

St Martin of Tours
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs
Langley Vale

The parish of
St Martin of Tours
with St Stephen-on-the-Downs

Weekly Newsletter
Registered Charity Number: 1134149

Sunday 28th March 2021 – Palm Sunday Sunday

Dear Friends,

Palm Sunday takes us from the people shouting their praise as Jesus enters the city, through to Jesus condemned, denied and abandoned over the coming week. Our service at 10am reflects that, beginning with joyful songs of Hosanna and ending with a song of Christ's passion.

What can we take from this? Maybe it reflects our own experiences – sometimes full of Christ's praise, sometimes turning away from him. Sometimes feeling wonderfully free in the Spirit, sometimes riddled with guilt. All of this complexity we bring to our Holy Week journey to the foot of the cross.

Nick Parish

THIS WEEK

Sunday 28th March – Palm Sunday

9.30am – No Service

10.00am – Holy Communion Service at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish

6.30pm – Evening Prayer – online only, led by David Candlin

Compline in Holy Week

We will be saying Compline together on Zoom at 9.00pm each evening during Holy Week. Compline is a traditional service of quietness and reflection at the end of the day. To join please click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82005209281?pwd=bkhnTVk2LzQ3K09ZRiZVtTaythUT09>

For those without internet you can dial in: 0203 901 7895. If prompted, the Meeting ID is 820 0520 9281 and the Passcode is: compline. A soft copy of the service booklet has been distributed with the news-sheet - please contact the parish office if you need a printed copy.

David Candlin

Wednesday 31st March

10-11am Individual prayer at St Stephen's

7.00pm Lent Study:

Our Lent Bible Study continues on Wednesday 31st March, led by John Padwick and it will be based on Psalm 77.

Our Bible Study is on Zoom, starting at 7pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5065387390>

Thursday 1st April

10.00am – Holy Communion, in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish

Stations of the Cross recorded reflections on these will be available to view online.

Friday 2nd April – Good Friday

2.00pm – Hour of reflection at St. Stephen's

2.00pm – In Church/livestreamed service for Good Friday at St Martin's.

To join us from home for our services, go to our website and click on the link.

www.stmartinsepsom.org

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 4th April – Easter Day

9.30am – Holy Communion Service at St Stephen's, in Church – led by David Candlin

10.00am – Holy Communion Service at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish

6.30pm – Evening Prayer – in Church and live streamed, led by Graeme Lodge

Sunday 11th April – Second Sunday of Easter

9.30am – Holy Communion at St Stephen's – led by David Candlin

10.00am – Morning Prayer at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed – led by John Padwick

6.30pm – Easter Celebration words and music live and streamed at St Martin's – led by Adrian Esdaile

DISCIPLESHIP /STUDY/ WORSHIP MEETINGS

Stations of the Cross

Every day from Wednesday 25th March through to Easter Sunday we will be publishing a short daily reflection on the stations of the cross, which follow Jesus's journey from Pilate's palace to the place of the crucifixion. These bite sized meditations - each narrated by a different member of the Ministry team - are offered as a devotional to help you prepare for Good Friday and Easter Day.



Watch them on our website

(<https://www.stmartinsepsom.org/lent-2021/>) or on our facebook page.

Easter 2021 Tour de Parish

Show your support for St Martin's!

Three familiar faces are taking to their bikes this Easter to celebrate the end of lockdown and raise funds for St Martin's ministry in the parish. On Easter Monday, Churchwarden John Flower and Rev David Candlin will start riding every road in the parish – from the busy town centre to the open spaces of Epsom Downs. Intrepid bicyclist and St Martin's regular David Stamp will take over on Tuesday. Together, they have fifty miles of tarmac ahead of them!

Please support them – by sponsoring them to complete the ride – or maybe you fancy joining them for some or all the route? Or you'd like to provide tea and cake half way round? It's all to support St Martin's ministry. You can give electronically using this link: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377#!/DonationDetails> or donate in cash or by cheque to the church office. Thank you!

TOUR DE PARISH



THREE FAMILIAR FACES ARE CYCLING THE STREETS OF EPSOM TO RAISE MONEY FOR ST MARTIN'S MINISTRY.



