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## Your monthly update from Earley St Peter's church: April 2026

1 message

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1 April 2026 at 07:53



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## Your Monthly Update from Earley St Peter's – April 2026



**Thought for the month** *from the Revd Kajsia Longuère*

### What did Mary say?

Lent and Easter comes with many lovely ways to engage with the Gospel, and one of them is taking place this week at church as Earley St Peter's school is presenting an Easter service. My daughter is apparently going to be Mary in the story, and a lot of attention has been put towards what to wear, as you can imagine. She also has lines to say that she wanted to practise, though it turns out that these are for a bit when she is a narrator – as "Mary doesn't say anything".

Mary was there, witnessing Jesus's crucifixion, suffering, thirst, agony and death – it's in the Bible. That Mary isn't saying anything as her son

dies on the cross is odd, and probably not true (ask any decent human being if they would object to a loved one being crucified). Again, I think it's down to how the Bible was written. If you've missed my sermons about how women are represented (or not) in the Bible, I'll happily fill you in.

That said, when Mary does speak in the Bible, it is to express humility through submission and faith in the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), praising God as she does to Elizabeth with words that form what we call the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), and to intercede as she does at the wedding in Cana, and when she tells the servants to do as Jesus tells them (John 2:5) – excellent advice. She speaks at one other occasion though, where Mary the mother comes through to me. Mary the scared, worried and angry mother asking her son where on earth he's been when he's finally been found in the Temple having been lost for three days: 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety' (Luke 2.48). With that in mind, I don't think she didn't say anything when her son was crucified.

I went to see what is probably one of the best art exhibitions that I've ever seen, at Tate Modern last weekend. It's on Nigerian Modernism (let me know if you want to see the book) and features works created before and around the time of Nigeria's independence and up until the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. One of the works on display is a linocut on paper by Bruce Onobrakpeya, which is part of his series *The Fourteen Stations of the Cross* from 1969. The picture (see a photo I took of it below) shows Jesus being taken down from the cross with four other figures captured in the image, including a woman who is clearly distressed and cradling or embracing her own head in despair. She is a human being in pain, and a mother whose son has died an awful agonising death. She is the Mary that I see when I consider the likely scene.



Her humanity does not retract from her saintliness or holiness, you must be human to be a saint, and you have to be a human to give birth to God's human son. As we consider Mary, I think we need to consider both sides of the coin. It is when I consider her humanity and her place in salvation, that the words of the Magnificat (which you may have heard during Choral Evensong) really strike home.

*My soul doth magnify the Lord:*

*and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.*

*For he hath regarded:*

*the lowliness of his handmaiden.*

*For behold, from henceforth:*

*all generations shall call me blessed.*

*For he that is mighty hath magnified me:*

*and holy is his Name.*

*And his mercy is on them that fear him:*

*throughout all generations.*

*He hath shewed strength with his arm:*

*he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.*

*He hath put down the mighty from their seat:*

*and hath exalted the humble and meek.*

*He hath filled the hungry with good things:*

*and the rich he hath sent empty away.*

*He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:*

*as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.*

**Services and Events in April**

*(the information below is also available via My ChurchSuite and our web site)*

We meet every weekday morning at 8.45am (Fridays at 8.30am) in the church for Morning Prayer. All welcome.

Wednesday 1 April	8.45am	Holy Communion
	9am-10am	Church open
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Thursday 2 April	7.30pm	Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday with Song School, followed by Vigil
Friday 3 April	9.55am	Walk of Witness (starts at Our Lady of Peace at 9.30am)
	10.45am	Good Friday activities
	12pm	All-age service
	2pm	Last Hour
Saturday 4 April	10am-3pm	Church open
	7.30pm	Easter Vigil
Sunday 5 April	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Festal Communion for Easter with Song School
	6.30pm	Festal Evensong
Tuesday 7 April	11am	Holy Communion

