

**All Saints Church, Kempston
St James's Church, Biddenham**

Virtual Church News

**13th March 2022
Second Sunday of Lent
(2nd Sunday)**

Welcome to Virtual Church News. Hard copies will be circulated to those without access to email/social media. If you know of anyone without email who you think would benefit from a hard copy, please email stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Our Normal Sunday Services Until 31 March (see page 2 for April onwards)

1st Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints
9.30am Joint All Age Service (followed by said Holy Communion) at St James's

2nd Sunday of the month

- 9.30am **Morning Worship at St James's**
10.00am **Holy Communion Service at All Saints**
6.00pm **Service of Evening Prayer at St James's**

3rd Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints*
9.30am Holy Communion Service at St James's (Explorers in the Church Barn)
7.00pm Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship

4th Sunday of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints

5th Sunday of the month (when there is one)

- 9.30am Service at St James's
6.00pm Choral Evensong at St James's

We also hold online services during the week via Zoom at 9.00am on Monday and 6.00pm on Wednesday. To join these Zoom services, simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

We hope you will join us at our services as we explore a mixture of both traditional and new ways of worship.



Reading for the Week

Luke 13.31-end

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

**Her
children
arise and
call her
blessed**

**27th
March**

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Join us to celebrate
Mothering Sunday

Posies of flowers will be
given out during the
service

**Everyone
Welcome!**

St James's Church
Biddenham
9.30am

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

I find this such a powerful reading, especially coming, as it does, a few days after world woman's day. Traditionally we have focussed in Christianity on the fatherhood of God, yet here we have this beautiful feminine image that Jesus paints; 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing,' In this, there is both the love of a mother for her children, and grief at their failure.

Jerusalem, the city of God, was so important to Israel, God's people. That place was the symbol of a God who was present with his people, and the message of the prophets was that the Messiah would establish the centre of faith again in that temple. When this Gospel was written, around AD 60, imagine the disappointment the Israelites had experienced. The Romans had engaged in a war with Israel and had decimated the city of Jerusalem, destroying the Temple. Had God gone back on his promises and abandoned his people? Was he no longer present?

This is love however, a motherly love of God. That great Israelite text, Isaiah 49:15; "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" reminded the Israelites that God is faithful as a mother is faithful to her children, and even if a mother's love is tested to its limits, God's love is unlimited.

Let us pray...

Mother God,
we recall the depth of your love,
that despite the suffering we may encounter
in the world,
You are always there for us.
Help us to know your presence,
and the power and depth of that love.
In Jesus name,
Amen



All Saints Missions Table Top Sale

The next All Saints Church 'Missions Table Top Sale' will THIS SUNDAY. All donations of Home grown and Home made produce would be welcome. The cash proceeds from the sale of the produce will go to the PCC's chosen Charities. In February £30 was raised, thanks to all donors.

The message of the New Testament is that the limited love presented by the Israelite Temple cult, may make it appear that God has left his people in the destruction of the Temple, but actually he is there in a much deeper, richer way through Jesus.

It will feel to them through those terrible events that God is absent, that they face a time of silence, but there will be a time when they are able to proclaim; "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

The narrative takes us to Palm Sunday, which in the Christian calendar, is recalled on the Sunday before Good Friday, and Jesus comes as a liberating King, riding into Jerusalem on a Donkey. His coronation is not on a throne, but rather on a cross, with a crown of thorns. God, in Jesus declared his love for us in that while we were still sinners, he laid down his life for us (Romans 5:8).

We see the extent of this love that even in Christ dying for us, the power of his love does not allow him, even then, to reject his own people, the Jewish people. The promises he made to them still stand, and at the end the day Jesus died for them as much as he died for us (Romans 11:25).

This passage reminds us that God loves us with the heart of a mother as well as a that of a father.

God bless,
Eric

Our Sunday Services from 1 April

From 1 April our normal Sunday services will be changing as set out below. Of course Easter falls in April this year so services over Easter weekend will be a little different to this - check out our Easter Service details on page 4.

1st Sunday of the month

10.00am All Age Worship at All Saints
10.00am All Age Worship at St James's
11.15am Holy Communion at All Saints

2nd Sunday of the month

9.00am Said Holy Communion at All Saints
10.00am Holy Communion at St James's
6.00pm Evening Prayer at St James's

3rd Sunday of the month

10.00am Holy Communion at All Saints
10.00am Morning Worship at St James's
7.00pm Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship

4th Sunday of the month

9.00am Said Holy Communion at All Saints
10.00am Holy Communion at St James's
(Explorers in the Church Barn)

5th Sunday of the month (when there is one)

10.00am Service Wholeness & Healing at St James's
6.00pm Choral Evensong at St James's

All Age Reading

The Lord is my light and the one who saves me.

So why should I fear anyone?

The Lord protects my life.

So why should I be afraid?

² Evil people may try to destroy my body.

My enemies and those who hate me attack me.

But they are overwhelmed and defeated.

³ If an army surrounds me,

I will not be afraid.

If war breaks out,

I will trust the Lord.

