

St. Peter's Church, Hersham

16 August 2026
11th Sunday after
Trinity

WELCOME

**A very warm welcome
to St. Peter's Church**

Readings

Old Testament:	Genesis 45.1-15	OT 43
New Testament:	Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32	NT 156
Gospel:	Matthew 15.10-20, 21-28	NT 16

8 am Holy Communion

9 am 9am Praise in church. A fun, interactive service for young families followed by refreshments.

10.30 am Parish Communion

11.45 am Will you pray with us for St Peter's, our community and the world? If you are interested in prayer we would love you to join us. We will look at how we put together the weekly intercessions, and share ideas about how we can be a more prayerful church. If you pray regularly and are also on the intercessions rota, or if you don't really know how to pray at all and would like to hear some ideas about how to start then grab a coffee after the service and join us for a short meeting.

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS: If you require a gluten free wafer for communion please let the sides people know when you arrive and inform the priest when you get to the altar rail.

THIS WEEK:

Tue 18	12.30 pm 7.45 pm	Lunchtime Life Group meeting - Church Hall Bell ringers' practice. Anyone interested in learning to ring, please contact David Mealor on mealors@btinternet.com
Wed 19	10 am 10 am	Community Café in church (see notices) Walton and Hersham Foodbank in church.
Thurs 20	11 am 2 pm 7.45 pm	Friends are welcome to attend the funeral of John Poulter at South West Middlesex Crematorium St. Peter's Fellowship invite you to the Women's Institute Hall, 4 Burhill Road, Hersham for friendship and refreshments. Full Fellowship (Speakers/Presentations etc.) takes a break for the summer and resumes on 3 September. Summer workshop rehearsal
Fri 21	•	Vicar's day off / Parish Office closed

NEXT SUNDAY: 23 AUGUST

12th Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion

9 am 9am Praise in church (see front page)

10.30 am Parish Communion

8 pm Forest Church: Bats! Looking at the theme of God's

creatures we are pleased to welcome visitors who will help us to identify the bats in our churchyard. This service is suitable for all ages and as it is during the school holiday we hope that some of our younger members will be able to join us. Please note the ground is uneven, so wear sensible footwear.



NOTICES:

NEW CHURCH 'STRAPLINE'

As you may know, we are updating our website and hoping to integrate our social media with our online presence.

One of the things we would love to do is create a more recognisable 'brand' with a strapline which represents what St. Peter's church is, and does.

So the PCC needs your help!

The idea of a strapline is to be catchy, memorable, and to reflect who we are. This doesn't replace our vision and values but it just tries to capture those in a way that can build more recognition.

You'll know Tesco 'every little helps' and John Lewis is 'never knowingly undersold.'

As a church we want to speak about Jesus!
Some ideas from other churches:

Love God | Love People | Make Disciples
Christ-centred | Holy Spirit-led
Putting faith at the heart of the community
Speaking Jesus | Sharing Jesus
Welcoming all in the name of Jesus
Proclaiming Jesus | Serving others | Loving all

If you have any ideas, we would love to consider them.

The easiest way to do this is to email them to:

curate@stpetershersham.com

With the **subject** line "Strapline"

(This makes it easier to organise in an inbox!)

Tristan will collate them and then the PCC can choose which they think best reflects who we are when they meet in September.



St Peter's Church, Hersham are delighted to launch the initial phase of the **ST PETER'S CHURCH COMMUNITY CAFE!** Open to everybody in the local community, the café is open every Wednesday 10am to 12pm – the same day as the Walton and Hersham Foodbank. Run on a 'pay what you can if you can' basis, the café initially offers basic refreshments in a comfortable environment ... and we have exciting plans for further developments in the future! Why not pay us a visit to enjoy a coffee and cake as well as a friendly chat?