Wednesday 8 April	9am	Church open
	4pm	Youth activity: Escape room and pizza in the church hall
Thursday 9 April	10am	Social: Thursday@10 - Jim Nelson, '85th Anniversary of Dunkirk'
		Youth activity: Cinema trip
Friday 10 April	9.30am	Church cleaning
Saturday 11 April	10am-11am	Church open
	4pm	Celebra80! concert
Sunday 12 April	10am	Parish Communion Children's Church Inspiration Group
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Monday 13 April	9am	Church open
		Pop-up cafe for first day of term
	2pm	Sunshine Social
Tuesday 14 April	9am	Church open
	11am	Holy Communion

Wednesday 15 April	9am	Church open
	10.15am	Tots & Teddies
Saturday 18 April	10am-3pm	Church open
Sunday 19 April	10am	Parish Communion Children's Church Inspiration Group
	11.30am	Meeting of social/hospitality committee and teams
	12pm	Baptism of Arthur Miles
	6.30pm	Reflective Communion Questions & Cake
Monday 20 April	9am	Church open
Tuesday 21 April	9am	Church open
	11am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 22 April	9am	Church open
	10.15am	Tots & Teddies

	7.30pm	PCC
Thursday 23 April	10m	Social: Thursday@10 - Hilary Thompson, 'My Life as a Physiotherapist' (informal chat)
Saturday 25 April	10am-3pm	Church open
	7pm	Social: Quiz evening
Sunday 26 April	10am	Parish Communion Children's Church
	4pm	Messy Church
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
Monday 27 April	9am	Church open
Tuesday 28 April	9am	Church open
	11am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 29 April	9am	Church open
	10.15am	Tots & Teddies

**Good Friday Walk of Witness:** We encourage as many people as

possible to join with others from local churches for the Good Friday Walk of Witness. It will start at Our Lady of Peace at 9.30am and be at Earley St Peter's at 9.55am, then going to Anderson Baptist Church, Park URC and Wycliffe Baptist Church. There will be a short act of worship at each stop. You are welcome to join and leave the walk at any point.



**Tots & Teddies:** Our thriving toddler group needs more helpers! Could you join us? The group meets at 10.15am on Wednesdays during term time, but you would not necessarily need to come every week. We'd love to have more people to help with setting up, supporting the short service in church, preparing craft activities and chatting to the parents/carers. If you could spare some time, please contact the parish office, or come along and visit us on a Wednesday to see what we do.



**Youth activities:** We invite all young people to our Easter holiday activities. We will be meeting in the church hall at 4pm on 8 April for an escape room and pizza (cost £5), and then having a cinema trip on 9 April, starting at 10-11am (cost tbc). If you would like to join us, please contact John: [john@earleystpeters.org.uk](mailto:john@earleystpeters.org.uk))

**Litter picking:** The Earley Litterpicking Group has asked if any of our congregation would be willing to assist with regular litterpicking on Church Road up to the motorway bridge. As our churchyard boundary forms a significant part of this stretch, it would be great if we could contribute. All equipment will be provided, and there is no need to commit to a particular time or date (even just once a month would be helpful). If you can assist, please contact the parish office to be put in touch with the group.

**11 April, 4pm:** Celebra80! concert featuring Faure's Requiem, motets by Tallis, and music by Bruckner and Gjeilo. Conducted by Ben de Souza,

organist George Wood. No tickets, but donations to the church gratefully received.

**Art installation for Pentecost:** Kajsa is preparing an art installation for Pentecost. As part of that, she is interested in learning the translation of the word Ruah/Ruach (Hebrew) or pneuma (Greek) in languages spoken by members of our congregation. If English isn't your first language, please would you tell us what the word used for Spirit is in your language? If you do not use the Latin alphabet, please send the word written in your alphabet or writing system. As different translations exist, please would you refer to the word as translated either in Joel 2.28 or Acts 2.4. We are collecting the words via [this ChurchSuite form](#).

