

## Holy Week



This is the week leading up to Easter Sunday. It starts on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before

Easter Day; it's the day when Jesus went into Jerusalem. Many believed he was going to be a mighty king – like David - who would overthrow the hated Roman rulers. They waved palm branches in front of him as he made his way there to show that they considered him to be their king.

Jesus spent the week teaching in and around Jerusalem. Meanwhile, many people, expecting the imminent overthrow of the Romans, were becoming frustrated...

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus met with his friends for the Passover supper, where he broke bread and drank wine and asked his friends whenever they did this to remember him. This meal was the basis of Holy Communion today. One of Jesus' disciples was paid by some Jewish leaders, who hated Jesus, to tell the Romans where he was. Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen but he allowed Judas Iscariot to go to the Romans. He then went into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray for what was about to happen and for his friends. While he was praying, Judas returned with the guards and Jesus was arrested.

## Good Friday

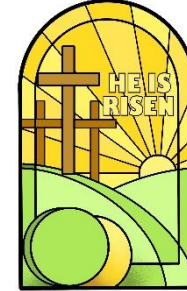


Good Friday. **Good** Friday? How is it *good*? Isn't this the day Jesus died? Well, yes, it is, but let's continue the story:

Jesus was whipped and beaten and brought before Pontius Pilate, the Roman ruler, but he could find no fault with Jesus. He then asked the crowd who had gathered whether Jesus should be crucified – an excruciating way to die, reserved for the worst criminals. Many Jews, perhaps frustrated with what they thought was a lack of action from Jesus to overthrow the rulers, said he should die. Jesus was therefore crucified. Whilst on the cross, he experienced all the past, present and future sin, pain and death. He was largely silent on the cross, but just before he died, he said, 'It is finished', showing he had won the victory over death. As he died, the curtain in the temple which separated the Holy of Holies (God's presence) from the people was torn completely in two, showing that the way to God was now open to everyone through Jesus.

This is why, in spite of Jesus dying the most painful death and being mocked by many people, we call this day **Good Friday**: God the Father paid the ultimate sacrifice and sent his son to die for our sins so that we could have eternal life with him.

## Easter Sunday



How come Easter Sunday is only two days after Good Friday? Didn't Jesus say that he would rise in three days? Jewish days start and end at sunrise and sunset. He was placed into the tomb on Friday afternoon (day 1), and was in there all day Saturday (day 2), rising from the tomb after sunrise on Sunday (day 3).

Jesus had been in the tomb from Friday to Sunday, so, according to Jewish law, his spirit would have left him; he was definitely dead! Because Saturday was the Sabbath when no-one was allowed to do any work whatsoever so that they rested, no-one would have been near the tomb; no-one could have moved the stone away from the tomb entrance. No-one would have expected to see him alive, explaining why his friend, Mary Magdalene, didn't recognise him until he spoke. It was conclusive proof that Jesus had beaten death and opened the way for us to God the Father.

It's humbling that God, faced with humanity, many of whom ignore or deride him, sacrificed his son, Jesus, knowing that only he could beat the devil/death and knowing that Jesus would die an horrendous death out of the most amazing love for us – for you!

# How can you celebrate God's amazing love?

Firstly, you can eat an Easter Egg (preferably a Fairly traded one)! The egg symbolises new life – the new life with God Jesus gave us through his death and resurrection.

You could send an Easter card to your family and friends to remind them of the amazing love of God.

You could also spend some time with God with other Christians in church. The week between Palm Sunday and Easter Day is called Holy Week and here are the services in the Benefice:

**Sunday 24 March – Palm Sunday**

0930	ROWBERROW United Benefice Communion – Part 1 Walk to Shipham Church
1030	SHIPHAM United Benefice Communion – Part 2

**Tuesday 26 March**

2000	SHIPHAM Tenebrae Service
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*This is a service where we remember the events leading up to Jesus' death. Candles are gradually extinguished until the church is in darkness*

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0930	ROWBERROW United Benefice Communion – Part 1 Walk to Shipham Church
1030	SHIPHAM United Benefice Communion – Part 2

2000 SHIPHAM  
Tenebrae Service

*This is a service where we remember the events leading up to Jesus' death. Candles are gradually extinguished until the church is in darkness*

1900 AXBRIDGE  
United Benefice Communion  
*This is a said service which includes the stripping  
of the altar. It's followed by Compline*

2015 AXBRIDGE  
Service of Compline  
*This is a short, simple service to conclude the day*

0900 SHIPHAM  
The Cross Walk

*This service begins at Shipham and then we walk across the hills to Axbridge, stopping at points along the way.*

*Walking shoes are highly recommended*

1130 AXBRIDGE  
Act of Worship in the Town Square

1200 Save the Children Lunch, Shipham Village Hall

1400 ROWBERROW  
Final hour at the cross

1900 ROWBERROW  
Easter Vigil  
*The service begins outside the church*

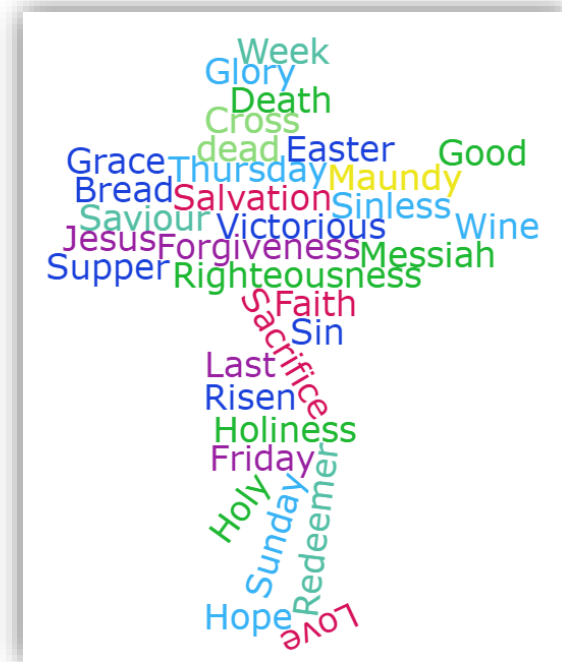
1000	AXBRIDGE/ZOOM
	Easter Communion
1000	SHIPHAM
	Easter Communion

**St. John the Baptist Church, Axbridge:**  
The Church Steps, The Square, Axbridge, BS26 2AP

**St. Leonard's Church, Shipham:**  
The Square, Shipham, BS25 1TW

**St. Michael & All Angels Church, Rowberrow**  
Rowberrow Lane, Rowberrow, BS25 1QL

# The weekend which changed the world for ever



## Benefice of Axbridge, Shipham & Rowberrow