

Please Pray For ...

Brenda Quicke, Richard Mumford,
Chris Brown, Maureen Haynes, Alison Hudson
Sandi Rice-Berry, Darren Thompson,
Karen Bird and Roy Barron.

- **Meeting Point** and Associate Minister **Ken Bell**
- Churches Together - the **Catholic Church**
- **Good News for Everyone** - please pray for the Bible Stall in the Andover Chantry Centre
- The residents of **High Street, Trims Court** and **Sovereign Gate**
- **The Middle East** - for a cessation of hostilities, an immediate ceasefire and a return to negotiation.
- **Gaza** - for a genuine ceasefire.
- For safe passage for the aid agencies taking medicines and food to the displaced, sick and starving in **Gaza**.
- **Ukraine** - The war with Russia has caused immense suffering, with many civilians affected by violence and displacement. Pray for a lasting ceasefire and stability.
- **Sudan** - The country is experiencing severe violence and humanitarian crises. Pray for a ceasefire and compassion for those affected.
- **Vietnam** - Pray for those affected by severe flooding
- **Myanmar** - Ongoing conflict and natural disasters have led to worsening food security and stability. Pray for peace and support for vulnerable communities.
- **Turkey** - Pray for those affected by recent earthquakes, for recovery and safety.

Lord, give us your heart for your world

The Next Week at St Mary's

Tuesday 7th

9:00 am Prayer meeting - *in the Upper Church Room - all welcome.*

Thursday 9th

10:30 am - 12:00 pm Coffee and Chat
- *in the White Hart*
11:00 am - 1:00 pm Art Together
- *in the Lower Church Rooms*

Saturday 11th

8:20 - 9:00 am Breathing Space
- *the meeting room, Overton Surgery*

Benefice Prayer Meeting

Please do join us in St Michael's, North Waltham, on **Wednesday, April 15th** at **10 am - 11 am.**

It will be good to pray together and encourage each other as we serve Christ together across our family of churches. Everybody welcome.

Andover Foodbank

Updated weekly
Urgently needed:



Tinned Meat. Savoury Biscuits (small packets).
Coffee. Chocolate Bars. Washing Up Liquid.
Liquid Hand Soap. They have plenty of Pasta.



The Benefice Messenger

St Mary's Church Laverstoke and Overton

Striving for more of God in more of our lives

Sunday 5th April 2026
Easter Sunday

Jesus Christ is risen today - Hallelujah!

Verse of the Week

*"Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news:
'I have seen the Lord!'"*

John 20:18

St Mary the Virgin, Laverstoke

9:30 am Family Communion

St Mary's Overton

11:00 am Holy Communion

Readings Acts 10:34-43 (Mike Smith)
John 20:1-18 (Ann Barker)

Intercessions Hannah Smith

Rector

Rev'd James Russell 01256 589614

revjames.overton@gmail.com

Administrator

Ruth Williams 07783 632859

admin@stmarysoverton.org.uk

Website: www.overtonbenefice.org.uk

Could you foster a Hampshire child?

Hampshire County Council Fostering Service, part of Hampshire County Council, is made up of a community of over 450 fostering households and 60 staff members. Based within Children's Services, we find and assess new foster carers for the children of Hampshire as well as support our current foster carers.

Rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, Hampshire County Council provides ground-breaking support, quality training and competitive allowances through flexible and robust fostering opportunities for its community.

If you would like to find out more about fostering opportunities, contact our friendly foster carer recruitment team:

Email: fostering@hants.gov.uk, Tel: 01489 587 052

www.hants.gov.uk/fostering

www.facebook.com/HampshireChildren/

www.instagram.com/hampshirechildren/

The Bells of St Mary's

The bells are back from repair and refurbishment and we'll hear them for the first time on Easter Sunday. You can still be part of this once in a lifetime event. If you would like to donate to this project, please use this [Parish Giving Link](#) or the QR code.

[More on the church website.](#)



Children and Families Minister

We are looking for a part-time Children and Families Minister to help us achieve our aim of creating a church community where children feel valued and loved and are equipped and inspired in their walk with Jesus. Full details on the [church website](#).

Hallowing of the Bells

Ginnie Cates was inspired to write a poem about this special event.

Resonance - a Sonnet

Eight hallowed bells, this church's hidden cups
Whose journey here we clock from winter's face
Emerging in earth's vernal equinox
To springtime nave, a quiet liminal space

The master craftsmen execute their plan
To test and trim and tune your metal shapes
Through foundry's molten heat with hammered blows
They right the wrongs by time and striking played.

Your cracks now welded, shoulders, waists and crowns
Your metal headstocks, strong and shiny blue
Have felt the furnace fire and turning lathe
Your clappers' balanced shafts to ring anew

Within you hides another storyline
Whose work began before the dawn of time
An ancient bell was also poured and shaped
Begotten from the finest hammered gold
The Master Craftsman's joy and sheer delight
Its body pure yet tainted by the world

It too endured hell's clamour, death unleashed
Its body raised with pulleys from above
Its hoisted headstock fastened to the beam.
Resounding peal – eternal song of love.

The people mourned, the quarter chimes fell still
Four months they waited, quiet as the grave
The village held its breath and cupped its ears
To hear the joyous bells rise from the nave.

And we too wait, your quivering lip now still
Your crown restored, your body glorified
Once hoisted, now ascended - risen Lord
On Easter morn, perfected sacrifice.

Around the Benefice

Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday

Holy Trinity & St Andrew's, Ashe

11:00 am Holy Communion

All Saints', Deane

10:00 am Holy Communion

St Mary the Virgin, Laverstoke

9:30 am Family Communion

St Michael's, North Waltham

9:30 am Holy Communion

St Mary's, Overton

11:00 am Holy Communion

St Nicholas', Steventon

11:15 am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th April - Easter 2

Holy Trinity & St Andrew's, Ashe

No service

All Saints', Deane

No service

St Mary the Virgin, Laverstoke

9:00 am Holy Communion

St Michael's, North Waltham

9:30 am Holy Communion

St Mary's, Overton

10:30 am Sunday Celebration

St Nicholas', Steventon

11:15 am Holy Communion