

Welcome to Christ Church

*'Christ Church as a Living Well,
Christ Church Living Well'*



Sunday 5th April - Palm Sunday

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close.

We are seeing a huge increase in the number of people falling sick with COVID-19. We must distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives. Therefore, as well as public worship being suspended, this and all church buildings in the Church of England are now closed. Our worship of God and our care for each other continue but cannot be done in this building.

Our website contains details of how to join others online for prayer, worship, study, and community life. www.christchurchepsom.org.uk

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

To protect the vulnerable amongst us, please do not leave your home except for essential trips.

Worshiping at Home this Sunday

If you want to join Rosemary and Craig with a special all age Agape at home Sunday 10am

You will need a red napkin or cloth; a palm cross if you have one or any cross, some bread (or biscuits) some wine (or juice)

Alternatively you can listen to an audio recording of a traditional language Holy Communion and follow the text by downloading this from our website.



Collect for the week

True and humble King, the crowd hailed you as Messiah then turned against you: may our praise last longer than a day; may we be found beside you on the way to the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

A reflection for the week from David Fox Branch

On Palm Sunday we think about Christ's 'triumphal entry' into Jerusalem. But what might it have been like to be in the crowd? In the piece below, He is encountered by somebody standing alone in that crowd - how can we encounter him in a Holy Week without crowds?"



The King is come to his inheritance.

'Hosanna', they cry, strewing his way with royal leaves.

'Hosanna', they cry to the man who has just tamed the unriden, stubborn colt that, by rights, should have thrown him in the dust.

Except, by right, it obeyed him.

Scared witless, eyes showing white amid the adulation, it quietened with a word from the Word.

"I AM, fear not." It was not enough for the disciples in the boat, it's rarely enough of enough for me but, for the stubborn beast, it is more than enough. Sinless, it carries him as if it knew it's burden.

'Hosanna', they cry. The King is here, in the place appointed, at the time prescribed.

What cause of joy is this, for me? I know my sin now, like never before. I lift up my eyes toward the figure in the crowd and I am blind. I cannot look. I cannot risk him seeing me; I hang back, hugging my sin. I cannot look upon my Saviour for, in that day, I die.

But he sees me. He *searches* for me. Even as I hunch my shoulders against my sin, I feel his gaze moving over the crowd like the shadow of a dove; and I *know* he sees me.

And I am naked, with no 'hosanna' on my lips, unable to say sorry, so sorry, so inextricably, unaccountably, unutterably sorry and, if I could say it, I would not know what I am sorry for, not really; I would not know where my sin starts and where it finishes. All I know is that under that gaze there is a moment – a space – into which sin never came. It is unspeakable. It is unbearable. It is fire.

It is gone.

He has moved on. The gaze of God settles on another. She does not seem to notice her 'Hosanna' is in full voice.

Tomorrow he will disappoint her. He will not be what she wants him to be.

The crowd moves on, their cries muffling while I stand, stock still and empty, on a street littered with the aftermath of festival.

Everything is changing; nothing is different. 'Hosanna' whispers from my lips, 'Hosanna to the Lamb.'

#living well: Pray for mission and outreach initiatives in your local area

For intercessions

- ◆ For the ministry and pastoral team as they seek to keep in contact with everyone, particularly the isolating and vulnerable.
- ◆ For each of us to find a new rhythm to life, as we journey through Holy Week at home.
- ◆ For all who are separated from loved ones and any in mourning at this time.
- ◆ For all NHS, social care practitioners and keyworkers.

Lockdown Library

Please take photos of you and your families worshipping at home and either post directly onto our Facebook page or email me vicar@christchurcheposm.org.uk and I will keep make a collage of them for the next issue of CCN.

Rosemary Donovan

CC Creche and CC Kids

Taking the same format as last week, here are some activities for this Sunday - Palm Sunday. The turning point in Jesus' ministry when he enters Jerusalem for the last time as a Passover pilgrim. As we move from Palm Sunday into Holy Week, we too are pilgrims as we follow Jesus on his journey. This week's reading is about that entry into Jerusalem taken from Matthew 21:1-11.

Here's the link to that Bible story and some craft activities.

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2020/106-march-april-2020-a/palm-sunday/familiesathome>

I like the palm leaf craft, however I have used this template in the past –

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/mpalm.htm> and then written on words that remind me of Jesus. How many can you think of? Here's some to start you off - God, Son, Love, Help, Friend, Teacher.

Have you ever folded a Palm Cross? It can be a bit tricky and younger member of our Christ Church family may need some help, but here's a link that's new on YouTube and uses paper. Have a go and email me yfw@christchurchepsom.org.uk some pictures, please - I'd love to see your Palm Crosses. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k8lVvZ4DUA>

And here's a little bit more - Wordsearches -

https://sermons4kids.com/triumphal_entry_matt_wordsearch.htm

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/t.asp?t=http://www.dltk-bible.com/word-search/c-wordsearch-palm-sunday.gif>

<https://gaddynippercrayons.com/palm-sunday/palm-sunday-coloring-pages-free/>

Colouring - <https://sundayschoolresources.co.uk/coloring/jesus/coloring-jesus-entry.php>

CC Pathfinders and CC Youth - I will be emailing you via parents/carers about activities and staying in touch.
Jen Sadler

Prayer Chain: This group will continue to pray for any concerns with an assurance of total confidentiality. Phone Sue Matthews (724080) or Jo (726782).

Not 24-7 but 10-7 Virtual Prayer Room <https://www.24-7prayer.com/coronavirusprayer>

A small group of people are praying together for 2 days of the week in their homes. This will start at 10am and finish at 8pm. This week and Holy Week we meet in our virtual prayer room on Tuesday and Wednesday as below. If you wish to join in, feel free to share together with us.

