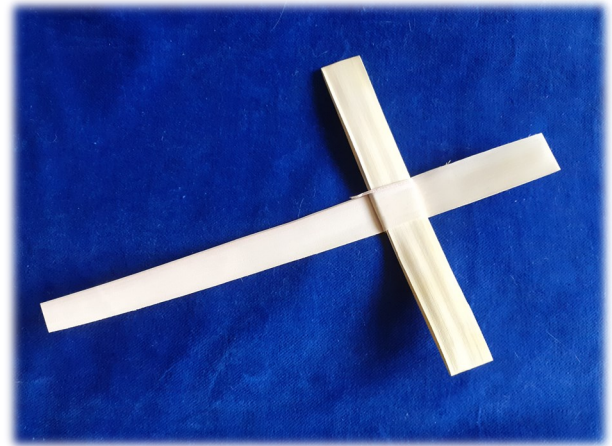


All Saints Church, Kempston
St James's Church, Biddenham

Virtual Church News

10th April 2022

Palm Sunday
(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

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 - See right for our Easter Service details.

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

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.



Annual Meetings and Electoral Rolls

The Electoral rolls (membership lists) for both churches are currently being revised prior to the Annual Meetings. Full details on page 4.

Message From Rev Eric Lomax

Jesus approached the temple of Jerusalem and stared up at a city occupied by the power of Rome, and the penetrating power of religious authority. The man riding on a donkey with his small band of religious misfits did not stand a chance, yet still they had come to herald a new kind of power, a new kind of kingship.

The authority of Rome was invested in the emperor. Caesar, with his military might, filled his subjects with terror. People could whisper their opposition to him, but even then they could not trust the people around them. Equally there was nothing to be gained by violent protests. Caesar's military power could not be challenged. His army had subjugated most of the known world, and when the Jewish Zealots rose up against Roman Rule in

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EASTER

Holy Week
Monday: 7pm Evening Prayer (All Saints)
Tuesday: 7pm Evening Prayer (St James)
Wednesday: 7pm Evening Prayer (All Saints)
Thursday: 7.30pm Holy Communion (St James)

Good Friday
10am Children's Event (St James)
12pm & 2pm Reflection (All Saints)
1pm & 3pm Reflection (St James)

Easter Sunday
8am Service of Light (St James)
9am Service of Light (All Saints)
10am Holy Communion (both churches)

Everyone
Welcome!

Reading for the Week

Luke 19.28-40

²⁸After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."' ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' ³⁴They said, 'The Lord needs it.' ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!'

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' ⁴⁰He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

We can see what power can do, the power of emperors and kings, the power of tyrants and bullies, and the power of arms.

Message continued...

AD 70 the religious revolutionaries were brutally crushed, and the Jewish Temple was decimated.

The Religious powers in Jerusalem imposed a different kind of oppression. Their power was literally the fear of God. Do not sin, do not transgress the Jewish law because there would be devastating consequences. Sin was dealt with by severe punishments including death. If a woman, for example, committed adultery then she would be pursued by a lynch mob who would pound her with stones until the life was drained from her, and even if nobody found out, God knew everything and one would not escape wrath.

Just as we find in the modern world, in Afghanistan, in Russia, in Iran or Yemen, fear was (and is) the weapon.

As Jesus and his followers approached Jerusalem, he offered something completely different to this form of rule. I guess that many people expected that particular kind of kingship. Surely he was going to crush Rome, surely he was going to place his kingly throne in the centre of the Temple. He would take up the royal mantle, and he, together with the great God, Yahweh would preside over the Jewish people, while crushing anyone who challenged that rule. So they greeted him as King.

Of course, when it happened, Jesus' revolution was different to what people expected. Sure enough

there was a throne, but it was a cross of torture. Surely there was a crown, but it was a crown of thorns. Instead of spitting hate at his enemies, he proclaimed love and forgiveness. His kingship was one that beat swords into ploughshares, and spears into pruning hooks, because this prince was the prince of peace.

Many had seen this love before, and many doubted that this love would achieve anything. The doubtful had their fears confirmed when, five days later, Jesus cried out from the cross 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?' Then he breathed his last. He was taken from the cross and buried in a tomb.

There were some who could not quite believe that he was gone, that love was lost. Still, in faith, on the third day, they made their way to the tomb. Remember these people who had lived under the power of tyrants and bullies, religious and military oppression, know what fear was, and they had hoped so much that love, on which they had placed their hope, had not gone. They knew fear, and I wonder what their fear was as they approached the tomb on Easter Sunday morning. Their fear was that love really had died, and as they approached that tomb, they believed that cold corpse of love lay inside that cave.

The stone had been moved away, and when they looked inside, the tomb was empty. There was no death inside, no corpse, just a few pieces of cloth. Love had risen. There was nothing in the tomb, so quite literally there was literally nothing for them and for us left to fear. Fear had been defeated by our Great King Jesus Christ, and love was and is now alive. No reason to be afraid!

Amen. God Bless, Eric

Let us pray...

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory. Amen



Children at St James

John & Sue Lambert have restarted Explorers for the children once a month and from April this will be on the 4th Sunday. This means that we will have an All age service on the First Sunday and Explorers on the fourth. It may be that in time we will be able to have Explorers on three Sundays a month but in the meantime we want to give the children more on the other Sundays and also allow their parents/carers to join in the service. We have prepared some material based on the Lion Story Bible that we will have at church ready to be used with no further preparation. If you think that you can help either on your own or with another person and would be happy to be on a rota then please let me know. You can contact me on 07968157556 or simon@5kings.co.uk.

