

**St Peter and Paul**  
**The Parish Church of**  
**St. Osyth**

In the Priory Benefice of  
St. Osyth, Great Bentley, Weeley and Little Clacton

***“SERVING GOD THROUGH  
LOVE, WORSHIP AND WITNESS”***

Registered Charity Number: 1215560

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**There will be an 8am Service and a 10am Priory Benefice Service held at St. Mary's Church, Great Bentley.**

DO NOT LET  
**YOUR HEARTS**  
♥ BE TROUBLED ♥  
trust in  
♥ God ♥  
*John 14:1*

**The Bible Readings**

**Acts 7. 55-end.**

**John 14. 1-14**

**CHURCH CONTACTS**

**General enquiries, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals** please contact  
Rev'd. Sharon Guest 01255 235700, Email: [sharonguest07@btinternet.com](mailto:sharonguest07@btinternet.com)

**Church Warden and Safeguarding Officer:** Mr Tony Page, Tel: 07730956414

Email: [churchwarden@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:churchwarden@stosythparishchurch.co.uk)

**Church Warden:** Sunny Bissenden,

Email: [churchwarden1@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:churchwarden1@stosythparishchurch.co.uk)

**Pastoral Care:** Mrs Dianne Pile, Email: [dianne.pile@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.pile@gmail.com)

**Administration:** Mrs Emma Charnock, Email: [info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk)

**PCC Secretary:** Ms Belinda Liddle, Email: [pccsecretary@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:pccsecretary@stosythparishchurch.co.uk)

## The Gospel John 14. 1-14

### Jesus the Way to the Father

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

### Prayers

- † Pray for the worldwide Church; for persecuted Christians and those imprisoned for their faiths.
- † Continue to pray for peace in our war-torn world, asking God to help and protect the innocent, marginalised and vulnerable.
- † Pray that our nation turns to God, so that His kingdom may come to our land, knowing that ‘righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people’.
- † Pray for our parish, especially the staff and pupils of St. Osyth School and Pre School, the residents and visitors of Five Stacks and Vyntoner House, our local businesses and for the many social groups.
- † Pray for those in need of healing and long-term prayerful support including: Sam, Monica, Ray, Maureen, David, Nina Hatchett, Dominee, Jane Eade, Tiny Harding, Joy and John.
- † Pray for all who have recently passed away, and those who mourn them.
- † Pray for those you know who need to experience the reality of God’s grace and peace in their lives.
- † Lord, thank you that you hear every prayer. Teach us to pray with faith and confidence, knowing that our words are sacred and received by you. Amen.

Please let Chris Pile, email [pile.chris@gmail.com](mailto:pile.chris@gmail.com), know the name of anyone who you would like to be added or anyone who can now be taken off the prayers.

Thank you.

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# \*\*\* NOTICES \*\*\*

## **APCM and AVM** **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 11am**

Nomination forms are now available on the table at the back Church for Churchwardens, Deanery Synod and Parochial Church Council.

Completed nomination forms can be placed in the Black folder.

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

Under Church Rule 4, the 2026 revision of the Church Roll of this parish has been completed.

A copy of the roll (names only) is available for inspection from April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup> on a reasonable request being made to the Electoral Roll Officer or a Church Warden.

*Chris Pile*  
Electoral Roll Officer

## **St Osyth Church**

*2025 Summer Season Recitals*

Our next Recital will take place on

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 12.30pm-1.15pm**

When we welcome the wonderful

***LIZZIE GUTTERIDGE***

*with her collection of Historical Instruments*

As always, no ticket is required, and refreshments will be available in the Church Room after the recital.

Donations towards the Church Music fund are gratefully accepted. (Cash or card).

## ***St. Osyth Church*** ***Summer Lunchtime*** ***Recitals***



We are in need of volunteers to make cakes or savouries for Refreshments, serve drinks and wash up.

Our next recital is on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, any help at this or any of the other events would be incredibly helpful!

If you are able and would like to help, please contact Sunny

[churchwarden1@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:churchwarden1@stosythparishchurch.co.uk)  
[uk](http://uk)

## **THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME**

Please consider giving to our church through this scheme. Many of our congregation give in this way. It saves you bringing cash to services and saves time for our treasurers too.