Easter Monday (5th April)

PLEASE SPONSOR US ON OUR 50-MILE ROUND THE PARISH CHALLENGE AT:

[HTTPS://CAFDONATE.CAF
ONLINE.ORG/13377#!/DO
NATIONDETAILS](https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377#!/DONATIONDETAILS)

OR DONATE IN CASH/CHEQUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.
THANK YOU!



St Martin of Tours
Epsom



STEWARDSHIP

Giving to St Martin's and St Stephen on the Downs

For general and stewardship giving you can give online giving via the Charities Aid Foundation.

Donations can be either a one-off donation or a regular donation using direct debit.

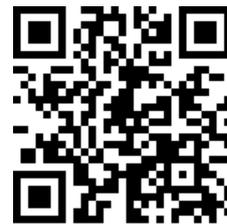
To make a donation either:

1. Click on the following link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>

OR

2. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code below



There is also a "Donate" button on our website.

Thank you for your continued giving directly and via online giving.

OTHER NOTICES

The Roadmap

Looking at the government plan for easing lockdown, there are a few milestones relevant to us. The number of people allowed to attend a wedding begins at 6 from the end of March, and builds up with each phase to 15, then 30, and then unrestricted. Funerals remain at 30 until derestriction, but wakes will be permitted in increasing numbers as the plan progresses.

A key change for us will be when indoor meetings for social purposes are allowed from phase 3, albeit with a limit of 6 people, and then unlimited from phase 4.

Electoral Roll Revision

The Electoral Roll is due to be revised on 7th May 2021 and a notice to this effect will be displayed outside both our churches from 19th March 2021. If you are unsure please check that your name is entered in the current Roll (at the back of St Martins) or with me by email (aronson_john@hotmail.com), also if there have been changes to your address or contact details please inform me or the Parish Office. Your full details can be checked in the office. We always want new people to join so if you are not yet on the Roll and would like to join please complete an application form and hand it in to the Parish Office. The Roll will be closed for any new entries from 6 May 2021 until after the Parish AGM on 23 May 2021.

John Aronson, Electoral Roll Officer.

Easter Cards Available

While restrictions on what we can do are gradually being relaxed I have decided that it would still be more sensible to run the Easter Card Shop online, as I did for Christmas cards. Please find attached to this newsletter an order form and pictures of all the available cards. I will be selling them on a first come, first served basis, however I will confirm with you exactly how much or your order you will receive and how much it will cost. I will deliver all cards to you personally (socially distanced, of course!).

Please help support St Martins by buying your Easter cards from me. Thank you.



Mary Holloway-Neville

St Martin's Church &
St Martin's Schools invite you
to take a socially distanced

Easter Trail

Can you spot all ten eggs and tell the story of Easter?

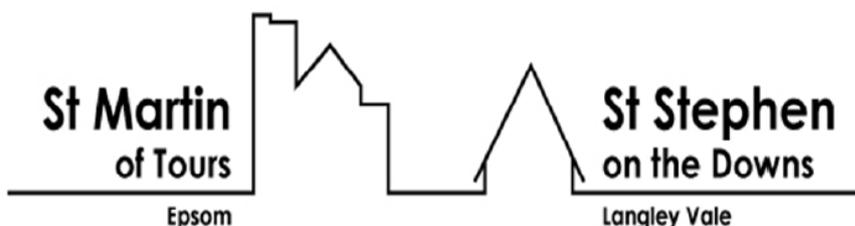
- Good Friday 2 April 10:30 – 5:00
- Saturday 3 April 10:30 – 5:00
- Easter Sunday 4 April 11:30 – 5:00
- Monday 5 April 10:30 – 5:00

Starting at the Infant entrance, wind your way to St Martin's Church hunting for posters. Scan the QR codes as you go to bring the journey to life. The map will be revealed in the last newsletter of term!



Please keep at least 2 metres from other families and wear your mask to keep our community safe.

We are sorry we cannot welcome you into the church building during these times, as we continue to protect the most vulnerable within our church family, but we look forward to seeing you soon.



