



Willen Church Newsheet
The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
St Mary Magdalene Willen
Sunday 26th April 2026
The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Today: The Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion led by Revd Peterson Feital.

Thank you, Peterson, for leading us this morning

10.00am Family Breakfast Club at Cross & Stable. Family Service at 11.00am.

Service details for SEP churches are on SEP website and in monthly newsletter

This week

St Mary Magdalene church is open for private prayer or quiet reflection on Sundays and Mondays from 9.30am until evening.

ChatterboxMK at Cross & Stable each Wednesday 10.30am to 12.30pm. All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - meet and chat. Come and meet others.

The **volunteer gardeners** have started their weekly Saturday morning 10am-12pm work in the Garden of Remembrance. Please come along. No special skills needed.

Next week: May 3rd The Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Morning Prayer led by Margaret Moakes LLM

Loving Father, we pray for the people of war torn countries who have already seen so much devastation in their countries. May you comfort them in their grief. We pray their people may live in unity, irrespective of religion or political inclination and we pray also for meaningful and timely intervention from the international community. Keep the flames of hope alive and restore the nations. May they all learn from history and embark with confidence on a path of peace. And Lord, we thank you for all the good that has been accomplished through aid agencies. We pray that you will be with aid workers at this time; keep them and their families safe - and may they safely return to their work very soon. May God grant manifold grace and assurance for justice, with prosperity to all people. **Amen.**

Pastoral contact: Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe <i>Email: sam@willenchurch.org</i> Churchwarden: Janet Hawkins <i>Email: warden@willenchurch.org</i>	Margaret Moakes Licensed Lay Minister <i>Telephone: 01908 237915</i> <i>Margaret@willenchurch.org</i> <i>Church website: www.willenchurch.org</i>
---	--

Enquiries: To contact about weddings funerals and baptisms or other enquiries please call 01908 382458; or E. sburyepadm@gmail.com or contact a churchwarden.

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership: www.stantonbury.net and [Facebook](#) Please email short succinct notices to notices@willenchurch.org by 5pm on the preceding Thursday

The Collect of the Fourth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**



NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts of the Apostles 2: 42 – 47 (NRSV)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 23 (The Archbishops' Council, 2005)

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; ♦
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul ♦
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; ♦
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, ♦
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



1 Peter 2: 19 – 25 (NRSV)

A reading from the First Letter of Peter

¹⁹For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² 'He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING

John 10: 1 - 10 (NRSV)

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

NOTICES

There will be a **Partnership-wide pilgrimage**, on Saturday , **July 4**, which will be visiting all the churches in the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership. People can travel on foot or using mobility scooters. The day will start at St. Mary Magdalene, Willen and end At St. Lawrence, Bradwell. There will be a short act of worship at each church.

WILLEN PAVILION FUN DAY 8th August 2026 We have a long connection with Willen Pavilion who allow us to sell traditional tea and cakes at their annual fete/fun day. We are not limited in what we sell but there may be other food vendors of curry, fish and chips etc. In previous years, this has been a major fund raiser. So please reserve this date and be ready to bake and to serve on the day.

Heritage Week 11- 20 Sept. 2026 We are once again hosting a variety of events in September. We made quite a bit of money on the plant stall, mainly stocked by Bob Stott, the volunteer who runs TTTT, and Lesley Rolfe. Please pot up any cuttings you from pruning; add a few more seeds or split up anything else that could be sold.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS Please pray for

- Faith Communities: Milton Keynes has become a very diverse community, with a huge range of groups from different parts of the world. This diversity brings huge richness, but it also brings challenges. Please pray for those who are working to bring faith communities together, in particular the Council of Faiths and Interfaith MK
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide, which supports those around the world facing injustice because of their religion or belief. See csw.org.uk

Sick: Mark & Janice Earls, Fr Edmund Wheat SSM, Alison Read, Cindy Williams, Lynda Phillips, Rosie Fletcher

RIP: John Porter of St. James who organized the SEP newsletter died suddenly this week. Please pray for his wife Grace and family.

World Prayers Gracious God, we thank You for the beauty of the earth and the life it sustains, may we be faithful stewards of the environment, honouring the Creator by caring for the gift of His creation. 26 Apr International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day; World Intellectual Property Day; 28 Apr World Day for Safety and Health at Work; 29 Apr International Day in Memory of the Victims of Earthquakes; 30 Apr International Jazz Day; 1 May Vesak the Day of the Full Moon; 2 May World Tuna Day

Loving God, You sent Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to guide and protect us, calling us by name to follow him and find abundant life. We ask for hearts open to his voice, the courage to follow his path, and the compassion to seek the lost. **Amen.**

HYMNS - Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New

- 654** The Lord's my shepherd
- 503** O Jesus, I have promised
- 413** Lord of all hopefulness
- 99** Christ is the world's light
- 303** I cannot tell

