart of what Christians believe.

7.30– 9pm on Wednesdays 30 April, 7 May , 28 May and 4 June 2025 at
St Anne's Church

Interested? Contact Richard Westwood on
07867571770 or westwood.richard@btinternet.com

Boxing Clever ...

Muhammad Ali was quick-witted as well as fleet of foot, had a way with words. He once said: "Even the greatest was once a beginner. Don't be afraid to take the first step."

He was a wise man on many levels. On another occasion he said, "You don't lose if you get knocked down, you lose if you don't get up."

When asked how he would like to be remembered, Ali replied: "I'll tell you how I'd like to be remembered: as a black man who won the heavyweight title, a man who was humorous and who never looked down on those who looked up to him, a man who stood for freedom, justice and equality, and I wouldn't mind if folks forgot how pretty I was."

Ali gave this powerful answer in an interview when he was pressured to go fight in Vietnam, or face prison, which is what happened:

"I'm not going to run away. I'm not going to burn any flags. I'm not going to Canada. I'm staying right here.

You want to send me to jail? Fine. I've been in jail for 400 years. I could be there for 4 or 5 more, but I'm not going to travel 10,000 miles to kill other poor people. If I want to die, I'll die right here, fighting you if I need to. You're my enemy, not the Chinese, not the Vietcong, not the Japanese. You're my opponent when I want freedom. You're my opponent when I want justice. You're my opponent when I want equality. You want me to fight for you? But you won't even defend my rights or my religious beliefs right here in America. You won't even stand up for me at home."

Muhammad Ali – a man worthy of respect on several levels.

Getting older – you’ve got to laugh

Memory and behaviour!

The brain can play tricks on even the brightest brains ...

This story is about Sir Issac Newton. It is said that one day, when he was getting older, he found himself in his kitchen, standing over his stove and looking into a pot of boiling water. In his hand was an egg. In the pot of boiling water lay his watch.

You know you’re getting older when ...

- It takes longer to rest than it did to get tired.
- Your knees buckle, but your belt won’t.
- Your idea of a night out is sitting on the patio.
- You remember your doctor’s phone number, but not your children’s.
- You know the difference between an oncologist, a gastroenterologist and a phlebotomist.
- There’s no question in your mind that there’s no question in your mind.

Retirement ...

Victor Meldrew, the curmudgeonly sit com character in *One Foot in the Grave* spoke knowingly about retirement. He said,

“I’m retired. I’m officially a lower form of life than a Duracell battery. I’ve been replaced by a box. It is, apparently, standard procedure for a man of my age. The next stage is they stick you I one.”

Being undiplomatic

Sometimes the most undiplomatic people end up in the diplomatic service!

When Warren Austen, a U.S. diplomat to the United Nations was attending a conference about the Middle East, he was asked to advice about the Middle East problem.

Forgetting to whom he was talking, or possibly just forgetting to engage his brain before opening his mouth, he was heard to advise both the Jewish delegates and the Arab delegates to *sit down and settle their differences like Christians*.

You know you're getting older when ...

- Your doctor tells you you need to slow down and not the police.
- You sit on a rocking chair and it won't get started.
- You wonder how you could possibly be 'over the hill' when you can't remember climbing up it.
- You receive two invitations to go out on the same night and choose the one that ends earliest.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- Your children are beginning to look middle aged.

Good news and bad news ...

A doctor sat a woman down and said to her, with a serious looking face, "I have some good news and some bad news."

The woman replied, "Just tell me the good news."

The doctor said, "They are going to name a disease after you."

Getting the wrong end of the stick ...

Lady Constance Milligan was making some final arrangements for the large party she was going to throw that evening.

"Betty," she said to her loyal housekeeper, "for the first twenty minutes I would like you stand at the drawing room door and call the guests' names as they arrive."

Betty's face glowed with pleasure. "Thank you madam," she replied, "I've been wanting to do that for over thirty years."

Shhh!

Knowing you're past it is not something you want the world to know about – or forces of a darker persuasion. A woman in her nineties said to her friend who had just turned 100, "Death has forgotten us."

"Shhh!" replied her friend.

Ladies and Gentlemen ...

Not knowing where you are is a problem that explorers face when they have lost a map and compass, or they are somewhere yet to be fully mapped. But it can also be an indicator that you are getting old as the following anecdote shows.

A woman entered a room in a London hotel where she saw a well-known politician pacing up and down. The woman asked the politician what he was doing there.

"I'm about to give an after-dinner speech," he replied.