It's a simple and secure way for our Church to receive gifts and donations by monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit.

You can give anonymously if you prefer.

There is no fee payable as the diocese covers the admin costs. It's also easy to log in and make amendments if required.

If you are a UK tax payer, gift aid of 25% is added to your giving.

And we get that back straight away too! Win-win.



St. Osyth Parish Church  
**Summer Fayre**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June

10.00-13.00

In the Churchyard

Stalls cost £20 per table

Tables are limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

If you would like a stall at our Summer Fayre, please contact Sunny Bissenden by  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

[churchwarden1@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:churchwarden1@stosythparishchurch.co.uk)

OR text 07719 689051



**THE SALVATION ARMY  
FOOD BANK**

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



Please do keep donating items for the Clacton Food Bank. All donations are always gratefully received, but please make a note of their specific requests below.

- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned/packet Custard
- Long Life Milk
- UHT Fruit Juice
- Instant Mash
- Tinned Sponge Puddings
- Small Jar/packet Instant Coffee
- Hot Chocolate Powder

**FUNDRAISING FOR CHURCH  
MUSIC AND ORGAN FUND**

Do you have an Anniversary or Special Occasion happening this year?

Would you like to dedicate a hymn or Organ Voluntary at the end of the 11am Sunday service?

All you have to do is to let Tony or Sunny know, and we would be very happy make this happen for you!

All we ask for is a small donation to the Church Music and Organ Fund and you will receive a mention on the weekly Pew Sheet.

**Pew Notices & Diary**

**Notices** – Emma Charnock [info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk) by latest Wednesday 5pm

**Anything for the Church Diary** – Emma Charnock [info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk)

Don't forget, you can always find out more by visiting the  
CHURCH WEBSITE:

[www.stosythparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.stosythparishchurch.co.uk)

**St. Osyth Parish Church**  
**Diary for Week Beginning Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

<b>Sunday</b>  <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>8am</b>  <b><u>10am</u></b>	<b>Holy Communion Service led by Rev'd. Sharon Guest</b>  <b>Priory Benefice Holy Communion Service held at St. Mary's Church, Great Bentley. Led by Rev'd. Sharon Guest</b>
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>		
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	8am onwards  10am-12noon	AV System update – Spotlight Sounds  CCS Course in Church Room
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm-7.30pm	Bell Ringing Training
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Holy Communion Service in the Church Room, led by Rev'd. Ernie Guest
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup>		
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	10am-11.30am	Pop-In
<b>Sunday</b>  <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion Service led by Rev'd. Guy Thorburn</b>  <b>Sunday Club</b>  <b>Refreshments will be served in the Church room after the Service</b>

**UPCOMING SERVICES**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Service led by</u></b>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	11am Morning Praise Service led by Rev'd. Sharon Guest  APCM and AVM will be held during the service
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May Pentecost	11am Holy Communion Service led by Rev'd. Laurie Bond

**Danny's Sermon – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
**Readings for Sunday 26th April 2026**  
**John 10: 1 - 10/1 Peter 2: 19 - End**

Today, as usual, we have heard two readings from scripture. One from the Gospel of John and the other an Epistle - a letter from Peter. Essentially two followers that knew Christ intimately through his ministry, agonisingly through his death and then experiencing him via his resurrection. First hand experience of Jesus and his ministry. Both called by him.

In the Gospel reading from John he is focusing our attention on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Why this focus on the shepherd and his sheep? Well if we think about it, shepherds and sheep play an important role in the Bible - firstly in the Old Testament and again in the New.

Abraham, a nomad travelling with flocks, has sheep he grazes and when he is called to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, he goes off to do so without a sacrificial animal which is noted by Isaac. Hey dad, you forgot the sacrificial lamb. Abraham tells him not to worry as God will provide. When the time comes to slaughter Isaac, God having accepted Abraham's commitment, provides a ram as the sacrificial offering.