Trees in the Churchyard

As I think most of you know, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council are responsible for the maintenance of our Churchyard. The Council exercise their responsibility for the trees in our Churchyard by employing a Tree Officer who surveys the trees at regular intervals, and determines what works are required to maintain them in good and safe order.

We have now received the latest schedule of proposed work to the trees and most of the work refers to removing ivy where it is damaging trees and minor pruning; only one tree will be felled completely and that is the dead pine tree to the east of the Church, next to the pathway that runs through the south-side of the churchyard.

The dead tree should be removed in the next week or so, but the Borough Council has agreed that the remainder of the work will be delayed until the late summer so as to avoid disturbing any birds during the nesting season.

If you have any queries regarding this work, please do not hesitate to speak to the Churchwardens in the first instance.

The Churchwardens

Mission For March

HOME

MAF believe nothing should stop people from receiving the love of of God and the essentials of life. Their vision is to see isolated people physically and spiritually transformed in Christ's name. MAF uses light aircraft and technology to reach isolated places, as the only way to reach isolated people in need.

Meg Topley

ABROAD

Christian Aid is an international NGO endeavouring to help people have the advantage of living a full life, free from poverty and inequality operating on the basis of need, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, race, gender or nationality. Working with local partners to address the root causes of poverty through integrated development and humanitarian programming, policy and advocacy work.

Jill Chapman

Can you please hold these Mission areas in your Prayers – Thank you

CTiE Holy Week Event for 2021

This Easter, because of Covid19 restrictions, Churches Together in Epsom (CTiE) is unable to hold the Good Friday outreach events in Epsom town centre, held over recent years. We are working with the chaplaincy team at Epsom hospital to bring gifts and an Easter message of hope to staff, patients and relatives. CTiE is providing Easter eggs with an Easter story book, and activities for children and families to share. Each egg will come with a card from CTiE with a message of love, hope and Easter blessings and an invitation to online church services. These will be distributed on our behalf, during Holy Week, by the Chaplaincy team.

The next **Churches Together in Epsom**, prayer time will be on:

Friday April 9th, 9:15-9:45 am All are invited to join on **Zoom**:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9901533047?pwd=NU1JS3hzMzNYNVpyZDR3SXhBZHJVUT09>

Meeting ID: 990 153 3047

Passcode: CTiE

Church & Tenant Empowerment Worker

Hope into Action, Epsom is looking for someone to join the team for 8 hours a week as an Empowerment Worker. You will be supporting our tenants who have been homeless. Tenants may be singles or families with support needs and you would empower them towards a fulfilled life. The initiative has just purchased its first house for the homeless. You will also be working with our partner churches to train, equip, encourage for their role in mentoring, befriending and giving practical support to tenants.

For job description & application pack, click the link below, and then the red download buttons

<https://epsom.hopeintoaction.org.uk/vacancies/empowerment-worker/da7fbe20-d214-46bc-99a3-ca3c2c1faa52>

Closing date: April 30th

Latest message from Chris Short at Food Bank

This week we need:

Coffee

Washing powder/liquid/tabs

Custard

Dried pasta n sauce

Hot chocolate

Pasta sauce

Toothpaste - adults

Marmalade/honey

Tea bags

Please either donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park (please wear a mask);

Epsom & Ewell Foodbank

Generation Resource Centre

(Behind West Ewell Primary School)

Ruxley Lane

Ewell

KT19 0JG

Monday – Friday : 9am – 2pm

Can't get to the shops? You could text to make a small donation, send us a supermarket delivery to the address above, or contact us about sponsoring some fresh fruit & veg!

