

The Benefice of Wantage Downs East Hendred, West Hendred, and Ardington with Lockinge

8th-22nd April 2026

Services

12th April – Second Sunday of Easter

9am – West Hendred – Holy Communion

10am – East Hendred – Morning Service

11:15am – Ardington – Holy Communion

19th April – Third Sunday of Easter

9am – West Hendred – Holy Communion

10am – East Hendred – Holy Communion

with prayer offered for healing and individual needs

6pm – Lockinge – Evensong

Thursday 23rd April – Saint George

7pm – East Hendred – Ecumenical Evensong

26th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

9am – West Hendred – Holy Communion

10am – East Hendred – Morning Service

11:15am – Ardington – Holy Communion

Children's Church will take place during all the 10am services above.

Readings for 12th April

Acts 2:14a,22-32; John 20:19-31.

Readings for 19th April

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Acts 2:14a,36-41; Luke 24:13-35.

News

Easter Services – Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped with our services for Holy Week and Easter. And thank you to everyone who attended, especially if you haven't been coming regularly. I am grateful that you gave up your time to worship with us.

Over the coming seven weeks, our Easter theme of Transformation will continue with a series of sermons. We will contemplate how the good news of God's love and grace can transform our lives, our churches, our communities, and our world. Do join us again this coming Sunday at one of the services listed on the left.

Upcoming Special Service

We have a special service coming up on Thursday 23rd April at 7pm at St Augustine's (East Hendred). This is both to celebrate St George's Day and to build on our friendship with St Mary's Roman Catholic Church. If you are used to singing in choirs and are able to support this special Evensong, please let Nikolaj know. And of course, all are most welcome to come, regardless of singing ability!

Future of Music

A working group is leading the fundraising for our project to hire a Music Director. This new role will support our worship across the benefice and develop our work with children and youth. We are looking for individuals or households who feel called to support this project financially, and we are applying to the Diocese for match-funding for the money we raise locally. If you would like to hear more about the project, please get in touch with Nikolaj (details below).

Summer Services

During the summer holidays this year, we will take a break from the usual service schedule and instead have a single 10:30am Communion service rotating around all four churches in the benefice. This will give us a chance to come together. This series of services will include a sermon series on the Books of Kings.

East Hendred Spring Fair – Bottle Donations Needed!

If anyone can donate bottles of any sort – bath essence to brandy! Please leave your donations in the church before Thursday 16th April. Please see Suzanne or call Naomi on 07704 501963.

For more news and updates sign up to our online newsletter: www.wantedowns.org/newsletters

Please remember in your prayers

Health and healing: Susie Freeman, Sidney H, Ewan Stutt, Colin Stutt.

Clergy

Rector: Nikolaj Christensen: rector@wantedowns.org | 01235 634940 | Usual working days: Sunday–Friday. NB! Emails sent after 3pm on a Friday may not be seen until Monday.

Associate Vicar: John Durant: associatevicar@wantedowns.org | 01235 234001

Church Wardens

Ardington: Patrice Vogt: Patrice_vogt@yahoo.fr **Lockinge:** Thomas Loyd: tloyd@lockinge-estate.co.uk; Liz Townsend: liztownsend@qi.com

East Hendred: Jill Cook: churchwardeneh@gmail.com **West Hendred:** Hugh Rees: hugh@citidata.co.uk

Church Office: office@wantedowns.org, Open: 9am-1pm Monday, 1pm-4pm Wednesday, 9am-1pm Friday.

This newsletter is sent out fortnightly. Material for inclusion should reach our administrator (email above) by 9am Monday.