Not unreasonably – the politician was an experienced speaker – she responded, "And do you always get nervous before your called upon to deliver them?"

"Nervous!" he said, somewhat offended, "I'm not nervous. In fact, I never get nervous."

"Then what are you doing," he demanded, "in the ladies' room?"

Still standing – just

Burt Reynolds, although seventy years plus, was determined to continue doing his own stunts when they were shooting the 1998 thriller *Crazy Six*.

"Look!" said Reynolds, "I can still do this. I can fall ... I just struggle getting back up again!"

Some things to pray for each day in May

1st Our Global Mission Links. Residents of Thistledown Av and Travellers Cl.

2nd The Local Methodist church and their ministers. Residents of Ivy Close. Chestnut Close and Oak Vale.

3rd Our Community Garden Team. Our Wardens and Deputy Wardens. Residents of Queen's Drv and Ring Rd.

4th Café Church, The Work and Mission of the Church. Residents of Juniper Cls, Church Walk and Keepers Cls.

5th Grocery Store Workers and Delivery People. The NHS workers and Medical Researchers. Residents of Anglesey Cls Elmhurst Drv and Elunda Grv.

6th Burntwood be a Friend. Residents of Blackthorne Ave, Brantwood Ave, and Bridge Cross Rd.

Those who are ill from Covid 19. Sandy McMeekin and Beacon Church.

Residents of Glenmore Ave and Grange Ave. Residents of Grange Rd,

7th Mission Aviation Fellowship. Residents of Henley Cls, Highfields Rd and High St.

8th Springhill Primary School teachers, pupils, parents, and governors. Residents of Hill St, Hillside Cls, James Hutchen Court. Messy Church.

9th Residents of Moor Cls, Mossbank Ave, Mount Rd, New Rd and New St, Residents of Merton Ct, Meadway St and Miners Way. Those in the deanery area who are in training for the local ministry. Christian Aid.

10th Pray for Laura the Parish Administrator as she works at St. Annes. Burntwood Be a Friend, Spark, MHA (Formally B'wood live at home scheme). Residents of Summerfield Rd, Sycamore Pl and Franklin Dr), our Flower Team, our Cleaners. The Wolgarston Link for Life Team.

11th Residents of Avon Rd and Baker Street. Residents Pine Grv, and Plant Ln. Those facing conflict across the world.

12th All searching for their faith. Residents of Trewern Dr, Union St and Willet Ave. Those facing homelessness. Holy Communion. Women's Wellbeing Walk. Community Café Our Gardening Team.

13th Those suffering with their mental health and suffering with grief. Parents and families under stress. The Food Bank. All searching for their faith.

14th Our Vicar Richard, Rose and their family. Our Ladybirds group. Link for Life Project. The residents of King St, Knoll CIs and Laburnum Grv. Residents of Queen St and Queen's Ct. MIND.

15th Praying for all those who have lost loved ones recently.

16th Residents of Church Wlk, Cinder Rd, Cottage Lane and Cobbett Rd. Christian Aid. Burntwood Town Council. Our Police Service. Lichf'd & District Voluntary service. St. John's Church and Matt Wallace. Those of other faiths. Residents of Holly Blue Meadow Estate.

17th The Ambulance Service. Residents of Robins Rd, Rowan Grv and Russett CIs

18th The Residents of Oakdene Rd, and Oatfield CIs.

19th Residents of Chase Rd, Cottage CIs and Chase Vale/The Orchard.

20th families adjusting to new ways of life. Residents of Beech Cres and Birch Ave, St. John the Baptist Church. Residents of Paviers Rd and Pool Rd.

21st Our Wardens and Deputy Wardens. Our Bishop the Rt. Rev'd Michael Ipgrave

22nd Our Holy Communion. All searching for their faith. Residents of Ash Gr and Attwood Rd.

23rd The Fire Service. All the new residents of Fallows Heath. Residents of Loftus Ct, Manor Rs and Maple CIs.

24th The Work and Mission of the Church. Governors, staff, pupils, and parents of The Erasmus Darwin Academy. Residents of Woodland Way and Bank Cres. Residents of Ivy Close. Ferndale CIs, Foxhills CIs

25th Strollers Group, Men's Wellbeing Walk, Stay and Play. Art Group Chasetown Community School teachers, pupils, parents, and governors. Our Holy Communion.

26th Residents of Silverdale and Smiths CIs, Davy CIs, Eastcote Cres and Edwards Rd.

27th The Ridgeway Primary school teachers, pupils, parents, and governors

28th Residents of Newgate St, New Plant and No Name Rd Residents of Cherry CIs, Copthorne Ave, and Church Street.

