



The Vicarage, 65 Church Street, Langford, Bedfordshire SG18 9QT
01462 700248
rev.shاون.speller@gmail.com

From the Vicarage

Friday 26 March

‘Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”’

Mark 11.7-10

Despite this rapturous reception, many who shouted “Hosanna” would soon be calling for Jesus to be crucified. Why this change? Because they came to realise that Jesus was not the kind of Messiah they had been expecting. They were looking for a warrior king who would lead them into battle against their Roman oppressors.

The crowds would soon turn on Jesus because he did not go about things in the way they had expected. We may have little sympathy for the crowd, but we all have times when we think we know better than God.

Corrie Ten Boom, who suffered in a German concentration camp, used the illustration of a tapestry to encourage us, as Christians, to keep on trusting God even when we do not understand what God is doing in our lives. From our limited perspective our lives often look like the back of a tapestry – messy and purposeless. Yet on the other side of that tapestry will be a beautiful picture formed from all those seemingly random threads. This is God’s perspective. God sees the whole picture and is working purposely in our lives. Let’s not be like the crowd who wanted things their own way. Instead, may we pray for the faith to trust that our heavenly Father knows best.

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday	Blessing of Palms	St Mary's Churchyard	9.00 a.m
	Morning Worship	Online https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72337650077?pwd=bCtnbU4rWGdmRW45UUEvSms2UmRRUT09 (Meeting ID: 723 3765 0077 Password: 0Wg7Kw)	10.00 a.m

Mon - Weds	Compline	Online https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439947254?pwd=bWJncjJGT1FNeGZHVzFvdnpgT0RsUT09 (Meeting ID: 824 3994 7254 Passcode: 341574)	8.00 p.m
Maundy Thursday	Silent Eucharist	St Andrew's	8.00 p.m
Good Friday	Stations of the Cross	St Mary's	10.00 a.m
Holy Saturday	Lighting of the Easter fire and Paschal candle	St Andrew's	8.00 p.m
Easter Day	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's	9.00 a.m
	Holy Communion*	St Mary's	10.00 a.m
	Online Worship	Zoom https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72337650077?pwd=bCtnbU4WGdmRW45UUEvSms2UmRRUT09 (Meeting ID: 723 3765 0077 Password: 0Wg7Kw)	11.30 a.m

*Confirming that you wish to attend is advised given that social distancing rules still apply and reduce capacity. Please contact the Vicar.

Sunday 28 March

Blessing of Palms and a reading of the Passion narrative will be at St Mary's, beginning in the churchyard @ 9.00 a.m.

Online Worship will be via Zoom @ 10.00 a.m using this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72337650077?pwd=bCtnbU4rWGdmRW45UUvSms2UmRRUT09> (Meeting ID: 723 3765 0077 Password: 0Wg7Kw)

Please stay or join for virtual coffee after the service.

The Church of England's online service is @ 9.00 a.m. The service for Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy week comes from St Paul's Church Scotforth in Lancaster, and is led by Rev Dr Rebecca Aehtner. The link is here: <https://youtu.be/1zr2t86GMQY>

Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4 is at 8.10 a.m. Methodist minister Revd Dr Calvin Samuel leads a celebratory service marking Palm Sunday. The link is here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000tm91>

Sunday April 11

Morning Prayer @ 9.00 a.m. St Mary's

Holy Communion@ 10.00 a.m. St Andrew's

Online @ 11.30 a.m. (Join from 11.00 a.m. for coffee before the service begins)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72337650077?pwd=bCtnbU4rWGdmRW45UUvSms2UmRRUT09> (Meeting ID: 723 3765 0077 Password: 0Wg7Kw)

Lent Group

The group which has been meeting for Lent will resume on 13 April for the final sessions in 'The Prayer Course'.

Worship and Prayer by telephone



A reminder of Daily Hope which is a telephone service offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. Sunday worship is available each week from 9.00 a.m. The line is free and available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**.

Tuesday Morning Prayer

We meet each Tuesday @ 9.00 a.m for Morning Prayer and to pray particularly for those in need of prayer at this time. Use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82310905515?pwd=eGszaTUvdW5jcWNL1U5YXFBT0trQT09> (Meeting ID: 823 1090 5515 Passcode: 237323)

Virtual Wednesday Coffee morning

The virtual coffee mornings are now being held weekly on Wednesday between 11.00 and 12.00 a.m. Please do come along if you can. You don't have to stay for the whole hour, but many people are continuing to value the opportunity to see and speak with each other, even if virtually at this time. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82945268510?pwd=R0U4VFI4Z1J6Ri9xNWJET0dZem5ZQT09> (Meeting ID: 829 4526 8510 Passcode: 855870)

Friday Compline

We meet for Compline (Night Prayer) each Friday @ 8.00 p.m. All are welcome to join us. Use this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73672170367?pwd=QnVKWTRpR3g5VWk0WUtCQ3hhNFRkQT09> (Meeting ID: 736 7217 0367 Password: 7YC29t)

Annual meeting of Parishioners (APM) & Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 2021

Annual Meetings for St Andrew's will take place on Friday 23 April and for St Mary's on Saturday 8 May. You will find below links to nomination forms for the election of churchwardens at the APM, and PCC and Deanery Synod representatives at the APCM. If you would prefer a hard copy please let me know.

Please consider whether you would like to serve, either again or for the first time, in any of these capacities. There is a particular need for representation on the deanery Synod for St Mary's, especially important given the proposed changes within the Ampthill and Shefford Deanery, affecting the benefice. If you are willing to stand again, or for the first time, for any of these positions please obtain a proposer and seconder. Then print their names on the appropriate nomination form and return it to the PCC Secretary - for St Marys (Carolyn Taylor) or for St Andrews (Charles Clark).

Churchwarden

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Form-for-Nomination-of-Churchwardens.pdf>

PCC

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Form-for-Nomination-of-PCC-Members.pdf>

Deanery Synod representatives

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Form-for-Nomination-of-Deanery-Synod-members.pdf>

A Prayer

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

May God bless you and keep you as we journey through Holy Week.

Shaun