

Don't forget the clocks go forward 1 hour this Sunday!

8am Holy Communion, in Church

10am Service of the Word, in Church & via [Zoom](#)

You are welcome to share in our worship in the following ways:

1. Come to Church All are welcome! Remember to bring your order of service.

2. Join with Zoom on your computer

When you are signed in you can 'Join a Meeting'.

Meeting ID **846 662 9590**, Passcode **834900**

3. Join with Audio Zoom via phone

a) Call **0131 460 1196** b) Enter Meeting ID: **846 662 9590** followed by #

c) You may be asked to enter Participant ID: press #

d) Enter Meeting Passcode: **834900** followed by #

You will be muted automatically when you join the 'meeting' (service).

Collect for Palm Sunday

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.

Gospel for Palm Sunday, John 12. 12-16

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!' Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!' His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

Holy Week for Young People – Whilst it's not practical for our families to meet, do explore the links on our [Children & Young People](#) page: each week there are fresh and inspiring resources including prayers, games, quizzes and videos. **This week why not make a Palm Cross from one of the palm fronds available at church.** Also -

- **There's a printable sheet on our website** which offers a prayer and activities that will help young people get to know the person of Jesus. This week's is based on a reading from Mark's Gospel.

- You might also like to share in this week's **Godly Story**, 'Palm Sunday'. It's a fantastic visual version of the scriptures, with wondering questions for families to share together. The video's [here](#).

- **Easter Eggs** - There won't be an Easter Egg hunt this year but there will be a few tiny wrapped Easter eggs in church at the 10am service next Sunday 4th April, Easter Day.

- **Churches Together Easter Trail** - Hunt for the QR video and quiz codes in town and pick up an Easter Egg from the CTBS Stall in Market Square, from 10am-4pm Thursday to Easter Sunday.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 69 *Refrain: Hide not your face from your servant, O Lord.*

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up, even to my neck.

I sink in deep mire where there is no foothold;

I have come into deep waters and the flood sweeps over me.

I have grown weary with crying; my throat is raw;

my eyes have failed from looking so long for my God. **[R]**

Those who hate me without any cause are more than the hairs of my head;

Those who would destroy me are mighty; my enemies accuse me falsely:

must I now give back what I never stole?

O God, you know my foolishness, and my faults are not hidden from you.

Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, Lord God of hosts;

let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me, O God of Israel. **[R]**

For your sake have I suffered reproach; shame has covered my face.

I have become a stranger to my kindred, an alien to my mother's children.

Zeal for your house has eaten me up;

the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me. **[R]**

I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach.

I put on sackcloth also and became a byword among them.

Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, and the drunkards make songs about me. **[R]**

But as for me, I make my prayer to you, O Lord; at an acceptable time, O God.

Answer me, O God, in the abundance of your mercy and with your sure salvation.

Draw me out of the mire, that I sink not; let me be rescued from those who hate me

and out of the deep waters. **[R]**

Let not the water flood drown me, neither the deep swallow me up;

let not the Pit shut its mouth upon me.

Answer me, Lord, for your loving-kindness is good; turn to me in the multitude of your mercies.

Hide not your face from your servant; be swift to answer me, for I am in trouble. **[R]**

Draw near to my soul and redeem me; deliver me because of my enemies.

You know my reproach, my shame and my dishonour; my adversaries are all in your sight.

Reproach has broken my heart; I am full of heaviness.

I looked for some to have pity, but there was no one, neither found I any to comfort me.

They gave me gall to eat, and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink. **[R]**

Thirsting on the cross, your Son shared the reproach of the oppressed and carried the sins of all; in him, O God, may the despairing find you, the afflicted gain life and the whole creation know its true king, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An anthem for today

On Palm Sunday in 2019 our Choir sang Stainer's 'The Crucifixion' meditation at our 6pm choral service. You might like to listen to [this version](#) sung by The Choir of Guildford Cathedral.

If you'd like the Prayer Chain to pray for some concern which is on your heart, please make your prayer request to the coordinator: diane.pettitt@hotmail.com / 461845. Requests are strictly confidential to the Prayer Chain, who will simply pray as asked and a request won't lead to further contact or action.





Newsletter and Notices



The church is open for personal prayer from 11am to 1pm every day

An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection.

Piano music is played on Tuesdays 11-11:30am and on Fridays 12-12.30pm.