29th Residents of Lawnswood Ave, Leafenden Ave and Lilac Grv, Ferndale CIs, Foxhills CIs and Franklin Dv. Our Film Night.

30th Rev'd Steve Morgan and his family. Residents of Springhill Rd and St. Anne's CIs.

31st St. Joseph's primary school teachers, pupils, parents & governors. Residents of Hawthorne Cres and Hazelmere Dr.

Let's Pray... please pray for these people who are unwell and have asked for our prayers....

Pete Shelley, Terry Smith and Angela, Gerald Harvey, Adrian Tucker, Brian Smith, Jean Spraggett, Pauline and John Bird, Christine and Phil Elliott, Julie Hall, Sue Taylor, Margaret Oldham and Sue Benger

Please also pray for the families of those who have died recently...

David Carr, Mark Wilkins, Simon Hall (Julie Halls's son who died in December at just age 42), John Dunning, Trevor Edgerton, Richard Wheeler, Peter Mould, Brenda Coundley, Joshua Bradley.

Please use our intercession book to add the names of people needing prayer in our services each Sunday. (The intercessions book is normally in the welcome area)

Parish Registers

Funerals

Joshua Bradley 30/4/25

Services and Events in May 2025 at St Anne's

Sunday 4th May

10.15am All Age Service

6pm Holy Communion

Thursday 8th May

9.45am Holy Communion

3.30pm Messy Church

Sunday 11th May

10.15 am Holy Communion

12 noon APCM (no baptisms)

6pm Evening Worship (Simpler Service)

Thursday 15th May

9.45am Morning Prayer

Sunday 18th May

10.15am Café Church

Thursday 22nd May

9.45am Holy Communion

Sunday 25th May

10.15am Morning Prayer

6pm Evening Worship

Thursday 29th May

9.45am Holy Communion

Also, (during term time)

*Every Monday... 9.30am Strollers Buggy Walking Group and Stay and Play
10am Men's Wellbeing Walk*

Every Tuesday ...9.30am Morning Prayer (in church & via our Facebook page)

*Every Wednesday ... 9.15-11.15am Ladybirds Carers and Toddlers group
12 noon Midweek Message on our YouTube Channel*

Every Thursday ... 9.45am – Holy Communion or Morning Worship

10am Women's Wellbeing Walk

10am BBAF Community Garden

11am-1pm Place of Welcome Community Café

Burntwood Be A Friend News

In April, Burntwood Be A Friend (BBAF) were delighted to be invited to host not one, but two MPs, who came to visit St Anne's and hear about the BBAF Community Garden. Our own MP, Dave Roberston (MP for Lichfield and Burntwood) was present alongside Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.



They had both come to discuss social prescribing. This is a system where trained Social Prescribers based at local doctors can recommend to patients that they get involved in a range of difference social activities

in their neighbourhood, often as a means to helping with their wellbeing. BBAF's Community Garden at St Anne's has been welcoming people through the social prescribing route for a while and so it was good to be able to share some of our experience with the MPs as they chatted to some of the garden volunteers and BBAF staff involved. Alongside our MPs we were pleased to welcome our local councillors too as well as our friends and supporters from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust who have guided and helped BBAF and St Anne's as our partnership together has grown.

The visit showed St Anne's Church and our community ministry in a very good light and illustrated how our partnership with BBAF and other local agencies is helping people to thrive.

Burntwood Be A Friend have recently launched 'The Steady Stag' its own Dry Pub, a place for men to connect and unwind. The dry pub is being held every Thursday at St. Anne's Church between 1.30pm-3pm. There are non-alcoholic drinks and bar snacks available as well as activities such as Karaoke, pool and table football.

All are welcome.



Spring Word Search

E D B N I S B C S S A R G H R
N X U S E I P S H Q I R G A J
I G T A R L X R G I Y C I Z L
H B T D E K L T I U R N S U I
S T E M H B C O Y N B P X V D
N A R D N R M F P O G Y I L Y
U U F X H N M O W C U T D N R
S B L I S R E W O L F N I A G
G M Y H A W V B Y F I F U M L
F X V D W D Y U Q A P S L O E
B L O O M U N Z R R A V X E N
W Q X D U N N Z P Y F S U W P
E N H L R Q U I U C M P P Y V
G A R D E N B N T Q P G M D K
X R T A V T S G H X M Q R E Q

