

Church News

4th May 2025 – Easter 3

Empshott 09.15 Holy Communion

Bishop Ian Brackley

**Hawkley 10.15 Holy Communion – *with Sunday
Funday***

Sue Jones and Liz Buckle

Greatham 11.00 Morning Worship

Kay Thorpe and Elizabeth Hawkins

All are Welcome!

Editorial Comment

As you read this, Peter's licence has now expired and we are, formally, in 'interregnum'. We are all feeling great sadness at the departure of our vicar/rector, but Peter has worked tirelessly, way above what could ever be expected, to ensure that we are well-resourced and able to continue the excellent work that he has established.

Personally, one of my first encounters with Peter was sitting in my garden, with a pint or two of my rather questionable home-brewed beer. As a Reader, I wanted to get to know who I was expected to work with, and he, I am sure, wanted to size me up, too... It turned out we had much in common. I had recently resigned my headship to return to my first love, the primary classroom. Peter was returning to Parish Ministry, completing his 'journey'

after such an important leadership role as Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight. We shared the same desire to return to our roots and while I am rather pleased that I beat him to retirement by around nine months, he has left me (and the rest of us) with plenty to do in spreading the Good News of the Gospel in our communities!

You will all have your own very special memories of Peter; the way he influenced our lives, encouraging, supporting, challenging and simply 'being there' for each and every member of his flock.

And I'm sure you will join me in thanking him for his unrelenting work and in wishing him and Pippa a peaceful, long and blessed retirement.

Please pray for them both – this milestone in both of their lives is enormous and I have every confidence that every prayer we offer will help them as they look to their new future.

May God bless them both.

Paul Goddard – Reader/LLM... and, lately, Editor/Compiler of Church News

Looking ahead - more events and happenings in May and June

Yewlian Meetings at Priors Dean, 7pm on Monday 5th May and Monday 2nd June

Dog Show and Summer Fete at St John the Baptist Church on 21st June, featuring NCMA Modellers' Association mobile railway layout

Benefice Service to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of St John the Baptist Church, Greatham with Bishop Jonathan – Sunday 22nd June, at 10.30am

Empshott Church – Working Party

There will be a working party at Empshott Church on Saturday 10th May, starting at 2.00pm. Lots of jobs need doing in order to look after the Church and the Churchyard, and all help will be much appreciated. For those planning to help outside, please bring tools/equipment, such as strimmers, shears, secateurs, rakes etc., if you have them. Polish, mops, dusters etc. will be available for those working inside the Church. There will be tea and cake at 3.30-4.00pm, as usual. For more information, please contact David Tucker (call: 07725 148688 or email: david6tucker@btinternet.com)

Thanks, in advance, for your help – we look forward to seeing you!

An update from Bishop Martin Gordon, Hawkey's CMS link mission partner in Goma, DRC.



The encouraging news is that the DRC government and the coalition of militias including the M23 have agreed to work towards a truce to end the fighting which has engulfed Goma since January. Bishop Martin says 'We are living through a very difficult time, yet there are glimmers of hope. People are crying out for peace and looking to the church for answers'

CMS has called on Christians to pray for Goma in particular during the week 5-11 May. 'That evil may be overcome with good'

‘God, we pray for Goma, for the child who freezes every time unfamiliar footsteps are heard; For the farmer whose home and crops were destroyed; For everyone for whom the sounds of gunfire and bombs have become all too normal; We pray for healing, for peace and peacemakers; For the strength to not be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with good; For more disciples that will live Your way.

In Your grace, don’t let us forget Goma.

We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.’

Christians Against Poverty

In his sermon on Maundy Thursday, Bishop Jonathan challenged the diocese to help those living in poverty. He said the work of the Christians was to proclaim ‘Good news to the poor’.



One of the charities supported across this diocese and throughout the UK is Christians Against Poverty which actively works providing free help for getting out of debt, budgeting, making budgets go further or help finding a job.

This is one of the charities supported in our benefice (website capuk.org)

Prayers for the Parishes of Greatham, Empshott and Hawkley with Priors Dean – Portsmouth Cathedral, Monday 12th May

Prayers will be said for our Benefice in the Diocesan Prayer Cycle during Choral Evensong, which will be sung at 17:45 in the Cathedral on Monday 12th May.

All members of our congregations are warmly invited to attend if they are able. Car sharing is recommended to facilitate parking, which can be difficult in the area around the Cathedral. Our Curate, Sue Jones, will be attending,

and is happy to offer a lift to some folk who would like to come but need transport.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Hawkley with Priors Dean

The APCM will be held in Hawkley Church following our 10:15 morning service. All parishioners are invited to attend, and take their part in the governance of our parish at this important time of Vacancy following Peter Sutton’s retirement. The relevant documents are being circulated separately to Hawkley with Priors Dean recipients.