**Electoral Roll:** The Electoral Roll will be revised by the PCC beginning on 16 April. Please check the list in the black folder at the back of the church to ensure that you are on the Roll and that your address is correct. If you are not on the Roll, but wish to be, application forms are in the same folder. Completed forms should be returned to this folder. Alternatively, you can [complete an online form here](#). No applications to be on the Roll will be accepted between 16 April and the APCM on 10 May. The only exception is that a person whose 16th birthday falls in this period may apply and will then be enrolled on their birthday. A notice of eligibility will be displayed on the board in the lobby. The revised Electoral Roll will be displayed in church from 22 April until the APCM.

**Annual Meetings:** The Annual Meetings will take place in the Church Hall on 10 May at 11.15am. At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners we elect the two Churchwardens, and this is followed immediately by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at which we elect the Deanery Synod reps and PCC members. This year there are up to seven vacancies on PCC. There are also up to three vacancies on the Deanery Synod. Anyone who has been on the Electoral Roll for six months or longer is eligible to stand. Nomination forms for all the roles are in folders at the back of the church. Completed forms should be returned to the relevant folder any time before the meetings.

**Upcoming team meetings:** There are some important dates coming up for open meetings for anyone interested in being part of the social/hospitality committee, Christmas Fayre team and/or Eco team. If

you cannot attend the meeting, please email Kate and let her know you are interested and give any detail of how you could like to be involved.

Sunday 19 April, 11.30am: Social/hospitality committee and teams.

Sunday 3 May, 11.30am: Christmas Fayre team (either planning or helping on the day).

Sunday 17 May, 11.30am: Eco team.

Sunday 31 May, 11.30am: follow-up social/hospitality meeting, if required.

Sunday 7 June, 11.30am: follow-up Eco team meeting, if required.

Sunday 14 June, 11.30am: first official Christmas Fayre planning meeting.

Sunday 26 July, 11.30am: second official Christmas Fayre planning meeting.

**Pastoral support:** Our pastoral team will be happy to hear if you, or anybody you know, would welcome a phone call or visit. Please contact the parish office (0118 966 8575) or Mary Brooke (0118 926 2153)

**Woodley Food Bank donations:** Thank you for all your support to our local food bank with donations of tins, cartons, dried goods with a long shelf life and also the ever important personal



hygiene items. Please donate if you are able in the box at the back of the church. Our continued support is still very much needed. *Anne and Ken Richardson*

More information here: [www.woodleyfoodbank.org](http://www.woodleyfoodbank.org)

### **Life in all its fullness**

There are exciting social, training and study events coming this year. We look forward to welcoming everyone. Check the dates below and sign up, either via My ChurchSuite or by contacting the parish office. More dates are likely to be added, so [check the church calendar](#) and newsletters for latest information.

25 April: Social - Quiz Evening

2 May: Training - Fire Awareness

9 May: Social - Auction of Promises

20 June: Training - Deaf Awareness  
20 September: Social - MacMillan Coffee Morning  
7 November: Training - Neurodiversity Awareness  
28 November: Study - Gospel of Mark  
11 December: Social - Christmas Fair

### Dates for your diary

**9 May, 6pm: Wine Tasting and Auction of Promises.** Kajsa's husband Matthieu Longuère MS is a Master Sommelier and member of the Court of Master Sommeliers. He will introduce us to six different wines, followed by a wine-related quiz and an Auction of Promises with David Eversham as auctioneer and quizmaster. Please think about the promises you may be able to give. Anything from babysitting and gardening to cakes or a car wash and beyond would be likely to attract bids. All proceeds will go to Earley St Peter's church. Tickets will cost £25 per person, but pre-auction bids are also welcome if you are unable to attend. A list will be circulated before the event. Please contact Kajsa if you would like a bid to be included in the auction: [curate@earleystpeters.org.uk](mailto:curate@earleystpeters.org.uk).

**6 June, 7pm: Concert by Erleigh Cantors** in aid of Earley St Peter's and Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service.

Earley St Peter's



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<https://www.earleystpeters.org.uk/>

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