BIRD
BLOOM
BUNNY
BUTTERFLY
BUZZING

CHIRPING
FLOWERS
GARDEN
GRASS
LADYBUGS

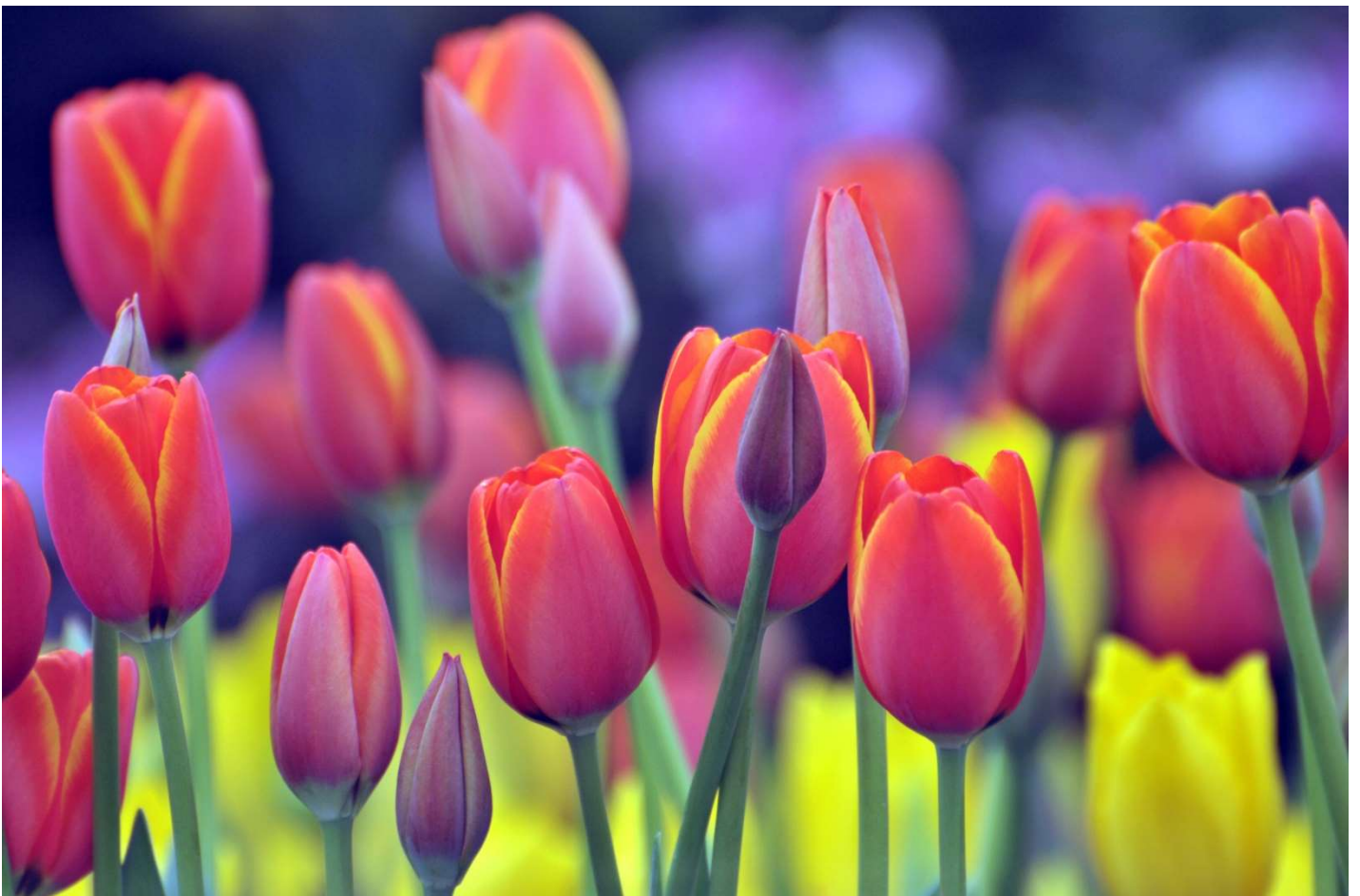
POLLEN
RAIN
RAINBOW
SPRINGTIME
SUNSHINE

May

The wind is tossing the lilacs,
The new leaves laugh in the sun,
And the petals fall on the orchard wall,
But for me the spring is done.

Beneath the apple blossoms
I go a wintry way,
For love that smiled in April
Is false to me in May.

