



# The Ship

**St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter**

Anglicans and Methodists working together

**Number 130**

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## Holy Week and Easter

This will be a very different Holy Week and Easter this year but it's wonderful to be able to return to church albeit in a still somewhat limited way.

We still need to wear face coverings, observe social distancing, use hand sanitizers and complete "Test and Trace" forms/use the QR code. We need to ensure the church is well-ventilated so warm clothes will probably remain the order of the day! Our services will last approximately 40 minutes and numbers will be restricted to 30 so we need to gather in good time! Sadly congregational singing is not yet permitted.

We know that some people may feel that returning to worship in church now still represents too great a risk. This is totally respected and understood.

But for all of us this is a time for rejoicing and for hope and for many of us it offers once again the opportunity to share in receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion.

### **PALM SUNDAY 28th March**

9.30am Holy Communion in Church (live streamed on our YouTube Channel)

### **Mon 29th, Tues 30th, Wed 31st March**

8.00pm Compline via Zoom **see overleaf**

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY 1st April**

7.00pm Holy Communion in Church

### **GOOD FRIDAY 2nd April**

12 noon Liturgy with Holy Communion in Church (live streamed)

1.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm Reflections on the Passion on our YouTube Channel

### **EASTER DAY 4th April**

7am Sunrise Service via Zoom led by the Revd Alan Wickens **see overleaf**

8.00am Holy Communion in Church

9.30am Holy Communion in Church (live streamed)

### **SUNDAY 11th April**

8.00am Holy Communion in Church (BCP)  
9.30am Pre-recorded YouTube Service

### **SUNDAY 18th April**

9.30am Holy Communion in Church (live streamed)

### **SUNDAY 25th April**

8.00am Holy Communion in Church  
9.30am Pre-recorded YouTube Service

## On Reflection

I am writing this article on the day that has been designated as a "National Day of Reflection" to mark the year anniversary of the beginning of the first lockdown. Very fittingly we have been called to remember those who have died, to grieve with those who have been bereaved and to seek hope and comfort for those who likewise continue to struggle under the burden of the many other consequences of this terrible disease.

A little over two thousand years ago the followers of Jesus would perhaps have been marking around three years of travelling with this itinerant preacher and miracle worker who had somehow changed their lives. Gradually they had begun to recognise that what He claimed to be amounted to far more than the charismatic rabbi who walked with them day by day. Increasingly they had come to see in Him the One whom God had promised would restore the fortunes of His people. No, life alongside Jesus had not always been easy. There was a great deal of opposition. Being aligned with Him was not necessarily a comfortable place to be. But at the beginning of the first "Holy Week", as now we call it, they were on the cusp of hope.

And so the week unfolded. These were surely strange times as they moved among the crowds of those who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. The children of Jerusalem were shouting the praises of Jesus. The churchmen were hostile and suspicious. But the week came to an end with an event that only Jesus Himself had predicted: His cruel and ignominious death on a crude wooden cross.

Over this past year perhaps some of us have been more aware than almost ever before of death shadowing us and ours. For many the pandemic has ushered in a long Good Friday; made more painful to bear perhaps in the cold dark winter days of this most recent lockdown. Just a few days ago a friend confided that she felt now that she is living Holy Saturday. We stand between the pandemic and the future. The worst ravages of COVID, please God, may be over; the vaccine roll-out continues apace, but, as for those first disciples, hope has become elusive and fragile.

At half-term I wrote a brief article for our St Jude's Junior School newsletter. I included a bold reference to the two tubs of narcissi I had planted at the end of last year. It was a bold reference because I certainly don't seem to have been endowed with the proverbial green fingers, and yet I was asserting with complete confidence that the bulbs would bloom in spring! Now I can tell you that they did! They are a glorious sunshine outside the Vicarage front door. They testify to the promise of the changing seasons which roll round year by year from winter to spring and they are the handiwork of our Creator God.

And in God's handiwork is our hope. That long Good Friday; the ghastly grief and uncertainty of the first Holy Saturday gave way to something new. Life returned to the world in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ whom God raised from the dead. I'd like to invite you this year to re-read the narrative of the first Easter morning. One of my favourite accounts of that day is in John's Gospel, Chapter 20v.1-18. The suffering, sorrow and despair of these past months also is captured in the stricken figure of Mary Magdalene, who is grieving the loss of everything which meant most to her. And in her utter distress she meets with Jesus.

We too have lost much. We may have been spared the agony of bereavement, the pain of serious illness or the threat of job loss. We may have been able to remain close to loved ones and to enjoy the privilege of living in this beautiful part of God's world. We may not have had to risk our lives as we went to work day by day or juggle our workloads with child care. But we have all lost something that we once held dear.

Without Good Friday there would be no Easter Day. Easter Day is God's promise that nothing can separate us from His love. It is an invitation to face the future with Him.