You can help by texting 70450 to donate:

Text **FOODBANKGIFT2** to donate £2

Text **FOODBANKGIFT3** to donate £3

Text **FOODBANKGIFT5** to donate £5

Text **FOODBANKGIFT10** to donate £10

Text **FOODBANKGIFT15** to donate £15

Text **FOODBANKGIFT20** to donate £20

CONTACT US

Parish Office:

***Church House, Church Street, Epsom,
KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567***

E-mail: stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com

Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org

The Revd Nick Parish, Vicar – 01372 743336

Email: vicar@stmartinsepsom.org

The Revd David Candlin – Curate - 07723 849 477

Email: revcandlin@gmail.com

COLLECT

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.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

GOSPEL

Either **Mark 11:1-11**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Or **John 12:12-16**

PSALM Psalm 118:1-2. 19-29

R *This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
 his mercy endures for ever.
 Let Israel now proclaim,
 "His mercy endures for ever." **R**

Open for me the gates of righteousness;
 I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the
 Lord.

"This is the gate of the Lord;
 whoever is righteous may enter." **R**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered
 me
 and have become my salvation.
 The same stone which the builders
 rejected
 has become the chief corner-stone. **R**

This is the Lord's doing,
 and it is marvellous in our eyes.
 On this day the Lord has acted;
 we will rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

Hosanna, Lord, hosanna!
 Lord, send us now success.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of
 the Lord;
 we bless you from the house of the Lord. **R**

God is the Lord; he has shined upon us;
 form a procession with branches
 up to the horns of the altar.
 "You are my God and I will thank you;
 you are my God and I will exalt you."
 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
 his mercy endures for ever. **R**

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the LORD said: The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

PSALM Psalm 31:9-16

R *I have trusted in you, O Lord.
 (I have said, "You are my God.")*
 or
R *My God, my God, why have you
 forsaken me?*

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in
 trouble;
 my eye is consumed with sorrow,
 and also my throat and my belly.
 For my life is wasted with grief,
 and my years with sighing;
 my strength fails me because of affliction,
 and my bones are consumed. **R**

I have become a reproach to all my
 enemies
 and even to my neighbours,
 a dismay to those of my acquaintance;
 when they see me in the street they avoid
 me.
 I am forgotten like the dead, out of mind;
 I am as useless as a broken pot. **R**

For I have heard the whispering of the
 crowd;
 fear is all around;
 they put their heads together against me;
 they plot to take my life.
 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.
 I have said, "You are my God. **R**

My times are in your hand;
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
 and from those who persecute me.
 Make your face to shine upon your servant,
 and in your loving-kindness save me." **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PASSION

Either **Mark 14:1 – 15:47**
 Or **Mark 15:1-39 [40-end]**

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
 you humbled yourself in taking the form
 of a servant,
 and in obedience died on the cross for
 our salvation:
 give us the mind to follow you
 and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
 to the glory of God the Father.

Sunday Homily

PALM SUNDAY

28 MARCH 2021

YEAR B

“Those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ... Pilate spoke to them again, ‘Then what do you wish me to do the with the man you call the King of the Jews?’ They shouted back, ‘Crucify him!’”

Mark 11:9; 15:12-13

Illustration

Displayed in a showcase in the Great Hall of Lambeth Palace are the gloves which Charles I wore to his execution in Whitehall in January 1649. As he began to remove his outer garments, Charles gave his gloves to William Juxon, Bishop of London, who accompanied him to the scaffold. When Juxon later became Archbishop of Canterbury, he took the gloves with him, and they have remained at Lambeth ever since. Charles took great pride in his personal appearance, and dressed as carefully for his execution as for any other public occasion. It was a matter of honour that he should be seen to die well.

Gospel Teaching

In his first letter, St Peter tells us that Jesus also died well: “When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.” But for Jesus it was more than just a matter of honour. Peter is telling us of Jesus’ complete and willing obedience to fulfil God’s purpose.

Relatively early in his Gospel, Luke tells us that Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem”. When Peter suggested there might be another way, Jesus reprimanded him angrily: “Get behind me, Satan!” It is the utter self-giving of Jesus, even to death itself, that restores, to those who have faith, our broken relationship with God. This is the drama which is played out through the events of Holy Week. We separate out those events in order to concentrate on the special meaning of each one of them, but we have at the same time to see them as a whole – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve, Easter Day itself. The crowd in Jerusalem were witnesses to this unfolding drama, and found themselves caught up in it.

