

April / May 2025



Speak

St Peter's Church, Elworth
www.stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Welcome

Welcome to the April / May 2025 edition of **Speak** magazine.

Can you believe that Easter is already upon us?! I recently attended a production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. If you don't know it is a modern retelling of the Easter story. It is very moving and really makes you think.

We have some big changes coming at St Peter's this year! So, as always, please take the time to read.

Bethany Jones
Editor

Vision statement

We are committed in love to worshipping God:

- **By proclaiming the Gospel in word and action**
- **By encouraging growth**
- **By serving others**
- **By leading people into a personal relationship with Jesus.**

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Magazine deadline

Articles for the June / July 2025 edition need to be submitted no later than **Monday 12th May 2025.**

Submissions by this date are requested via email to **editor@stpeters-elworth.org.uk**.

Thank you.

Anthony Articulates...

A New Hope: The Resurrection and Redemption

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Peter 1:3 (ESV)



Hope is one of the most powerful forces in the universe. It drives us forward in the face of despair, giving us the strength to believe in a brighter future. This theme resonates deeply in both our faith and in storytelling, particularly in one of my favourite franchises; “Star Wars”.

In *Star Wars: A New Hope*, the Rebel Alliance stands against the seemingly unstoppable evil of the Galactic Empire. Luke Skywalker, an unlikely hero, is thrust into a battle greater than himself. Though darkness surrounds him, he chooses to believe in something beyond his understanding, a hope that evil will not prevail.

In many ways, this echoes the hope we celebrate at Easter. The world was shrouded in spiritual darkness, and sin seemed to have won. But through Jesus Christ’s resurrection, God gave us a *living hope*, a hope that is not just wishful thinking, but a promise of redemption and new life. Like Luke, who discovered he had a greater purpose, we too are given new life through Christ. His resurrection is not just a past event; it is an ongoing reality that transforms us, giving us new birth into a kingdom that will never be defeated.

Easter is the ultimate victory over sin and death. When Jesus died on the cross, it seemed as though all hope was lost. His followers were devastated, much like how the Rebels in *Star Wars* faced overwhelming odds. But then, something miraculous happened; Jesus rose from the dead. His resurrection was the turning point in history, proving that God’s power is greater than any darkness we face. Because of this, we have the assurance that no matter how hopeless our circumstances seem, the light of Christ will always shine through.

Anthony Articulates Cont'd...

Spring is a season of renewal, where life bursts forth after the deadness of winter. In the same way, Easter reminds us that through Jesus, we are made new. Just as Luke Skywalker embraced the call to hope and redemption, we are called to trust in the victory of Christ. The resurrection assures us that no matter how dark the world seems, God's light will always shine, and His kingdom will endure forever.

As someone who is passionate about both Easter and science fiction, especially *Star Wars*, I love how the themes of hope, redemption, and victory over evil are central to both. That's why May 4th, "*Star Wars* Day" has always been fun for me. Fans celebrate by saying, "May the Force be with you," but we as Christians can proclaim an even greater truth:

God is with us.

Unlike an impersonal energy, His presence is living and active. Through the Holy Spirit, we walk in His power, never alone.

This Easter, may we cling to the living hope found in Christ, our ultimate *New Hope*. And as some enjoy *Star Wars* on May the 4th, let it remind us of the greatest force in the universe, not an energy field, but the unshakable love of our risen Saviour. Amen

Revd. Anthony Rigby

APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

will take place on

Saturday 10th May at 10.00am

in the Church Hall

New Vicar - Rev Harry Frost

Hello St Peter's Elworth,



I am delighted to be joining you all in the summer. I am praying that I will be able to continue to build on the good work that is being done at St Peter's and will strive to humbly lead you forward in proclaiming Jesus and being faithful disciples. You will also be joined by our growing family, my wife Lucy, Benjamin (7), Louis (5), Barnaby (3), and Annie (1) plus a baby due any day! We are so excited to become part of your church family and grow together as we follow and love the Lord Jesus. As we begin praying for you all we would value your prayers for the safe arrival of baby, to finish well at Holy Trinity, and for the move to be as smooth as possible. We look forward to getting to know you all soon.

Harry, Lucy, Benjamin, Louis, Barnaby, Annie and Baby

Update

The Frost's welcomed baby, Evelyn Esther on the 11th March weighing 7lbs 3ozs.

We thank God for the safe arrival of Evelyn and look forward to meeting her and the rest of the family later in the year.

**There will be a special service
to induct Harry into our Church
on**

**Sunday 29th June at 3pm
in the Church**

Sponsored Runs



Dan and Kasia from our Church Family are fundraising for the Dianne Oxberry Trust—a charity we have supported through our Church Family Christmas Card.

BIRMINGHAM HALF MARATHON

A very worthy charity named after the much loved BBC North West TV presenter Dianne Oxberry, who sadly passed away from the disease. They seek to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer. To help women and their families to seek an early diagnosis and therefore benefit from effective treatments.



Kasia is running a half marathon in Birmingham on the 4th May.

Dan is running a full marathon in Riga on 18th May.

Please if you can, donate to help this very worthy cause.

Further information and how to donate can be found on the website the Dianne Oxberry Trust and Dan and Kasia's fundraising page can be found found amongst the list of fundraisers.

