



Willen Church Newsheet
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

IN MEMORY OF
GEORGE ARTHUR WHITING R.N.V.R.
KILLED AT SEA
AUG. 1917



Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
St Mary Magdalene Willen
Sunday 17th May 2026
The Seventh Sunday of Easter



Today: The Sunday after Ascension Day

Theme – Waiting in Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion led by Revd Dr. Sam Muthueloe

Thank you, Sam, for leading us this morning

11.00am Holy Communion at Cross & Stable led by Revd Dr. Sam Muthueloe.

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.

T.T.T.T (Third Tuesday at Twelve Thirty) Pop along to St Mary Magdalene Church Willen and be entertained by Playpals on Tuesday May 19th, 12.30 - 1.15.

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

Partnership AGM The AGM of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership will take place on **Thursday, 21st May at 7:30** pm in Christ Church, Stantonbury. This will include the annual Meeting of Parishioners (to elect Church Wardens) and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (to elect PCC lay members & Deanery Synod members). This meeting is open to every member of our six churches – please come along to hear what has been happening in the Partnership this year and prepare for the coming year. The papers for the AGM are available at

<https://stantonbury.net/wp/sep-agm-2024/sep-agm-2026>

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 24th The Day of Pentecost, Whit Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion led by Rev Hannah Akibo-Betts.

Pastoral contact: Revd Dr Sam Muthueloe

Email: sam@willenchurch.org

Churchwarden: Janet Hawkins

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Margaret Moakes Licensed Lay Minister

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Margaret@willenchurch.org

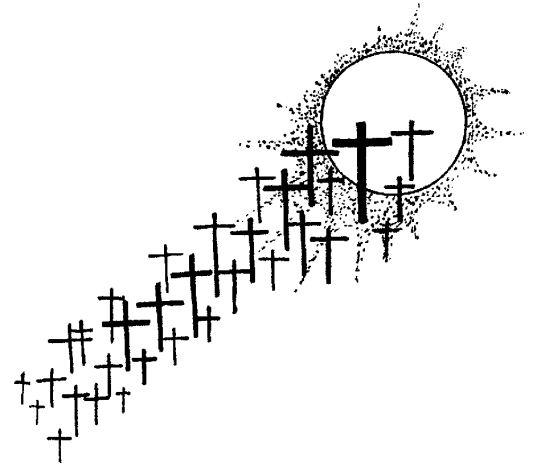
Church website: www.willenchurch.org

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 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**



PSALM 68: 1 – 10 (© [The Archbishops' Council](#) 2005)

- 1 Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered; ♦
let those that hate him flee before him.
- 2 As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish away; ♦
as wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; ♦
let them make merry with gladness.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; exalt him who rides on the clouds. ♦
The Lord is his name; rejoice before him.
- 5 Father of the fatherless, defender of widows, ♦
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners to songs of welcome, ♦
but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, ♦
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook and the heavens dropped down rain,
at the presence of God, the Lord of Sinai, ♦
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You sent down a gracious rain, O God; ♦
you refreshed your inheritance when it was weary.
- 10 Your people came to dwell there; ♦
in your goodness, O God, you provide for the poor.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts of the Apostles 1: 6 – 14 (NRSV)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ When he had said this, as

they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



GOSPEL READING

John 17: 1 – 11 (NRSV)

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

Glory to you, O Lord

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

NOTICES

SEP 'Sports Breakfast' Saturday 23rd May, 9.00-11.00am at Wolverton House Carvery Pub, Stratford Road, Wolverton. MK12 5NZ. 'Unlimited breakfast/hot drinks' - £12.00 per person. Guest Speaker, Bishop Tony Porter, former Chaplain Manchester City & former National director of Christians in Sport. Tony will talk about his experiences, bringing a lively message of how his faith has impacted his sports ministry - with the heading of '*4 Managers and a funeral*'. Bring along all friends. Bookings via Eventbrite - pay on the day [eventbrite.co.uk/e/sep-sports-breakfast-tickets-1988617433275?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sep-sports-breakfast-tickets-1988617433275?aff=oddtcreator)

Afternoon Family Prayer Gathering Saturday 23rd May 2:30–4:00pm at St Andrew's, Great Linford. We will meet in a relaxed, café-style setting, with tea, coffee and cakes. Spaces are limited to around 40, so please do confirm your place by emailing Helen Eaton at (sburyepadm@gmail.com). A suggested donation of £5 will go towards SEP Children and Youth Work. We hope this may be the beginning of something gentle and sustaining — a shared life of prayer that will deepen and support us all.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS Please pray for

- Local government, for the range of services, from road repairs to library services. Please pray for elected members from all parties and for council employees.
- 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 the SEP newsletter editor. Please pray for his wife Grace and family. John's funeral is being held at St James' Church, New Bradwell on 21st May at 12pm.

World Prayers for victims of violence and hatred and for people in a dark place today. 19 May World Fair Play Day; World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development; 22 May International Day for Biological Diversity; 23 May Intl Day to End Obstetric Fistula

A Prayer for Mental Health Awareness Week, May 11 – 17

When we feel isolated and lonely God of faithfulness, be our companion.

When intrusive thoughts disturb and overwhelm God of peace, quieten our minds.

When we feel distraught and struggle to face the day God of eternity, be our light.

When self-doubt and shame feel overwhelming God of hope, sustain us.

When we constantly crave to be more God of truth, help us accept we are enough.

Loving, life-giving, life-transforming God You are our Rock, our Refuge and Salvation *Amen*

HYMNS - Complete Anglican Hymns O&N

- 580** Rejoice, the Lord is King
- 436** Majesty, worship his majesty
- 12** Alleluia, sing to Jesus
- 156** Faithful Shepherd, feed me
- 16** All hail the power of Jesus' name

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
Your son Jesus Christ has sent us into
all the world

To preach the gospel of his kingdom,
Confirm us in this mission

And help us to live the good news we
proclaim

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

1 Peter 4: 12 – 14; 5: 6 - 11 (NRSV)

A reading from the First Letter of Peter

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

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