The Somersham Benefice

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26th April 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Collect Prayer

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Genesis 7

The LORD said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.' And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Of the clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth. In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons, entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind – every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. The flood continued for forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. The waters swelled so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; the waters swelled above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, human beings and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

Acts 2.42–47

Many were baptized and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

John 10.1–10

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

Post communion prayer

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A big THANK YOU!

About this time of year we usually send out letters of thanks to all our regular givers. Eddie apologises that these may be a bit later than usual due to health reasons.

If you are not yet a "regular giver," perhaps this is something you might consider? Contributing by monthly bank payments helps both you and the Church to budget effectively. Using the "Parish Giving Scheme" to handle the bank transfers makes the system even easier - ask for details. There is also an added advantage if you are a tax-payer: the Church can reclaim the tax you've paid to increase your donation at no extra cost to you.

Prayer Diary:

Sunday 26th April - Easter IV

Benefice of Whaddon: The Revd Helen Orr, The Revd Amanda O'Neill; LLMs: Ms Erica Coomber, Mr Simon Morris, Mr Stephen Renwick

The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Monday 27th

Deanery of St Ives, Rural Dean: The Revd Canon Fred Kilner; Lay Chair Mr Trevor Webb.

The Church in the Province of the West Indies

Tuesday 28th

Benefice of Bluntisham cum Earith with Colne and Holywell cum Needingworth: The Revd Valmor Pimenta, The Revd Liz Strickland; LLMs: Mr Tim Berry, Mrs Carol Peilow, Mrs Gill Robertson

The Diocese of Wondurba - Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Wednesday 29th

Benefice of Somersham with Pidley and Oldhurst and Woodhurst: LLMs: Mrs Lesley Bowring, Mrs Maria Dorman

The Diocese of Worcester - The Church of England

Thursday 30th

Benefice of St Ives. LLMs: Mr Richard Hough, Canon Simon Kershaw, Ms Elaine Midgley

The Diocese of Wulu - Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Friday 1st May

Currently unavailable

The Diocese of Wusasa – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Saturday 2nd

Currently unavailable

The Diocese of Wyoming – The USA Episcopal Church

Your prayers are asked for:

Kevin Shillington, Roy Brown, Roz and Tim Berry, Mary M, Ernest, Riley, Jamie, Karen, Gwen, Isabel, Carol, Jane, Leesa. Lyn, Karel Hermary, Lea

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Church Contacts:

- Weddings, Funerals, Memorials, Baptisms -
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Pidley cum Fenton *All Saints*
Kevin Doyle 01487 840834

Old Hurst *St Peter*
Nicky Torrance 07979 863063 nickytorrance@outlook.com

Services this week and next:

Sunday 26th (*Easter 4*)

10.00	Pidley	Holy Communion
10.30	Old Hurst	Family Service
10.30	Somersham	Family Service
18.00	Woodhurst	Evening Prayer *and AMP/APCM*

Wednesday 29th

09.30	Somersham	Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd May (*Easter 5*)

09.00	Pidley	Holy Communion
10.30	Somersham	Holy Communion

Wednesday 6th

09.30	Somersham	Holy Communion

Thursday 7th

10.00	Woodhurst	Holy Communion

Regular activities:

Welcome Café
Somersham Church 4th Sat of the month. 10:30-11:30 am. Coffee, Cake, Chat. Next: 23rd May.

Woodhurst Open Church
1st Sat of the month. 10.30-12 noon.
Next: 2nd May

MiniMum
Somersham Church, 1st Weds of the month 10.30 am. Next meeting 6th May

Benefice Homegroup
Next: 28th April, 32 Norwood Road, Somersham.

Remembering Group for the bereaved.
2nd Weds of the month, 2pm. Next: 13th May.

Creative Minds.
Coffee & mindful activity/ crafts. Somersham Church
3rd Weds of the month, 2.30-4.30pm, Next: 20th May

Little Acorns baby and toddler group.
Tuesdays 9.30-11am. (During term times)

Messy Church
Next is 26th May, 10.00 am

Dynamite
Tweens' youth group for school years 4-8 at the Baptist Church, Somersham in partnership with St. John the Baptist, Somersham. Next meetings: 8th May; 22nd May.