⁴ I ask only one thing from the Lord.

This is what I want:

Let me live in the Lord's house
all my life.

Let me see the Lord's beauty.

Let me look around in his Temple.

⁵ During danger he will keep me safe in his shelter.

He will hide me in his Holy Tent.

Or he will keep me safe on a high mountain.

⁶ My head is higher

than my enemies around me.

I will offer joyful sacrifices in his Holy Tent.

I will sing and praise the Lord.

⁷ Lord, hear me when I call.

Be kind and answer me.

⁸ My heart said of you, "Go, worship him."

So I come to worship you, Lord.

⁹ Do not turn away from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger.

You have helped me.

Do not push me away or leave me alone,

God, my Saviour.

¹⁰ If my father and mother leave me,

the Lord will take me in.

¹¹ Lord, teach me your ways.

Guide me to do what is right
because I have enemies.

¹² Do not let my enemies defeat me.

They tell lies about me.

They say they will hurt me.

¹³ I truly believe

I will live to see the Lord's goodness.

¹⁴ Wait for the Lord's help.

Be strong and brave

and wait for the Lord's help.

From International Children's Bible courtesy of Bible Gateway

The All Age Bit

This week we are looking at Psalm 27 - a Psalm all about putting our trust in God. This Psalm was written by David. We have seen from previous stories that he knew a lot of danger, but still his heart worshipped God. We can choose to put our trust in God just as David did and worship Him even as we face fears and overcome challenges. Do you know what worship is? It is our way of giving adoration and glory to God - showing God that we love Him. We can worship through song, dance and art but also through our actions and the choices that we make.

Activities:

Lantern Craft - V1 says "the Lord is my light and the one who saves me". Can you create a lantern? Cut out a lantern shape (you can get templates from the internet) and then make the glass from coloured cellophane or sweet wrappers. Alternatively, cut the lantern outline out of greaseproof paper and then use felt tip pens to colour in the 'glass'. Hang your lantern in the window so that the sun can shine through it.

Worship - David chose to worship God even during difficult and dangerous times. Why not make time to worship God together as a family this week. You could each choose a favourite song or hymn to add to a worship playlist or explore other creative ways of worshipping such as dancing, creating art or just resting in God's presence.

Song:

May the God of hope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXZYzXNjEY>

Prayer:

Dear God, you are my light and the one who saves and protects me. Teach me your ways and guide me to do what is right. Help me not to be afraid, but to trust in you, just like David did. Amen

Resources from Journey Together (www.tath.co.uk)

Suggested Music

Lord, you are the light of life to me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQ8kq1azVBU>

Jerusalem the Golden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZd1XHq8BDU>

Longing for light, we wait in darkness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt3Qc04uIOM>

Psalm 27

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLLGwt-wZbl>

Prayer Group

Our joint prayer group meets online at 8pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Join us in praying for our churches, communities and beyond. For details, or to request prayers, email stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

All Saints Church, Kempston

Dedication Service for the preservation and replacement of two ancient bells, and the refurbishment of the ring of 10 **Sunday, 3rd April at 4pm**

We'd like to thank everyone for their support for the Appeal Fund. The work was completed in December 2019, enabling us to ring for Christmas services and for the New Year.

To celebrate the completion of the project we invite you to a dedication service, followed by refreshments in the church hall.

All are welcome



Please contact Dr Nicola Darwood
(113 High Street, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7BP
or n.darwood@gmail.com)
by 26th March if you wish to attend

Holy Week and Easter Services

Our services during Holy Week and Easter will be as follows:

Palm Sunday 10 April

- 9.00am Palm Sunday said Holy Communion at All Saints
10.00am Palm Sunday said Holy Communion at St James's
6.00pm Evening Prayer at St James's

Monday 11 April

- 7.00pm Evening Prayer at All Saints

Tuesday 12 April

- 7.00pm Evening Prayer at St James's

Wednesday 13 April

- 7.00pm Evening Prayer at All Saints

Maundy Thursday 14 April

- 7.30pm Holy Communion at St James's

Good Friday 15 April

- 10.00am Children's Easter Event at St James's (Church Barn)
12.00pm Reflection at All Saints
1.00pm Reflection at St James's
2.00pm Reflection at All Saints
3.00pm Reflection at St James's
(Both churches open until 3pm)

Easter Sunday 17 April

- 8.00am Service of Light at St James's
9.00am Service of Light at All Saints
10.00am Holy Communion at All Saints
10.00am Holy Communion at St James's

Bedford Foodbank

Please continue to support this valuable charity. They fed 1,478 people in January (504 of them children). This is a huge increase on previous months and the same time last year. See their website for up to date details of what they need. www.bedford.foodbank.org.uk

Revive - 3rd Sundays

A short act of worship over a coffee, then unfolding the scriptures together. 7.00pm in St James's Church Barn. Everyone invited.



Plants!

The St James's Social Committee are planning a tea party in May/June (more details to follow) at which they hope to have a plant stall. If you are taking cuttings or sowing seeds, it would be great if you could do a few extra! Thankyou.



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