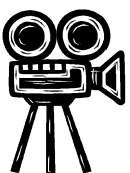
Sara Teasdale



May Rota

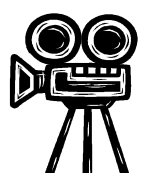
St Anne's Church - Rota May 2025

Date	Service	Lead	Preach	Preside	Communion Assistant	Prayers	Music (Chooper)	Bible Readers	Sidespersons	Children's Church	Tea / coffee	Bible Readings
Sunday 4th May 2025 3rd Sunday of Easter <i>(Richard Away)</i>	10.15am All Age Service	Chris Hawthorne	Jules Smith	N/A	N/A		Jean	Georgia Holand	Stella	N/A	Sheila And Penny	Parable of Mustard Seed & Yeast Matt 13:31-34
Sunday 4th May 2025 3rd Sunday of Easter	6.00pm Holy Communion	Richard Westwood	Richard Westwood	Richard Westwood	Richard Westwood		Jordan	Jennifer	Sid and Carol Dean	N/A	Michelle	Acts 9:1-20 John 21:1-19
Thursday 8th May	9.45am Holy Communion	Richard Westwood	Richard Westwood	Richard Westwood		Richard Westwood	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Thursday 8th May	3.30pm Messy Church	Esther Allen	Esther Allen		N/A			Chidier	Jean Burns	N/A	Mariyn	
Sunday 11 May 2025 – 4th Sunday after Easter	10.15am Holy Communion	Richard Westwood	Richard Westwood	Richard Westwood	Stella	Sheila B	Esther	Pat	Brian and Sue	Lucy and Sarah	Sue	Acts 9:36-43 John 17:8-19
Sunday 11 May 2025 – 4th Sunday after Easter	12 Noon APCM (so no Baptisms)	Richard Westwood	Richard Westwood	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Sunday 11 May 2025 – 4th Sunday after Easter	6pm Evening Worship (Simpler Service)	Jules Smith	Jules Smith	N/A	N/A		N/A	Jennifer	Jean Bruffin	N/A	Michelle	Acts 9:36-43 John 17:8-19
Thursday 15th May <i>Richard Away</i>	9.45am Morning Prayer			N/A			N/A	N/A		N/A		
Sunday 13 May 2025 6th Sunday after Easter <i>Richard Away</i>	10.15am Cafe Church		Chris Hawthorne & Tony Guest Theme: Praying for... Renewal and reviva								Tea and Coffee – Pat Guest Wash up -	
Thursday 22nd May <i>Richard Away</i>	9.45am Holy Communion			N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Sunday 25 May 2025 6th Sunday after Easter <i>Richard Away</i>	10.15am Morning Prayer	Jules Smith	Jane Newsome	Jane Newsome	Jules	Anita	Tony	Georgia Holand	Rosemarie Thomas	Pat and Jenny	Tony	Acts 16:9-16 John 14:23-29
Sunday 25 May 2025 6th Sunday after Easter <i>Richard Away</i>	6pm Evening Worship	Chris Hawthorne	Chris Hawthorne	N/A	N/A	Stella	? video	Anita	Jean Burns	N/A	Michelle	Acts 16:9-16 John 14:23-29
Thursday 29th May Ascension Day <i>Richard Away</i>	9.45am Holy Communion	Richard Westwood	Richard Westwood	Richard Westwood		Richard Westwood	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	



FILM NIGHT THURSDAY

Thursday 29th May



We are planning a film show in Church on the above date at 7.30pm. We will be serving Tea/Coffee and Cake during the interval. Admission is free (donations welcome)

Throw Momma From The Train

Larry Donner (Billy Crystal), an author with a cruel ex-wife, teaches a writing workshop in which one of his students, Owen Lift (Danny de Vito), is fed up with his domineering mother (Anne Ramsey). When Owen watches a Hitchcock classic that seems to mirror his own life, he decides to put the movie's plot into action and offers to kill Larry's ex-wife, if Larry promises to murder his mom. Before Larry gets a chance to react to the plan, it seems that Owen has already set things in motion.



Running time 1 hour 28 minutes - rating 15

Get in Touch and stay in Touch Find us on...



St Anne's Vision Statement:

St Anne's Church is called by God to be ...

An inclusive church, filled with love and trust in Jesus, which listens to and serves the different people who live and work in Chasetown. We seek to nurture faith and offer hope, help and God's unconditional welcome to all.

Contacts: St Anne's Church, Church Street, Chasetown WS7 3QL

Parish Administrator: Laura Newey Tel: 01543 686111

Email: stanneschurch@hotmail.co.uk

<https://stanneschasetown.com>

Team Vicar: Richard Westwood 01543 682336

westwood.richard@btinternet.com -

Richard's day off is Saturday