Dianneoxberrytrust.enthuse.com

Dan and Kasia run for Mum.

Thank you

Susan Podhorodecka



RIGA MARATHON



Calla Lily (The Easter Lily)

During the Easter season, churches are traditionally adorned with the gorgeous, fragrant white bloom that is more commonly known as the Easter Lily. The plant's scientific name is *Zantedeschia*.

The Calla Lily is a native of South Africa and there are several theories about the meaning and symbolism that surround it. Much of this symbolism is related to the Christian religion. The flowers are often referred to as "white-robed apostles of hope," and they symbolize the purity of Christ, who was free from sin.

In many Christian paintings, the angel Gabriel is depicted as handing Mary white lilies, which symbolizes her purity. The graceful trumpet shape of the Easter Lily represents a trumpet sounding the message that Jesus has risen, and the nature in which lilies grow is symbolic of the Resurrection as well. From bulbs that grow underground for three years or longer, they become beautiful flowers. This process is reminiscent of Jesus' brutal death and holy Resurrection. Thus, lilies represent rebirth and hope, just as the Resurrection does in the Christian faith.

Lilies are mentioned several times in the Bible. Some think that it was white lilies that sprouted in the Garden of Eden as Eve's remorseful tears fell to the ground. There are also theories that Easter lilies grew where Jesus' tears and blood fell from the cross, and lilies were supposedly found in the Garden of Gethsemane after the Crucifixion.

If you keep these beautiful flowers at home, you will want to keep them looking their prettiest for as long as possible. To prolong the life of your blooms, place your Easter Lily in bright, indirect light in a cool but not drafty spot in your home. Water the plant frequently enough that the soil stays evenly moist but is not soggy or sitting in water. You can also remove the pollen-covered anthers, which may help prolong blooming.

“Lord Jesus, may our lives reflect Your risen power, as does the lily. May our roots go deep into You, and may we show Your glory for everyone who meets us this day. Amen”.

Tracy Rigby



A Walk up Bosley Cloud on Easter Saturday ?



Find me ...



... and me

Meet at St Peter's church hall to share lifts at 10am, back by 3pm.

Wear a good pair of walking boots.

Sign up at St Peter's office / call 01270 766557.
Bring a picnic!

Starts / ends at Timbersbrook picnic site. To the top of Bosley Cloud and back takes 1½ hours, (4km). Driving to the start takes ½ hr. Children with parents only.

The route isn't suitable for pushchairs, prams or wheelchairs.



Special Services



Good Friday – Friday 18th April

All Age Service
10.30am
in the Church Hall

Meditation Service
1.30pm-3.00pm
in Church

Services for April and May

| | 9.00am St Peter's Church | 10.30am St Peter's Church Hall | 6.00pm St Peter's Church |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 6th April | No Service | Morning Worship | Evening Prayer |
| 13th April | No Service | Baptism & Holiday Club Launch | Holy Communion |
| 20th April | Holy Communion | All Age Easter Holy Communion | Easter Songs of Praise |
| 27th April | No Service | Morning Worship | Evening Prayer |
| 4th May | No Service | Morning Worship | Evening Prayer |
| 11th May | Holy Communion | Morning Worship | Holy Communion |
| 18th May | No Service | Morning Worship | Evening Prayer |
| 25th May | Holy Communion | All Age Service | Holy Communion |

**The Prayer Room in the Church Hall
is open for prayer at 9am on**

Sundays 6th, 13th, 27th April

Sundays 4th, 18th May

80th Anniversary

of the end of the Second World War

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace;
that the design of your great love lighten
upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows
and give peace to your church, peace among nations,
peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



On the 8th May 2025, the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day) will be marked, when the nation will unite to remember the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Around the country, events will be taking place to pay tribute to those involved in that conflict, as well as reminding us to pray and work for peace in our communities and in the world.

From the registers

We welcome through baptism:

Spencer William
(Son of Simon and Laura Harvey)

We celebrate the confirmation of

Rachel Dean
Heather Burroughs
Joanne Burton



Editorial disclaimer

Whilst every care has been taken in the compilation of this magazine, we cannot guarantee that inaccuracies will not occur. The Editors are responsible for content selection and reserve the right to amend articles and withhold items as deemed necessary. Articles submitted after the deadline date may not be included in that edition of the magazine and the Editors' decision is final. Should you have any concerns regarding the content in the magazine or wish to submit an article for inclusion, please contact us by phoning the Church Office on 01270 766557 or email editor@stpeters-elworth.org.uk.

Bethany Jones, Editor

St Peter's PCC, Elworth - Registered Charity Number 1130803

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A vibrant space-themed background with a dark blue sky. On the left, a blue and red rocket with orange flames is launching. In the center, a white astronaut in a space suit floats. On the right, a yellow planet with a red ring is visible. The scene is decorated with white and yellow stars and a shooting star at the bottom.

Calling all Primary Aged Children

The Starship Discovery Holiday Club

Mon 14th - Thurs 17th April
10:00am - 12:00 noon

St. Peter's Church Hall, School Lane, Elworth CW11 3HU
Booking essential: events@stpeters-elworth.org.uk