Moses, having been born a Jew, raised by Pharaoh's daughter as an Egyptian in the royal household flees Egypt for killing an Egyptian overseer attacking an Israelite for which he will be put to death. He then effectively becomes a shepherd for his father-in-law and it is whilst he is overseeing the sheep he is responsible for we have the episode of the burning bush and the start of a saga that sees the Israelites, through the offices of Moses who is under the direction and protection of God, banished from Egypt. The Israelites undertake a long and perilous journey through the desert sustained by God until such time as they are spiritually ready to occupy a new land. Moses sadly dies before he sees the occupation of the Promised Land, but he has carried out his initially reluctant devotion to God and is allowed to see a glimpse of it.

Then we have David, a shepherd boy, the youngest son of Jesse who God chooses to become the future King of Israel. Through David's family line Jesus is a direct descendent of King David, who holds a very special place in Judaism not only for his kingship, but for his faith, worship and trust in God.

It must be remembered that the life of a shepherd was hard, dangerous, and not considered to be very rewarding or fulfilling. Generally those who were shepherds were regarded as the lowest of the low.

Shepherds, on the other hand, were only too aware of the responsibility and accountability for the sheep that were under their care and that resulted in an almost intimate relationship with their charges. Somewhat like the relationship dog and cat owners develop with their pets.

When Jesus was born it is recorded that a Heavenly Host appeared in the night sky to shepherds working on the surrounding hills to inform them of a very special event. The birth of their Saviour. This resulted in them unusually leaving their sheep and seeking out this saviour that the Angelic Host were referring to. The very humble being the first to visit the Christ child in the manger.

Jesus, in recognising his role and destiny, seeks a way to not only demonstrate how he intends to minister to his people as a servant to all, but also his expectation that his followers will likewise adopt a similar stance in their administering to those who will come to faith through him, the Christ.

Now the important part. Jesus is the shepherd of his flock which consists of all those he calls by name. Our Christian name which he knows as he knows us.

My Christian name is Danny which is a derivative of Daniel which means 'God is my judge' and boy does he do a lot of judging where I am concerned.

Seriously, is that not something wonderful?

Something we should hold dear and value.

He knows our names. He knows who we are.

Look at Psalm 139

**'O Lord you have searched me and you know me'**

and

**'For you created my innermost being; you knit me together in my mothers womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made'.**

On top of that, because we have this intimate relationship with Christ, we follow him since we hear and know his voice and the care he has for each and everyone of us. Our duty is to listen, and upon hearing, respond appropriately to Him.

Jesus used this illustration so that we could comprehend how special we are to him and he is to us, but at times we fail to appreciate that loving relationship that we can only have through him and no other.

In this text he is warning us, his followers, to exercise care as there are those who would seek to thwart us in our journey with him. Jesus will provide abundantly for us. We in turn must put all our faith in him and seek to follow him as he directs us.

Now we briefly turn to Peter and what he has to say to us. Life is no easy ride and there are times when things do not go our way. Sometimes we deserve what we get through our own fault, and at such times we are expected to take our punishment, so to speak, and get on with it with no fuss.

However, there will be times, or occasions, when life will deal us a bad hand that does not appear deserved. How we handle such times is how we will be judged. Christ, who committed no sin and in whom no deceit was found, suffered untold agony to atone for our sins and for our redemption. He did not revile, nor threaten those who carried out his scourging and crucifixion. He prayed for their forgiveness as they knew not what they were doing. Thus setting an example for us to follow.

We were sheep going astray but through the Good Shepherd and Overseer of our souls we have another chance to change our ways and live the life we are offered through Christ. Let us be wise enough to recognise that and act accordingly.

Amen

Now before I finish I have been requested to draw your attention to the fact that today is 'Vocation Sunday' hence the reading today which mentions being called by name.

The Church is sustained by all our efforts - little or large - and we are truly appreciated for those things that we freely do individually and collectively to sustain our church both locally and wider afield. However, it is important to consider if God is personally speaking to you to do something different.

Something which might be outside your comfort zone or you feel the lack of ability to do, or even try. That small quiet voice that sometimes speaks to us and niggles us. I know that personally because I have experienced it and the change it has wrought in me. Something I am pleased I have followed. If

this is the case with you there are a range of vocations that are open to you and Rev. Sharon would like you to contact her as she is only too happy to support and guide you in your deliberations. I leave it there for you to ponder upon as there is no question about the value of what you currently do, or how much you already give to the church. It is just a request to consider other options you might like to follow.