

PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 5th APRIL 2020
Palm Sunday
(6th Sunday of Lent)

FOCUS ON HOLY WEEK

These are most strange times at present when we are not able to come together in Church for the customary programme of Holy Week Services. However, through our own personal and private prayers, and in our mind's eye, we can nevertheless bring to mind each stage of the unfolding Holy Week journey.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday for which the traditional observances include both a commemoration of our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem for the final week of his earthly life, and a reflection on the Gospel narratives of events of the Passion of the Christ. And as Holy Week unfolds, we ponder the deep mysteries of our faith and the mystical connection between love and suffering for which our yardstick has been said to be that the true measure of success in this world is two crossed pieces of wood.

On Maundy Thursday we recall the Last Supper when Jesus instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion and when he washed the feet of his disciples with the commandment, "love one another as I have loved you". And we are taken in prayer to the garden of remembrance to watch and wait with our Lord on the eve of his crucifixion. On Good Friday, we gaze into the abyss of sorrow and sadness as we reflect on the astonishing events of our salvation through our Lord's Passion and Saving Death on the Cross. On Holy Saturday, we contemplate Christ resting in the tomb, and we watch and wait once more as we look for the Good News of the Resurrection and as we await the arrival of the joy and glory of Easter.

And on Easter Day itself, we join with angels and archangels, and with the whole company of heaven, with the Church Militant and the Church Triumphant, in proclaiming the great and joyful proclamation of Easter: "Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

Tony Bundock

Pew sheet editor – mark.roberts975@btinternet.com

THE OUTDOOR WOOD CROSS

The St. John's outdoor cross will be erected on the corner of Church Lane and Main Road this week. Short prayers will be said by the cross at 3pm on Good Friday and 10am on Easter Day. Members of the congregation may wish to pray at home at these times using some or all of the prayers from our Simple Office sheets produced for Good Friday and, in due course for Easter Day.

COLLECT FOR PALM SUNDAY AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen*.

READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY

Ezekiel Ch. 37 VV. 1 – 14.
Philippians Ch. 2 VV. 5 – 11.

Gospel of the Palms:
Matthew Ch. 21 VV. 1 – 11.



YOUR GIVING TO ST. JOHN'S TO SUPPORT ITS MISSION IN OUR COMMUNITY

At St John's we are very grateful to all our congregation and visitors for their kind and generous donations to the church. These donations are crucial in ensuring we can continue to operate (we don't receive any funding from the diocese to cover the cost of running the church), and the suspension of services is likely to have a very significant impact on church finances. For those donors who do not already donate by way of monthly standing order or weekly envelopes you may wish to consider either setting up a standing order or making a one-off donation.

Cheques (payable to PCC St John's Lacey Green) can be posted to our Treasurer, Caroline Gulliver, at Waterside, Bledlow Road, Princes Risborough HP27 9NG or bank transfers / standing orders set up using the following details:
Account Name: Parochial Church Council of St Johns Lacey Green Account No: 72102986 Sort Code: 40-24-17.

Weekly envelopes should continue to be filled each week and handed in all together once services are resumed. Pat Rushmere will shortly be arranging the distribution new packs of giving envelopes for the approaching tax year and she can provide them if new people would like to take advantage of this system. Thank you. *Canon Tony, The Churchwardens & The PCC*

Prayer Notes

- We pray for all parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and the souls of those who have died. We pray for those working in the NHS and Social Services who are working with the sick, the elderly and the disabled.
- We pray for those in our parish who are isolating themselves due to age or infirmity and those supporting them.
- For those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Phillipa King, Reverend Rob Brown and Barnaby Woods.
- For the recently departed, particularly for Ruth Barclay. May their souls rest in peace. We pray for Jo Niven and her family at this difficult time.
- For Peace and Resolution for the peoples of those countries where there is conflict or tension including countries in the Middle East, Ukraine, Nigeria, Venezuela, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.
- For Comfort and mercy for the peoples of those countries, where there have been natural disasters, and for the aid agencies bringing relief.
- For our Government and Parliament at this time of uncertainty, that that MP's of all parties will come together in the National Interest.
- For migrants that they may receive justice and mercy.
- Safety for Christians and peoples of all faiths in danger that there may be a spirit of peace and understanding.
- For our mission and ministry in this community.
- For our Linked Parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.
- Thanks for our church community and our shared faith
- Thanks for all who help, in any way, in our Church.
- For our successful fundraising events this year.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Church of England guidance remains the same the church building being closed to communal worship. We may not be able to pray for people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people and we can certainly offer practical care and support. Please keep safe and continue to pray for one another at this time.

DIARY DATES / FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS

Event	Date and time	Venue
Church Mice Praise and Play for Babies and Pre-schooler and their Families.	Currently on Hold	St. John's Church
Lent Course.	Currently on Hold	Various
Lent Lunches.	Currently on Hold	Various
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APM). Our Annual General meeting.	Currently on Hold	St. John's Church

Diocesan Services for Holy Week

The Diocese of Oxford will be holding several on-line services via its website www.oxford.anglican.org during Holy Week as follows:

Palm Sunday (5 th April)	10:00 am	Eucharist – Bishop Olivia presiding
Maundy Thursday (9 th April)	11:00 am	Renewal of ministerial vows (lay and ordained),
Maundy Thursday (9 th April)	8:15 pm	Eucharist – Bishop Colin presiding
Good Friday (10 th April)	Available from noon on Maundy Thursday	Six short addresses for Good Friday & Holy Saturday
Easter Day (12 th April)	10:00 am	Eucharist – Bishop Stephen presiding

Key Contacts:

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Tony Bundock	01844 347741
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Churchwardens:	Mrs Pat Rushmere	01844 345452
	Mrs Margaret Gray	01844 347094
PCC Secretary	Mr Mark Roberts	01296 437345