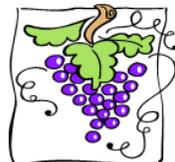


GRAPEVINE

3rd Sunday of Easter
18th April 2021

Letting people know about the love of Jesus Christ

Sin and shame ever go together; he that would be freed from the last must be sure to shun the company of the first. Anne Bradstreet



Welcome to St Peter & St Mary's Church

Elizabeth Keckley was a slave in St. Louis, Missouri before the American Civil War and lived at a time when it began to be possible for slaves to buy their freedom. It became an obsession for her to purchase freedom for herself and her son. Her owner agreed that if she could raise \$1,200 he would set her free. Elizabeth worked as a seamstress and came up with a plan to go to New York City and work there to raise the money she needed. But her owner wouldn't let her because he thought that she would run away and not come back. This meant she had no way of being set free.

That was until some of her wealthy clients in St. Louis clubbed together and came up with the money she needed. They paid the price for Elizabeth Keckley, as well as her son, and they moved to Washington, DC. She managed to set up a dressmaking business that grew to include a staff of 20 seamstresses and her clients were the wives of elite politicians. She even became a friend and confidante of Mary Lincoln, the wife of the US President, Abraham Lincoln. Without the help of someone else, Keckley would have remained enslaved and would never have known what it would be like to be free for the rest of her life.

We are all slaves while we live in this world. Slaves to a guilty conscience; slaves to our childhood and upbringing; slaves to our limited lifespan. But the Spirit of Jesus gives us the strength and direction we need to break free from the past that would restrict us. The death of Jesus provided the price needed to pay for our guilty and improper live choices, and the Resurrection of Jesus releases us from the power of death and so opens up the way for us to share our life, with His, for eternity.

Michael

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Church Office CLOSED office@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

 Stowmarket Parish Church  @stowmarketcofe

Website: www.stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk **Regd Charity Number 1132857**

ZOOM LOGIN DETAILS

<https://zoom.us/j/9658283398?pwd=SjN2V252VGxSSngrSnBOM1JETk1Bdz09>

Meeting ID: 965 828 3398 - Passcode: 615182

This is Easter Sunday

The service will start at 10am. We are meeting in our Church building and Covid restrictions will still be in place with handwashing, mask wearing, social distancing and no singing.

If you can't get to Church you can join with us in worship from 10am on Sunday, on YouTube: https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCUjH_zTFVjMe1XckXQ0II_A A link can also be found on the Church Website along with the Service Sheet. Services will still be available on DVD but will not go out before Sunday afternoon. If you know anyone who can't access anything online we will deliver a copy to their door so they can join in too. Contact the Vicarage. 678623.

Next Sunday - 25th April

The 10am Service next week will include Holy Communion and will be followed by our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. At this meeting we need to elect Church Wardens and new PCC Members. There is one vacancy for Churchwarden, 4 for the PCC and one for Deanery Synod. If you are interested fill in the appropriate form (available from Church) or contact the Vicar for more details.

Keeping the Church Open

We are planning to open up the Church building on Monday and Thursday for private prayer from 10am until noon. If you can help with welcoming mid-week, please contact Michael 678623. We will not be able to serve refreshments yet so duties consist of, sitting in Church and being welcoming.

The Lent Challenge 2021

KAGERA LENT CHALLENGE 2021 - Supporting key workers in Kagera
Through the Bishop's Lent Appeal we are celebrating and serving our link with the Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania, and supporting key workers there. Follow the Lent Challenge!

- Learn more about life in Kagera.
- Pray for our African and global poor.
- Make money to help them improve their lives.
- Share news of this link appeal with your family and the amounts suggested - just do whatever you can and enjoy the challenge!

February Lent Booklet
Pay for someone who is starting on this Lent Challenge today. Please do not do this until after the 1st of February.

12 Thurs
In Kagera, beads is seen in a successful harvest of maize in Kagera, but in studies of Rwanda.
Give £20 if you were given or given flowers in Rwanda's Day.
How much £20 can you give yourself?