Suggested Music

All glory laud and honour

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

Hosanna, Hosanna

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

Ride on, ride on in majesty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAh1lzSQ3P4>

Heal our land

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9q9kdh5Dh0>

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

Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

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ST JAMES'S CHURCH BIDDENHAM

MUSIC FOR MAY

A concert by the Ouse Valley Singers
with soloist Philippa Jones

Saturday 21st May
Biddenham Pavilion, Deep Spinney
7.30pm

Tickets £10 (light refreshments included)

For tickets, contact:

Anne 214805 or Sue 342373

All proceeds to St James's Church



ST JAMES'S CHURCH
BIDDENHAM

SPRING TEAS



Plant Sale

Cream Teas

Tea Towel
Display

Sunday 8th May

2.30pm - 5.30pm

St James's Churchyard/Barn

PLANT CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME TO JANE (359014) OR
PAM (327035) OR DELIVER TO 49 CHURCH END

ALL PROCEEDS TO ST JAMES'S CHURCH

Ukraine Financial Support

To help meet the cost of supporting people fleeing the war in Ukraine, the Church (St James Biddenham) has launched an appeal for funds from the local community. Funds will be held in a restricted account and will be used only to help meet the many needs of those refugees arriving in Biddenham and Bedford for however long our support is required.

Please consider giving to this fund. There are a number of ways you can make a donation: By cheque – payable to "Biddenham PCC" (Please include a note of your name and address so as to allow Gift Aid to be claimed). Place your donation in a Gift Aid yellow envelope (available in Church). Please mark the envelope "Ukraine Support". By Bank transfer – sending your donation to the following account:

Biddenham PCC

Sort Code: 60-02-13 (NatWest Bank)

Account No: 51317710

In the reference field please enter "Ukraine" followed by your postcode and house number.

Gift Aid will be claimed where possible – adding 25% to the value of your donation.

Donations can be handed to a Church Warden or simply placed in the weekly collection. Alternatively, donations can be sent to the PCC Treasurer at 32a Church End, Biddenham, MK40 4AR. Thank you.

The All Age Bit

In this week's reading, which you can find on page 2, we read about Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. The people in the story seem excited at the arrival of Jesus, they believed He was the promised King, the Messiah who had come to save them. They were probably expecting a mighty warrior who would defeat the occupying Roman Empire so they might have been surprised to see Jesus riding a donkey. Jesus however was fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah (9 v 9): "Rejoice greatly, people of Jerusalem! Shout for joy, people of Jerusalem! Your king is coming to you. He does what is right, and he saves. He is gentle and riding on a donkey, on the colt of a donkey." What makes a King is not a crown, a throne or a castle, it is having a Kingdom. A place where they are in authority. The people in the story recognised and celebrated who Jesus was; not just a King as Zechariah had prophesied but a Saviour. "Hosanna" which the people shouted means "save us", they recognised that even though he was riding on a lowly donkey Jesus had power and authority, that he was the saviour they had been promised.

Activities:

Leaf Art: The people in the story were so excited to welcome Jesus that they grabbed what they could find to worship Him. What can you find in your garden or on a walk to make some worship art from? Leaves? Sticks? Flowers? Arrange the items you have found to make your own picture.

Palm Crosses: Why not try to make your own palm cross to put in your window. An instruction video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCKXyiA4JiM> This video was made by another church during the lockdowns.

Song:

Make Way, Make Way

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alCQ7fb0hEA>

Prayer:

Jesus, please help us to welcome you into our lives just as you were welcomed into Jerusalem. As families from Ukraine come to live in our community we pray that they will feel welcome and loved. Amen.

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

Electoral Rolls & Annual Meetings

The Church Electoral Rolls are being revised by the Parochial Church Councils. The All Saints revision is now complete. The St James's one is open for revision until 12th April. Following the revisions, copies of the Rolls will be exhibited at the back of the relevant church for inspection. Forms for application for enrolment can be obtained from:

All Saints: Shirley on 07469 205 938 or emailing shirleybrown2227@yahoo.com

St James: Jacqui on 0778 686 710 or emailing stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com.

Completed forms should be returned by the end of the revision period as set out above.

The Electoral Roll is akin to a membership list for the church. Being on the roll enables you to take part in the proceedings of the Annual Meetings, which will be held as follows:

All Saints: Tuesday 26th April* at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. **Please note the change of date from that previously published.**

St James: Wednesday 27th April at 7.30pm in the Church Barn.

Please contact the relevant PCC Secretary on the above contact details if you have any queries.

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 Missions Table Top Sale

Please note that there will not be a Missions Sale at All Saints in April, but we plan to resume in May, date yet to be confirmed. Thankyou to all who contribute and donate.

Easter Monday Pilgrimage

Join pilgrims from across the Diocese of St Albans to celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Monday, 18 April, at St Albans Cathedral.

Drive or travel by train to St Albans and join everyone there, or travel to Harpenden and join people from a hub church to walk the rest of the way.

For more details see

<https://www.easterisnow.faith/easter-monday-pilgrimage>



Easter Monday
#StAlbansEMP

PILGRIMAGE

St Albans Cathedral | 18 April
Procession at 2.30pm | Service at 3.00pm
Find out more at www.EasterisNow.faith

DIocese of ST ALBANS
Using God's Love

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