Crowds are notoriously fickle, and easily swayed. Those who had clamoured for the head of Charles I fell silent as the executioner raised his axe, and uttered a deep groan as the royal head was severed from the body. There was some kind of latent understanding that this was a unique moment. Never in the long history of England had the monarch been brought to public trial and execution.

Perhaps some similar kind of awareness permeated the crowd who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. They welcomed him in words reserved for, and applicable only to, the Messiah, the long-expected anointed one of God. But as the days passed, and events became ugly, the mood of the crowd changed. The voices that had been raised in welcome now called for his death: "Crucify him!" The soldiers made the most of their opportunity to beat up the condemned prisoner, and no doubt the crowd approved of what they saw. Even that was not enough for some. As Jesus hung upon the cross, "those who passed by derided him". The whole range of instincts and emotions which are at work within a crowd, even in our own day, were focused on Jesus during those last few tumultuous days of his life.

Application

We would naturally want to dissociate ourselves from any suggestion that we might be caught up in the mixed instincts of a crowd. We identify ourselves with the Good Samaritan, and condemn the priest and the Levite who passed by on the other side. Yet honesty demands that we recognise within ourselves the same fickleness which was at work amongst the crowd in Jerusalem. We may sing, "Thine be the glory", yet there is little glory in our lives. Or we may sing, "Make me a channel of your peace" – while conflict dominates our church or personal life. We want to believe, as did the crowd on Palm Sunday, that Jesus represents the answer to our hopes and prayers, while knowing that having faith does not protect us from life's problems. As we share the uncertainties of the crowd, we perhaps feel unworthy and discouraged.

But if we do, we load ourselves with unnecessary guilt and fail to grasp the meaning of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. "While we still were sinners," wrote Paul, "Christ died for us." And he rose again. Our response is one of faith. No matter how fickle that faith may seem, God accepts us through the crucified and risen Lord. So on this Palm Sunday, as we head together into this most holy week, let us be encouraged as well as challenged by our most holy Lord.

MON 29 MARCH

Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm 36:5-11
 Hebrews 9:11-15
 John 12:1-11

TUE 30 MARCH

Isaiah 49:1-7
 Psalm 71:1-14
 [or 71:1-8]
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 John 12:20-36

WED 31 MARCH

Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 70
 Hebrews 12:1-3
 John 13:21-32

THU 1 APRIL

Maundy Thursday
 Exodus 12:1-4
 [5-10] 11-14
 Psalm 116:1. 10-end
 [or 116:9-end]
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 John 13:1-17. 31b-35

FRI 2 APRIL

Good Friday
 Isaiah 52:13 – end of 53
 Psalm 22 [or 22:1-11
 or 22:1-21]
 Hebrews 10:16-25 or
 Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
 John 18:1 – end of 19

SAT 3 APRIL

Job 14:1-14 or
 Lamentations
 3:1-9. 19-24
 Psalm 31:1-4.
 15-16 [or 31:1-5]
 1 Peter 4:1-8
 Matthew 27:57-end
 or John 19:38-end

REFLECTION

Jesus Washing the Feet of the
 Apostle Peter at the Last Supper.
 Cathedral of Our Lady of Amiens,
 France. jorisvo / Shutterstock.com



Holy Week's significance necessitates three daily eucharistic readings, including passages from Isaiah concerning God's suffering servant who, despite being despised, rejected and tortured, will deal gently and compassionately with all who have fallen away. He will persevere in building God's kingdom, opening the eyes of those who are blind, bringing out prisoners, being an agent for a harmonious new creation that supersedes the divided old one. Texts from New Testament letters identify Christ as divinely appointed to fulfil that costly but ultimately triumphant servant role.

Meanwhile, in the Gospel of John, the authorities' hostility increases and Judas switches sides. This brings us to Maundy Thursday, which opens by recalling God's saving act of Passover in Exodus. This inaugurates the ritual meal that Jesus recalibrates in the Last Supper. By washing the disciples' feet, Jesus exemplifies his vision of leadership as servanthood which, on Good Friday, he carries through to its ultimate end. Holy Saturday, the only day when there is no eucharistic provision, provides a moment of stillness, both empty and pregnant. The Gospel readings remind us that Christ is dead, entombed; but Lamentations offers hope in the Lord's unceasing, steadfast love. Christ's story, our story, is not finished.