The Roberts Centre

With the closure of Portsmouth Family Welfare, The Roberts Centre will take our monthly donations of food to give to the homeless and those families who are struggling to feed their children.

Jeremy Philp and Elizabeth Hawkins went to see Melanie Goddard, the CEO of the Roberts Centre last week. They no longer want children’s clothes or puzzles but **hardback and/or paperback books for adults and children**, both fiction and non-fiction.

In Hawkley Church porch, Elizabeth has left some flyers with suggestions of food items. Please take one.

Hoovers, toasters, kettles are also required. The Centre will do all the necessary electrical checks if you have an item to spare.

We will continue to make our deliveries after the 4th Sunday of each month.



Weekday Morning Prayer at Hawkley

Mondays	0900
Tuesdays	0900
Wednesdays	0730
Thursdays	0900

Morning Prayer from Common Worship is the contemporary version of the morning daily office. It follows a pattern of introduction, psalm(s), readings, canticles including the Benedictus and prayers appropriate to the day.

Currently up to 5 or 6 people might come – it is a great way to start the day and there is room for a lot more! Morning Prayer last for 20 – 25 minutes.

Some attendees of Morning Prayer, but by no means all, use the App on their phones which saves having to look up readings and psalms – it's all on the phone! How times have changed. Whether you come to church for this or not, have a look at this App – you can, of course use it anywhere!

Everyone (and anyone) is always welcome!



How to Donate

We are very grateful to everyone who supports us financially – thank you! Each of our churches are members of the national Parish Giving Scheme which means that you can easily set up a way to give that suits you. Either visit the website use www.parishgiving.org.uk or telephone 0333 002 1260. Simply state the name of the Church you wish to support and their parish code:

St Peter and St Paul Church, Hawkley

Code Number: 290629087

Priors Dean Church

Code Number: 290629088

St John the Baptist, Greatham

Code Number: 290629086

Empshott

Code Number: 290629083

PGS will ask for your contact details and bank details: sort code, account number and account name. For details of other ways to support any of our churches, please contact the appropriate treasurer:

Hawkley Alex Wilkinson

Alexandra-wilkinson@hotmail.com

Priors Dean D Green

green@priorsdean.com

Greatham Steve Hedicker

shedicker58@gmail.com

Empshott Verity Tucker

verityvmtucker@gmail.com

Church News

If you know someone who would like to receive Church News, which is emailed weekly, please contact Paul Goddard rattypaul@hotmail.com who has now taken over editing and distribution during the interregnum.

We can also share details of events around our villages, as appropriate.

Clergy Contacts:

Revd Sue Jones

susan.jones1410@gmail.com

07884 141019

Readers:

Elizabeth Hawkins 01730 827502

Paul Goddard 07837 651579 (rattypaul@hotmail.com)

Parochial Church Councils:

Greatham: David Rudd (Church Warden), Kay Thorpe (Church Warden), Carole Rudd (Secretary & Safeguarding Officer), Steve Hedicker, Simon Lewis and Paul Goddard.

Empshott: David Tucker (Church Warden and Vice Chair), Helen Sinclair (Church Warden), Carol Ashby, Sarah Walker, Verity Tucker, Susan Sinclair and Phil Momber. (*Safeguarding Officer: Jo Knight*)

Hawkley with Priors Dean: Neil Chrimes (Church Warden), Tom Wilkinson (Church Warden), Molly Keer, Alex Wilkinson, Jane Wyman, Carolyn Fair, D Green, Nick Pettman, Jo Knight (*Safeguarding Officer for Hawkley and Empshott*) and Elizabeth Hawkins.

Safeguarding Officers:

Greatham:

Carole Rudd 01420 538160

Hawkley with Priors Dean and Empshott:

Jo Knight 01730 827974

Electoral Roll Officers

Greatham	Carole Rudd	carolerudd2412@gmail.com
Empshott	Sarah Walker	sarah.walker@netcom.uk
Hawkley with Priors Dean	Tom Wilkinson	tom-wilkinson@hotmail.co.uk

Next Sunday – 11th May – Easter 4

Empshott 09.15 Holy Communion

Hawkley 10.15 Morning Worship for Growing Faith, *led by Rev'd
Clare Welham, Priest in Charge at St Mary's, Liss*

Greatham 11.00 Holy Communion