Keeping in touch – With so much disruption to church worship and activities over the past 11 months now, it has been hard to keep as connected as a community as we'd like. We've tried, through general email and website messages, hard-copy delivery to those not online, plus phone calls, personal emails, letters and even Zoom-chats, to offer ways of staying in touch. Thanks to all the very many people who have played a part in that, and for all the informal reaching-out that has been going on so that we can support one another. Above all let's keep one another in our regular prayers. But if you feel you've 'slipped the net' and missed having contact with anyone from church for a while, do let the Parish Office know by phone, letter or email. A member of the ministry team will be happy to be in touch, to talk and listen, as we try to stay connected and help one another, while pandemic and lock down persist. Thank you.

The Charities Support Group Lent Red Bucket Appeal – We'll split the money between Mary's Meals, who we always support through our Lent Lunches, and The Church Army. To find out more about the charities and how to donate, please see our website's [CSG page](#). Red Buckets will also be in church at our services. Donations for The Bible Course resource can be made to Mary's Meals via the same link.

Families Minister Working Group – "Whilst our youngsters have been able to take part in some church activities during the Covid crisis, including some excellent online material, we have all keenly felt their absence in church over these past few months. A year is an awfully long time in the life of a child, and with that in mind a group of us (on behalf of the PCC) have been looking at what face to face activities involving children and their families we might be able to start - as soon as this can be done safely. An essential element in this 'recovery' phase will involve reactivating the recruitment process for a Families Minister at St Michael's (which we had to pause last year) as soon as it is possible to do so. If you have an interest in this area of our work and would like to join the group dealing with this, or have any other suggestions or comments about children's worship, please email me at bill.macdonald@hotmail.co.uk. Many thanks. Bill".

Information on the Families Minister post as advertised last year is available [here](#).

Palm Crosses – This year we'd like to offer the opportunity to make a palm cross as a spiritual exercise. There are palm fronds in the North porch available for collection when you come to church for worship/prayer. [Click on this YouTube link for a helpful tutorial on making palm crosses](#) or see our website for a leaflet with diagrams / written instructions. Then why not bring them with you for blessing on Palm Sunday, this Sunday 28th March.

A thank you – Thanks to volunteers from our church community, we've delivered over 800 leaflets to Stortford Fields and St Michael's Hurst with a message from the Vicar and details of our Holy Week services and events.

Town Project invitation – Would you like to help with planting some trees and shrubbery in a newly created 'wet woodland' near to Old River Lane? It's anticipated this will take place in mid-April so for now, if you're interested in being kept up to date, please register your interest at megan.kervin@salvationarmy.org.uk / 01279 507464.

Prayers for our Community via Zoom, Saturday 27th March 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer (ID 458 034 0358, Passcode 435609). All welcome.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 31st March, 10am – On Wednesday we will have a service of Holy Communion, in church and via Derwyn's Zoom. You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page. (ID 846 662 9590, Passcode 834900).

Holy Week and Easter

For more details see our website [Lent and Easter page](#)

Sunday 28 March onwards 11am-1pm Church open for prayer, including stations for reflection for all ages on the 'Way of the Cross'. There will also be a special 'Gethsemane' and 'Golgotha' prayer corner where you might like to pray, light a candle or write a prayer on a paper cross and hang it beside the cross.

Palm Sunday 28 March 8am Holy Communion
10am Service of the Word including blessing of palms (*via Zoom also*)

Maundy Thursday 1 April 7:30pm Holy Communion with Music (*via Zoom also*)
Good Friday 2 April 9am-3pm Church open for extended prayer
12noon Good Friday Service with music (*via Zoom also*)

Saturday 3 April 10am-1pm Church open for extended prayer

Easter Sunday 4 April 8am Holy Communion
10am Service of the Word (*via Zoom also*)
11am-1pm Church open for Prayer, including Easter Resurrection story flowers

Riding Lights Theatre Company presents a Lockdown Passion Play – Filmed remotely in lockdown, Breaking Day by Les Ellison is an innovative passion play for Easter 2021. **Available to stream 19th March-15th April.** Tickets £10 per household and can be purchased from the Riding Lights website: www.ridinglights.org/breaking-day

APCM, 23rd May after 10am service – Electoral Roll revision starts on 28th March and ends on 26th April if you'd like to join our electoral roll and/or nominate for PCC election.

Zoom prayer with June on Mondays – A support chat and prayer room each week. If you're interested in joining, do call her for more details (771756).

More details of all services and events are available on the [Calendar](#) page on our website.

Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar)	653867	Churchwarden: Rosemary Thomson	758389
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)	652173	Deputy Churchwardens:	
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)	771756	Terry Pigram, Peter Rixson, Roger Sudbury	
Rob Klincke (Reader)	833523	Parish Office	01279 654416
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