PRAYER

Loving Lord Jesus,
 through your servanthood
 our pride, obstinacy and selfishness are sundered;
 that humbly, compassionately, generously,
 we might grow in loving service to you and to one another.
 By your wounds you broke open every tomb, every prison.
 May the light of your love eternally flood every corner of
 creation.

PART I – IONA

Heather Smith visits some holy sites and reflects on their significance.

Some places seem naturally holy. We often describe them as thin places, where heaven and earth seem very close – so close you could almost step straight through. These are the kinds of places that the founders of Christianity in this country chose to make their home. And they are places where modern pilgrims find their faith is deepened.

Iona is such a place. Reaching it involves a trip north west from Glasgow through the beautiful scenery and twisting roads of Argyll until you reach Oban. From there you take a ferry across to the island of Mull, but you have further to go. The ferry to Iona, off the south west coast of Mull, leaves from Fionnphort, a glorious thirty-five-mile drive from Craignure where the Oban ferry docks. It feels as if you are leaving the world behind as each stage of the journey takes you further west, to more remote places. At Fionnphort the final leaving-behind requires you to leave your car and take the ferry on foot.

Tradition tells us that the monastery on Iona was founded in AD 563 by Columba, who came to Iona having been exiled from Ireland. St Aidan lived here until he answered a call from King Oswald of Northumbria to bring Christianity to his kingdom and set off for Lindisfarne. Iona was a centre of Celtic Christianity and it is thought that the Book of Kells, an illuminated Gospel book, was begun here in the eighth century.

Iona Abbey, in a dramatic position overlooking the sea, was built around 1200 and outside is an impressive ninth-century Celtic cross, St Martin's Cross. The burial ground on the island is the resting place of many early kings of Scotland, including Macbeth.

The Iona Community, an ecumenical Christian community, was founded by George MacLeod in 1936 and you can join them for week-long events. You might feel inspired to become a member of the community yourself. It is a dispersed one, and welcomes members in various categories who want to share its life.

LIVE theWORD

SUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith



Iona Abbey

Holy Week

Monday 29 March to
Saturday 3 April
2021

WEEK

A grand day out



God of surprises, give us eyes to see you at work in our lives, not only in the times of crisis when we feel our need of you, but also in the ordinariness of each day, that we may always know your power to help and save. Amen.

Church music

Part II – straight to the heart

by Andrew Lyon

I'm sure that for some people music "gets in the way" of worship; that harmony and descants distract rather than enhance, but I've always loved the music of the Church in all its guises – from medieval plainsong to renaissance polyphony, Methodist hymns, Anglican psalm chants, modern Catholic Mass music, Eastern Orthodox music and evangelical

worship songs. Nothing has nurtured my faith more.

I like it, not just because the tunes tickle my ears, but because music is a vehicle for communicating something to my heart, bypassing my intellect and heading straight inside to my soul. It moves me quickly to tears when a beautiful melody is crafted so skilfully to combine with the words it sets, like a glove that fits just right. When that happens, it helps me more than anything else to feel deep within me that God knows me and loves me. The words from "My Song is Love Unknown", by Samuel Crossman, set to music by John Ireland, spring to mind: "This is my friend, in whose sweet praise / I all my days could gladly spend." 🙏

Gillian Cooper *reflects on* Mark 11:1-11

When he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve".

Mark's description of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem reads like an account of a tourist's lovely day out in the city. Jesus and his friends have a good look around and then head back to the accommodation for dinner. It is not exactly what we might expect of the coming of the promised king to the place of his enthronement. There is, admittedly, a bit of a processional feel about the journey in, with its psalm singing and palm waving, but it is all fairly brief and low key. Has anything happened?

Of course it has. This very ordinary day out is charged with

symbolic meaning. The rider on the lowly colt is indeed the one who comes in the name of the Lord. The kingdom of David is on its way, though very differently from expectations. This is the first scene in a drama that will be played out over the coming days. We who know the rest of the story read with dread in our hearts. We know what the crowd will shout next Friday. Jesus will not be on a colt and his disciples will not be with him.

