



# The Benefice of St Mary's Bocking & Panfield Church



Sunday 28th April 2024  
The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Staying in Contact

The Very Revd Rod Reid - Incumbent (*usual rest day Monday*)

Email: [bockingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bockingchurch@gmail.com) Call: (01376) 324887 [www.stmarys-bocking.com](http://www.stmarys-bocking.com)  
or on Facebook, search for 'St Mary's Church, Bocking', or 'Panfield Church'

## Forthcoming Services

## Hymns

### **St Mary's, Bocking**

Sunday April 28th	8am	Said Mass
Sunday April 28th	10am	Sung Mass
Wednesday May 1st	9.30am	Said Mass
Sunday May 5th	8am	Said Mass
Sunday May 5th	10am	Sung Mass

257 (w 1 to 6, & 11)

376

643

535

### **Panfield Church**

Sunday April 28th	11am	Holy Communion
Tuesday April 30th	5pm	Evening Prayer/Office Hour
Sunday May 5th	11am	Holy Communion

## Gospel Acclamation

*I am the way, the truth and the life  
says the Lord. No one can come to  
the Father except through me.*

## NOTICES

**Charity of the Month** - In April, the monies given at Tea & Coffee after the main service at St Mary's will go to Roundwood. The total raised for Essex Air Ambulance last month was £135, thank you!

**Friendly Friday Cafe** - The Café had paused for an Easter break, but we are pleased to say that it is now back up and running every Friday until the middle of July. Why not pop in and bring a friend too?

**Electoral Roll** - If you have joined St Mary's recently it is likely you are not on our Electoral Roll. Indeed there may be others who have been meaning to do so, but not taken up the chance. Ahead of the APCM on May 19th, we are inviting you to join now. A short form is at the back, which is easy to fill in.

**May Day!** - Angela Fuller and the team on the tombola are inviting any items for it to be brought to church in the coming days, and no later than TODAY. Thank you in advance.

**Monday May 6th** - May Day helpers needed! Please save the date and help us make this the most successful year yet. The more volunteers we have, the more stalls/games we can run.

**Volunteers needed** - Baby Stuff Braintree provide pre-loved clothes and equipment 0-5. We operate from the Carousel Centre, Chapel Hill, Braintree on Tuesday and Thursday morning. New volunteers needed. If interested then please contact Dr Gervase Vernon, [gervase@jgvernon.co.uk](mailto:gervase@jgvernon.co.uk).

**Men's Mental Health training** - We have partnered with MIND Mid & North Essex to offer free training. It will take place in the Church Hall on Tuesday June 11th 1pm - 4.30pm. More details to follow.

**Prayers** - We keep in our prayers Brenda Dunstone, Barry and Janice Goody, Jean Goodwin, Sue, Roger, Frances, Jo Meech, and Tony & Ann. We remember our care homes Millard House, Larchwood, Fern Lodge, Aspen Grange, Braintree Mews, St Mary's Court and The New Deanery, and the following, whose anniversary of their passing falls this week Terry Moore, Alice Emmerson, Mary Woolcock, Jack Richardson, Jean Thomas, Eileen Newall, William Marr, George Playle and Penny Berry.

### The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Epistle Reading - Acts 8:26-end**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### **Gospel Reading - John 15:1-8**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

### Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.