We'd like to offer our heartfelt thanks to everybody who has contributed towards the Community Cafe - thank you so much for helping us to help the community! Special thanks go to:

- Elmbridge Borough Council for providing us with CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding towards this exciting project
- Hersham Community Trust for their kindness in providing us with the comfortable chairs and tables for the café
- Waitrose Hersham for their kind contribution towards the initial running costs from the Community Matters green token scheme
- All the lovely volunteers who have, and are continuing to, generously give their time and support to this project.

ORGAN RESTORATION FUND CONCERT: Thank you to everyone who came along to church last Saturday to hear Eve Stafford (our organist Rob Stafford's cousin) an award winning soprano from Limerick, perform her Songbird concert. Our organ is in desperate need of restoration and thanks to Rob's beautiful playing and Eve's delightful stage presence and super voice we have raised the outstanding funds we need to start the work. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make it such a lovely evening. Huge thanks to everyone who donated, your generosity is appreciated.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION COURSE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:

During September and October, we will be holding a 4-session Confirmation Preparation course for young people aged 11+ years, who attend and worship at St Peter's Church. If you are interested and feel ready to make this commitment, then please do speak to Deborah Lock (Licensed Lay Minister), who will lead the course, or Jackie:

vicar@stpetershersham.com The preparation sessions will be held on the following Sunday afternoons 4-5pm:

13 September in Women's Institute Hall

20 September in Church Hall

4 October in Women's Institute Hall

25 October in Women's Institute Hall (and pick up from church)

The Confirmation Service will be on Sunday 1 November. Further details to follow.

The young people need to attend each session, so please discuss with Deborah if there are any issues with the dates and do contact Deborah: debslock@yahoo.co.uk if you want to find out further details about the course.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH ECO-CHALLENGE



WEEK 2



Reduce food waste – plan your meals; check fridge so you don't overbuy; freeze leftovers and compost peelings.



Reduce energy use – unplug things when not in use; only charge devices when they are on low battery; turn thermostat down.



Reduce landfill – Before you throw something away STOP and THINK – can it be repaired, reused, repurposed or recycled?



Spend time in nature

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Genesis 2:15



ST. PETER'S CHURCH ECO-CHALLENGE:

As part of our ARocha Bronze award, the lifestyle team is encouraging you to take part in a four week Eco-challenge. This is all about raising awareness of creation care and will involve making small changes to our daily habits in the hope that together we can make a real difference. We hope you did well with week one's challenges and good luck with week two! (see page 6)

PLANNED GIVING: If you would like to support the work of our church please scan this QR code. If each person who doesn't currently give regularly could commit to give just £20 per month (which is about the cost of a coffee a week), it would make a huge difference. Thank you.



ST. PETER'S WEBSITE: WWW.STPETERSHERSHAM.COM

A great way to keep yourself (and your family and friends) updated with what's going on at St. Peter's is through our website. It's packed full of useful information so do go online and take a look. There are details of upcoming events, our services, groups and courses, plus previous news sheets should you want to catch up on anything you've missed. It really is a great way to let people know what we have to offer so do share the website address with people you know.

HELP US PROMOTE OUR CHURCH



- We're still endeavouring to grow our online presence! We have new followers on Facebook and Instagram where we share our news, highlight community life, and reach those who might not yet know us - or God's love.
- Why we're doing this: In today's world, many people first meet a church online. By sharing our events and uplifting stories, we can invite more people to discover our community and deepen their faith.
- How you can help: Please follow our pages, and whenever you see a post - like it, **comment**, and share it. These simple actions help more people see our messages and feel connected.
- Every click makes a difference. The more engagement we have, the more our posts reach local people who might be searching for a place to belong, or to explore their faith.



Find and follow us! Please look for St Peters Hersham on Facebook and Instagram, invite your family and friends to follow too, and keep interacting with our posts - it's one of the easiest ways to share our faith and community online. Thank you!

Pray with us

God of mission, fill us with your Holy Spirit to show and share our faith and love in our community, and help us to grow as a church family. Amen.