*Judith Allford*

## Church Services

If you would like to attend one of our Holy Week Compline services on Zoom please contact the Vicar on 01784 434133 and she will send you an invitation.

After Easter we shall be returning for the time being to our earlier pattern of one service in Church each Sunday, alternating an 8.00 service in church one Sunday with a 9.30am service the following week. As far as possible we shall also maintain our programme of online worship.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. In common with most local churches we have remained closed for many weeks although closure has not been mandatory. This has been a painful time for many but has been guided very much by our desire to keep each other safe and to protect our local NHS providers as far as we can. Now we are back but we shall remain vigilant regarding the progress of the virus and will continue to play our part in trying to ensure the well-being of our worshippers and our community.

## From the Registers

### Funerals:

(8th March) Olive Frances Pearl Maugham; (18th) Jeanne Ann Jones; (22nd) Kate Leddy.

## Readings at Communion

4th April Acts 10. 34–43  
(Easter Day) Easter Anthems  
1 Corinthians 15. 1–11  
John 20. 1–18

11th April Acts 4. 32–35  
(Easter 2 Low Sunday) Psalm 133  
1 John 1. 1–22  
John 20. 19–end

18th April Acts 3. 12–19  
(Easter 3) Psalm 4  
1 John 3. 1–7  
Luke 24. 36b–48

25th April Acts 4. 5–12  
(Easter 4) Psalm 23  
1 John 3. 16–end  
John 10. 11–18

## Annual Meetings

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting (where we elect churchwardens — currently Diana Bendall and Claudia Tubb) will take place on Sunday 25th April at 11.30am. You are warmly invited to attend.

The meeting will largely take place digitally, via Zoom. To take part, please ensure that we have your email address and an invitation, with a digital link, will be sent to you nearer the time. We shall be able to invite a small number of participants who do not have access to Zoom, to join us in person within the church. Again, please let us know if you would like to do that. Thank you all!

The APCM is where we receive the revised Electoral Roll and the Annual Report and Accounts and elect four members of the Church Council.

If you would like your name to be added to the Church Electoral Roll, please email [roll@stjudeschurch.info](mailto:roll@stjudeschurch.info) for an application form. Please note that this is nothing to do with the local authority Register of Electors.

## The Village Centre

[www.villagecentre.org.uk](http://www.villagecentre.org.uk)

01784 471110

Sadly there is still no immediate prospect of our Village Centre Cafe reopening although hopefully we may be able to give you news of that in the next edition of the SHIP!!! But other aspects of our work continue apace.

Our collections for the Runnymede Food Bank are continuing and we can receive items each Monday and Friday morning.

Our Community Fridge and Kitchen is beginning to thrive. Many local people are visiting week by week. We are extremely grateful to local retailers who are supplying us with surplus food and grateful also to our volunteers who are regularly collecting the food for us. Thank you to our local Spar, Picnic on the Green and the Beehive Pub, and to Waitrose and Tesco in Egham who have already helped us greatly. The Co-op in Old Windsor will shortly begin assisting us also.

The fundamental principle behind the Community Fridge is that of redistributing good food which would otherwise be wasted. Our distribution record so far is 150kg in one week! The facility is available to everyone within the area. Opening times at present are Mondays and Fridays, 9am–11am

Volunteers are now spending Mondays cooking meals at the Centre and Tuesdays delivering them in the community. If you know of someone who is isolated, unwell, shielding, or who for some other reason would benefit from the occasional gift of a freshly cooked meal, please let us know. Please let us know also if you'd like to volunteer your help!

We are often asked if there are particular items needed for the Centre itself. There will be a Village Centre "wish list" basket introduced into the lobby shortly so that those who wish to do so have the opportunity to donate things for which we have a particular use. We are grateful for your generosity to us.

Please do get in touch with Ali:

[manager@villagecentre.org.uk](mailto:manager@villagecentre.org.uk)

if you would like to know more about what we are doing, or if you would like to offer to help in any way. Please also remember, in the continued wake of COVID 19, that if you, or someone you know, has particular needs, you can still access help from the Village Centre/Mutual Aid by contacting 07526 360704 or the Runnymede Borough Council triage line, 01932 838383.

## Easyfundraising.org.uk

Please do remember that if you register with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and select St Jude's Church, Englefield Green as your chosen charity, you can then shop online with many organisations (including Amazon, John Lewis, etc) and make money for St Jude's at the same time without costing you a penny.

## Giving to St Jude's

We are looking to do some much needed external work on the church and we shall once again be very glad of your support if possible. We are mindful of the challenging financial circumstances faced now by so many. Churches are no exception to this and your generosity means so much to us.

Please do access our website ([www.stjudeschurch.info](http://www.stjudeschurch.info)) for details of ways in which you can give to St Jude's Church.

## Diary for Holy Week and April 2021

Our Sunday services (and Holy Week) are shown on the front page of this Newsletter