With his straightforward account of a nice day out, Mark reminds us that it is in the context of the ordinary, the human, that God acts. The tourist turns out to be the world's saviour. 🙏

Cities of the Bible

Samaria

by Caroline Fletcher

Samaria was the region sandwiched between Galilee and Judaea. It had belonged to Israel's northern kingdom until it was captured by the Assyrians, who took much of its Jewish population into exile. It was home to the religious group, the Samaritans, who practised a distinct form of Judaism with their own temple on Mount Gerizim (John 4:20).

By New Testament times the relationship between the Samaritans and the Jews of Galilee and Judaea had deteriorated. Jews believed the Samaritan faith was corrupt and tensions increased after the destruction of the Gerizim temple in around 110 BC by the Maccabean leader John Hyrcanus. The Gospels reflect this. For instance, Samaritans refused to let Jesus pass through their village simply because he was on his way to Jerusalem in Judaea, and Jesus' Galilean disciples wanted to retaliate by casting fire down on the Samaritans (Luke 9:51-54). Jesus challenged such prejudice by making a Samaritan the hero of his Good Samaritan parable. 🙏

“Remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 1:3



Sunday 28 March 2021

Mark 14:1 – 15:47

Palm Sunday

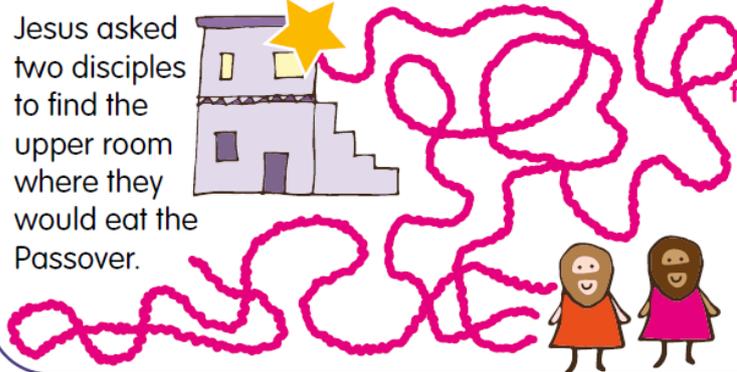
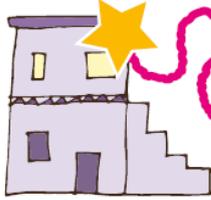
My name is _____

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

We hear how Jesus was betrayed and how he was killed for speaking the truth. Jesus was handed over to the Romans who cruelly nailed him to a cross.

ALL FOR US

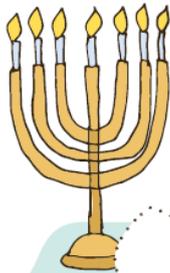
Jesus asked two disciples to find the upper room where they would eat the Passover.



Help the disciples to find the room so that they can get it ready for the Last Supper. Jesus will eat with his friends.

Last Supper

Jesus blessed the bread and said, "Th_s_s my b_dy" and then took the cup and said, "Th_s_s my bl__d."



There are two very special parts of the Last Supper. Join the dots to see what they are.



Help others

Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry his cross when he was not able to carry it himself.



Match the picture with the words to describe how you can help others this week.

Do you know Jesus?

When Peter was asked if he knew Jesus, he said **NO** three times. Peter was very upset when he realised what he had done. He should have said **YES**. How many times can you find the word **NO** in the word search? How many times is the word **YES** written?

N	O	Y	E	S	N
Y	E	S	E	E	O
Y	N	E	N	O	Y
E	O	Y	E	S	E
S	E	E	N	O	S
N	O	S	Y	E	S

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, today you were bullied and hurt. People told lies about you. Your friends left you. Even you, God's Son, were treated badly. Help me to be brave when people hurt me and to forgive those who say bad things about me. Help us all to treat other people kindly. Amen.

Answers: No = 6 times; Yes = 8 times. Jesus said, "This is my body" and, "This is my blood."