14 Fri
People in Kagera love to sing and dance to welcome visitors and for social events. Traditionally using drums and whistles.
Give £10 for each musical instrument in your house.

16 Sat
The beautiful rainbow is the sign of God's promise to Noah. In Kagera there is no rainbow because of the poor. Unfortunately in link deliveries. There are no cars horns.
Give thanks for all the water you have received and help you give £10 for every year you know. If you are a key worker please!
Think rain - take a day off your phone.

21 Sun
Lent, we ask for your blessing on all who offer loving care to their neighbours and who work to sustain and build community.

Lent has come to an end and so its time to count up your offerings that can be used to help the people of Kagera in our Link Diocese in Tanzania? I hope you have learnt much about their life in Africa as you have been praying for them each day. You can find details on the back of the Lent Booklet of how to pay the money that you have collected. Don't forget to fill in the Gift Aid section if you are a taxpayer. If you have problems doing that you can bring you gift on Sunday Morning or contact the Vicarage 678623.

Flowers on High Altar

Now we are reopening for Sunday Services we are looking for volunteers to provide flowers for the High Altar each week. If this is something you are able to help with please contact Pa in the Church Office 01449 7748652 or email office@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

Prayer Meeting

We meet on the Church Zoom at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings for half an hour. The first 15 minutes focus on a specific subject then opening up for other areas of concern or thanksgiving.

You are invited to come along. To increase the amount of prayer pouring from our Church. There is no pressure to pray out loud, just the desire to meet with others and pray for our Church, friends, our town, the world and in fact anything. It is informal and a most enjoyable and rewarding time. Why not give it a go?

If you don't have the computer technology you can also join on even the most basic of phones. Just call 02039 663 809 and follow the instructions. Meeting ID which is 965 828 3398 # and if asked, dial in with meeting password 615182.

Foodbank

In 2020 the Food Bank gave out 1348 food parcels compared with 900 the year before. Those parcels meant that we were able to feed 4044 local people & supported them through times of crisis. The Food Bank box for collecting your donations is in Church. Please do what you can to help.

Stowmarket Foodbank

Supporting individuals and families in crisis

Diary

Sunday 18th April

10:00am Morning Worship in Church
& Live streamed on YouTube

Monday 19th March

7:30pm Clergy, Readers & Preachers Meeting

Tuesday 20th April

6pm Boys Brigade & Girls Association Meeting
7:30pm Deanery Pastoral Meeting

Wednesday 21st April

6:30pm Prayer Meeting

Sunday 25th April

10:00am Holy Communion in Church
& Live streamed on YouTube

Followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Church & on Zoom

Monday 26th April

7:30pm Mission & Outreach Meeting

May 10th – 16th 2021



This is Christian Aid's 75th Anniversary Year

Christian Aid began when Christians united at the end of World War II, determined to live out Jesus' teaching to love their neighbour by offering love and care to those in need, especially to refugees right across Europe. The work continues to this day, empowering communities to break the cycle of poverty and to look to a more hopeful future.

This year, Christian Aid Week is focusing on millions of people in Kenya who are struggling to get enough food and water, as a result of climate change, and the charity is determined to continue to be a force for good, helping to end poverty and injustice worldwide.

How can you help?

More details about ways to donate will be in future Grapevines, but we are encouraging church members to see if they can do something extra to raise funds on behalf of St Peter and St Mary's Church.

The last year has shown us how important it is to come together as a community and have some fun together. So, you might like to do a garage or garden sale, sell unwanted goods online and donate the funds, host a virtual party, dinner or bingo night, or host a Christian Aid quiz over Zoom (questions can be provided).

If you prefer to take part in a nationwide quiz, Quiztian Aid is back on Saturday 8th May at 7pm. The quiz was a smash hit last year raising almost £7000. This year's quiz is hosted by Death in Paradise stars, Tobi and Prisca Bakare with special guest hosts including Rhidian Brook, Kate Bottley, Kris Marshall and Rowan Williams. Sign up now and invite your friends, family or church to join and help Christian Aid transform lives in Kenya. To sign up, go to:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/virtual-events>

Contact Jane Stretch if you have questions or need resources.