



## The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Westerham

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



Newsletter: April 5<sup>th</sup> to April 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Although our buildings are closed (\*See below) "church" continues:

### Sunday

This week I encourage you to join in with the Palm Sunday service led by the Bishop of Manchester which at 9am on Palm Sunday (April 5th) – On [Youtube](#) and on [the Church of England Facebook page](#). We are encouraged to make our own paper or card 'palm' crosses and display these in our windows; the Bishop of Manchester will put a paper 'palm' cross in the window of his Salford home during this service, marking the start of Holy Week and Easter.

Each Sunday I aim to share some thoughts with you based on the lectionary reading for the week. Please look at [this article](#) on the church website, which contains Sunday's reading from Mathew's Gospel telling of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday. The crowds shouted "Hosanna!", meaning "Come and save us!" What might they have wanted saving from? What might we want, or need, to be saved from?

### Monday to Saturday

[Morning Prayer at 8.30am and Evening Prayer at 5.00pm.](#)

We continue to pray at home as a church family using the same words at the same time from Monday to Saturday. You can find the daily Morning and Evening Prayer on the Church of England page [here](#). You can also download the Daily Prayer app on your phone - it's available for both iOS and Android devices.

You can also find the services of "Prayer during the day" and "Night Prayer (Compline)" if you would find it helpful to pray these prayers as well at a time that suits you.

### Worship From Home

Our [new page on our website](#) which has prayers, Bible studies, reflections and suggestions to help you has been further updated and now contains links to resources to help you celebrate Easter at home.

**PCC Meeting Rescheduled** - Thursday 16th April at 7.30pm. on-line using Zoom; members please look out for emailed invitations and the paperwork which will be sent out this week.

**“Going For Growth”** – which was scheduled 2nd May has been post-phoned as Graham Wilkinson, the Tonbridge Archdeaconry ‘Growth Enabler’, has been ‘furloughed’ until the end of May.

### **Keep In Touch!**

I encourage you to be good neighbours – please continue to phone those who might be lonely or need help as well as those who might just enjoy a chat. Contact me if you are unable to offer help yourself.

### **Finance**

We understand these are difficult times financially; they are for the church too as we no longer receive our weekly cash offerings, or donations from visitors as well as income from renting our hall. You can help at no cost to yourself if you buy things online...

**Easyfundraising for St Mary’s** When you are doing your online shopping, please remember easyfundraising. You can shop with thousands of high street names and without costing you an extra penny, you can raise funds for St Mary’s. To date we have raised over £900 with over 30 supporters — thank you. Please [register here](#) and you’re away!

**Amazon** If you shop at Amazon then please consider going via <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and registering to support “The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Mary The Virgin Parish Church Westerham Kent” so that that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to us at no additional cost to you.

Thank you!.

The website is up to date with all we are doing; please check it regularly as this is the best method of keeping everyone up to date, particularly as things are changing so quickly.

By necessity much of what we do is via the internet. I know not everyone has access and so if you know of anyone who would appreciate the material we have, ask them to contact me and I will print and post it to them.

### **Feedback**

As we discover more of how to “be” church it would be helpful to know what resources you find helpful, and those you don’t. Is there anything else we could do to help you spiritually at this time? Please email the vicar below.

Finally, **we pray**

Dear Father,

My heart and mind are flooded with fears.  
Sometimes I am paralysed, I feel unable to go on.  
These fears are overwhelming, they remain with me day and night.  
Yet I hold onto your truth.  
You have told us not to fear, for you have overcome the world.

So I cling to you, I trust in your promises, that you will never fail me, never forsake me.  
In moments of such crippling fear,  
I choose to hold your hand.  
I know you have experienced the most fearful places,  
I know that you have risen again.

In you all promises meet and new life begins.  
You are my Saviour,  
I hide in you,  
Protected by your love,  
And sheltered by your grace.  
My Father.  
Amen.

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*Revd Kevin Barnard*

01959 563127 [vicar.westerhamchurch@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.westerhamchurch@gmail.com)

\* There are no Sunday services or midweek meetings at the church at the moment. Following the Government announcement on Tuesday the Archbishops and Diocesan Bishops of the Church of England underlined their advice to “stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives”. Furthermore we are now unable to hold weddings, baptisms or funerals in church until further notice. (Funerals can be held at the graveside and in crematoria, although there are limitations on numbers who can attend.) This means that our building is fully closed; now also for private prayer and visitors.

Our church office is closed, but Alyson has access to church documents and emails to which she is responding from home. If you require a response via phone, please call the vicar, details below.

The Foodbank is still open and needs our support, although the collection point in the church building is obviously not available; the collection points at The Co-op, Wolfe Garage and Waitrose Biggin Hill are available. And if you know anyone in need of the Food Bank’s help and support at this difficult time, or you need this support yourself, then please contact the foodbank at 01959 562147 or 01959 562058 or via email [westerhamfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:westerhamfoodbank@gmail.com).