

# St Paul's Church

Dear all,

Holy Week is upon us, and events start with Palm Sunday when we commemorate Jesus' entry into the City of Jerusalem on a donkey. As he does so people lay palms in his path to celebrate the presence of what they think is a new political leader who will be instrumental in releasing them from the burden of Roman rule. By the end of the week the tune has changed, and the cry is for him to be crucified. In church we will all be given Palm Crosses in remembrance of this event – these are to be kept until next year when I ask for their return so that I can burn them to use on Ash Wednesday.



The next part of the journey through Holy Week is when we come to Maundy Thursday. On this day we remember Jesus' final meal with his disciples, known as the Last Supper. It is from this that the tradition of the observance of Holy Communion developed which has been passed down through the centuries and is still central to worship today. At that supper Jesus also famously washed the feet of the disciples as a display of extraordinary humility. Services in church on this day often include a 'Last Supper' and a 'foot washing' ceremony – the service usually ends with a further ceremony called 'Stripping of the Altar' when all altar frontals/cloths/linens and ornaments are removed that is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers following his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and subsequent trial by Pontius Pilate.



Good Friday follows Maundy Thursday and is often observed by a service of an 'Hour at the Cross' at 2pm to coincide with the traditional understanding that Jesus died at 3pm in the afternoon, having been crucified at 9am (Mark's gospel says this took place at the 'third hour' with hours counted from sunup in the culture of the time). The exact origins of the term 'Good' Friday are unknown, although some say it has evolved from 'God's' Friday.



Holy Week, in the Christian calendar, is hugely significant as it is loaded with meaning around how God works for the sake of all humanity. I never cease to be overwhelmed by this and find services during the week speak at a very personal level – the depth and gravity of all that takes place only seeks to heighten the celebration of Easter Sunday knowing that God will have the last word even in the darkest of situations.

May you find this Holy Week a time of profound significance in your walk with God.

Rev Chris

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

*All services are in church, zoom is available for some services.*

### **SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL - PALM SUNDAY**

10 am All-Age Communion - Rev Chris (Zoom)

### **THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL - MAUNDY THURSDAY**

7 pm 'Stations of the Cross' with simple act of Communion and stripping of the altar -  
Rev Robin & Rev Anthea (Zoom)

### **FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL - GOOD FRIDAY**

2 pm An Hour at the Cross - Rev Chris (Zoom)  
3-6pm Church open for Prayer & Reflection (Zoom)

### **SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL - EASTER SUNDAY**

10 am Holy Communion - Ven Andrew & Rev Anthea (Zoom)

### **SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

10 am Holy Communion - Rev Chris (Zoom)

## **EVENTS**

### **FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

7 pm Art Exhibition (small hall)

### **THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

2.30 pm MOTHERS' UNION - Easter Bonnets & hot cross buns (small hall)

### **THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL**

2.30 pm FELLOWSHIP - Queen's Birthday Tea & Reminiscence Session (small hall)

## **EASTER FLOWERS AT ST PAUL'S**

Easter is an appropriate time to remember a loved one, relative or friend who has died. If you would like to contribute in this way, please complete a slip and place it with your donation in the envelope provided which you will find at the back of church.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

*'When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died;  
my richest gain I count but lost, and pour contempt on all my pride.'*

This week we give thanks:

- That as Jesus was welcomed when he entered into Jerusalem with palms and shouts of praise, we too rejoice in his coming to us today and pray he may enter into our lives as our Lord and King.
- For the life of Sheila and all she meant to us; we pray for her family at this sad time.

Please pray for:

- Christians around the world praying and preparing for Easter.
- Countries torn apart by war, unrest and famine, and for all people living in fear and anguish.
- Rescue Teams in Ukraine, working to get people out of danger zones as humanitarian corridors are opened for a very brief period.
- Children facing troubles in their lives, especially where families have become separated due to conflict; pray for those who work tirelessly to reunite young people with their loved ones.
- Our neighbours and communities: pray that we may all be more caring, tolerant and supportive of each other.
- Our Church family and especially all who are struggling; and for Joan, Gilly, Barbara, Hazel, Edith, Peter, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Tony and Maureen; and in our wider church for Ruth, Joan and Helen.
- An increasing knowledge of God's presence and for His light to shine into each of our lives.

**You may like to use this prayer during Holy Week:**

***Loving Lord, may I tread a new path. Hard and stony as it is, may I walk the way of the cross, aligning my poor love with your pure love, remembering that I never walk alone. Amen.***