Chris & Penny Purdy	1000-1100
Pam Buckingham	1100-1200
Paul & Denise Chamberlain	1200-1400
David & Rose Blacoe	1400-1600
Martin Virgo	1600-1700
Peter & Ruth Grint	1700-1900
Cari B	1900-2000

Below are suggestions for Prayer Topics and of course your own. (Also see intercessions)

- God's Divine Love and Mercy be known to unbelievers
- God's Holy Spirit be unleashed throughout the World
- That people of faith may come together

Holy Week at Home

Please continue to follow us on Facebook: Epsom Christ Church and Twitter @CCEpsom

We also have a new YouTube account

Simply type in Christ Church Epsom Common into the search box and the following 3 videos

#candleofhope

#earthhour2020

Pasion Sunday Communion

are already available. We are also hoping to upload a video of Jen making a Palm Cross and Merinda making some bread. Please subscribe to Christ Church and tick notifications if you wish to receive updates.

The **#LiveLent** booklets continue to provide daily reflections and if you would like to follow a simple Franciscan Compline David is uploading an audio recording of that to the website for people to listen to and follow.

Readings for the week:

Monday John 12:1-11 **Tuesday** John 12:20-36 **Wednesday** John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday

Rosemary is hoping to record a video of a simple Seder meal for our **YouTube** Channel.

If you wish to join in at home, you will need some unleavened bread (or crackers), handwashing equipment, glass of red wine or juice, if you have them some herbs (e.g. parsley) and horseradish.

Good Friday

Please join in the **CTIE** prayer requests (why don't we all do this at 2pm as we would have met for the last hour in church) and see BBC for other resources.

Easter Day

5:30am Sunrise Bonfire at the vicarage live **Facebook** video.

Join members of the Choir and Band singing where they are *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* at

precisely **10 am** on Easter Sunday morning, followed by *Thine Be the Glory*. as part of the national initiative **#SingResurrection**.

Revd. Sue is also hoping to produce an Easter morning sermon for the website.

Christ Church Notices

CCN April/May CCN is available to read or download from our website. Obviously, we cannot print or deliver so all distributors should be contacting those they can to say the new edition is available. The **APCM Report** was also due to be published today. It too will be uploaded to the website this week for people to read in advance of a new meeting date being set. *Craig Donovan*

Traidcraft Goods

Obviously, Peter is unable to bring a stall to church at this time however he is aware that he has significant stock that he doesn't want to go out of date. Chocolate, Tea, Coffee, Pasta, Washing up liquid etc. If anyone is getting desperate for supplies that they have not managed to source elsewhere Peter is content that you ring him 01372 739757 and arrange a mutually convenient time for you or your representative to collect a bag of items from his doorstep and post cash through the letter box. *Peter Rutter*

Churches Together in Epsom

We know that you and your church families will be praying for all those affected by Covid19 and for those fighting against the virus. No doubt many, of us took part in the clapping for the NHS on Thursday evening. As CTIE we would like to show our support and ask for prayer for all those in our community, especially our reps, members of our churches and others known to us, who are taking care of the sick and vulnerable in these challenging times and for the patients in our hospitals and residents of our care homes who are suffering not only from their illnesses but from not being able to receive visitors. We hope the knowledge that the fellowship is praying for them will help to strengthen them and help them know that they are not alone at this time. And as a special prayer event, we would like to suggest that **on Good Friday the churches across Epsom join together in prayer (from our own homes!) for our nation, our leaders, our NHS and frontline carers, for those who are unwell, and all those who are struggling in different ways because of the coronavirus.** (NB see Good Friday note)

This month's Mission Focus

The Church Army Marylebone Project for homeless women, championed by Mike Reeves on behalf of the Epsom Common Home Group. *Anne Sturton*

Church Electoral Roll

A copy of the names of all those on our Electoral Roll have been on display at the back of church. If you didn't get chance to check it before lockdown and are aware there have been changes to your contact details in the past year, please email me. If you are not on the Roll, consider yourself a member of this church and satisfy certain criteria then also email me for an application form martin.shipton@ntlworld.com *Martin Shipton*

Foodbank - The need is particularly acute

At the moment foodbank is still receiving and distributing goods. Obviously, the situation may change. Foodbank can only take non-perishable goods and especially needs: -

Tinned meat pies, instant mash, pasta sauce, cooking sauces, rice pudding, long life juice UHT milk, Powdered milk, sugar, noodles, nappies size 4 & 5, pump soap, washing powder, jam/honey/marmalade

Give me a ring or email re. collecting or delivery and we can exchange via the doorstep. sacsac@ntlworld.com/ 01372210492/ 07910153955 *Sue Curtis*

Vicar: The Revd Rosemary Donovan (Day off - Friday); vicar@christchurchepsom.org.uk (01372 720302)

Associate Minister: (OLM) The Revd Sue Curtis: sacsac@ntlworld.com (01372 210492)

Curate: The Revd. David Fox-Branch (Day off - Friday) curate@christchurchepsom.org.uk (01372 726225)

Youth & Families Worker: Jen Sadler yfw@christchurchepsom.org.uk (07734258421)

Churchwardens: Andy Hards andrewhards@clara.co.uk tel. 01372 273165 mob. 07710 037572 &

John Warburton jwarburton1@gmail.com (01372 372855)

Parish Office 01372 743133, office@christchurchepsom.org.uk

Hall bookings via our **website** www.christchurchepsom.org.uk Registered Charity No: 1127945