

'Not the Parish Magazine' but something a little different! Issue 26



**Across Holy Trinity, South Chatham
we want everyone to be safe**

**St. Alban's
Church,
Bluebell Hill.**

**St. David's
Church,
Lordswood.**

**St. William's
Church,
Walderslade.**



***As restrictions and lockdown are lifting we are
planning to resume worship in the churches from
Palm Sunday (28th March.) This will be subject to
very specific guidance as explained on page 2.***

Always we begin again!

These words of St. Benedict seem particularly appropriate as we take steps to resume a pattern of Sunday worship in our churches. Members of the CEC agreed that we should return to the pattern of *one service for the parish each Sunday morning* beginning on Sunday 28th March (Palm Sunday – the start of Holy Week.) As previously we shall be following both Government and national Church legislation and guidance so, as far as we are currently aware, this will mean

- † Hands - Face- Space will still apply (sanitising our hands on entry/exit, face coverings and maintaining 2m spacing between chairs.)
- † Test and Trace will be operating (via the App or completion of a form)
- † You will need to take your seat as directed and leave the building immediately after the service – we still can't sing.
- † Once outside the building you must comply with social distancing rules, i.e.
 - on Palm Sunday you *will not* be able to gather outside, even at 2 metres, to chat to others.
 - assuming we move to the Government's next step on 29th March, it would only then be possible to follow the 'rule of 6' or '2 households' for gathering outside the building.

For everyone's safety, both congregation members and the wider community, it is essential that we all adhere to these directions if we are to gather in the churches ready for Easter. You may have questions so please do contact the clergy if anything is unclear. Whilst numbers in the churches will initially be limited all are welcome back. However, if you feel this is not the right decision for you please do not feel any pressure to return until you are ready.

For the time being we shall not be resuming our midweek chapel services but shall continue to livestream a service via YouTube on Thursday mornings at 11.00am.

Sunday worship for coming weeks*

Sunday, 28th March (Palm Sunday)

Spring forward



**10.00am Holy Communion and
blessing of palms: St. David's,
Lordswood.**

Sunday 4th April (EASTER DAY)

**10.00am Holy Communion and
renewal of Baptismal promises:
St. William's, Walderslade.**



Sunday, 11th April

**10.00am Holy Communion: St. David's,
Lordswood.**

***subject to Government guidance.**

Please note that we are in the process of commissioning substantial repairs to the floor at St. Alban's and the CEC agreed that it would be neither safe nor wise to use the building at present. We will not be worshipping at St. Alban's until these works are completed and we are very grateful to Aylesford Parish Council for the grant that will enable this to go ahead as soon as possible.

The next Newsletter will be posted/emailed during the week beginning April 12th and will include service arrangements for the following weeks. It is likely that we shall continue the pattern above and that weekday chapel services will remain suspended but you will be updated on any changes at the earliest opportunity,

Holy Week 2021

Our plans for the week beginning Monday 29th March are:

**Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th,
Wednesday 31st:**

Each evening at 7.00pm there will be a service of Compline (Night Prayers) on our Facebook page.



Maundy Thursday, 1st April:

our usual **Thursday Morning Worship** will be streamed at 11.00am on YouTube.



and



at 7.00pm a **Service of Tenebrae** on Zoom. Tenebrae (*Latin: shadows*) is a traditional service of readings and reflections on Jesus' passion.

Good Friday. 2nd April:

The Last Hour from 2.00pm on Zoom.



Information for joining the Zoom services will be sent out in our weekly Saturday emails – if you don't receive these and would like to then do let us know, Compline will be streamed live to our Facebook page at 7.00pm on each of the three evenings.

Another Return - but is this normality?

In Newsletter 24 I briefly mentioned some thoughts that Bishop Simon had been sharing, his three Rs –

Recovery, Re-imagination, Reach

As we begin to worship together again it seems that the time is right to begin to unpack these a little more. I know that for some returning to the churches for worship raises more questions than answers – from personal safety to the many activities that were regularly taking place in the buildings just over a year ago. You may want to resume the teas, coffees, cafes, and sales but before we rush into re-creating the past we need to recognize that our initial focus needs to be listening. Listening to one another and to our local community. Hearing what the needs are around us and whether we have the resources to respond.

- ✠ **Recovery** is not instant, it must be gradual. When a bone is broken or a muscle torn we aren't immobilised one day and expect to complete a sprint the next! If our bodies need rest and gentle exercise so it is with the Body of Christ. We need to spend time looking for God in our midst, recognizing what God is doing already before we rush headlong into our own plans and wondering why God isn't with us – are we with God?
- ✠ **Re-imagining** is the time for listening and refreshing, time to identify how the world around us has changed over the past year. A popular definition of mission is 'finding what God is doing and joining in.' That sounds fine but it raises the challenge that God may not be

working through traditional churches and their activities and so we may need to walk with others and learn from them.

✝ **Reach** into the places God calls us. They may not be the same as we anticipated in 2020 but if we have turned to God, prayed with open hearts and minds there will be fresh opportunities. We have got accustomed to thinking that we measure our reach by those who attend worship, drop into social and hospitality events but over the past year we have also been aware of the likes on our FaceBook page, the views for our YouTube broadcasts. The former have faces and names, the latter are often simply statistics, but all are part of the life of our parish.

The post pandemic world ahead of us will be different from the one before and so will the Church. Both are likely to be mixed economies of online and actual face to face contact. Just as I don't expect the Kings Ferry coaches to be running at full capacity over the coming months so it will take time for us to discern new patterns of worship and activity.

This is not a task for the clergy, lay ministers or CEC but for every member of our churches and communities to take part in for only then will we know that we are listening to one another and to God. We need to risk holding up a mirror and seeing ourselves as God does -whether in church or not, seeing his beloved children of every age and background and sharing his love and grace with them. This Easter may we be a resurrection people, may God renew in each of us his calling and refresh us with his love.

Elaine



Bible Focus and prayers



Here are the readings and collects for the coming weeks.

Palm Sunday – 28th March

(John 12: 12-16) Isaiah 50: 4-9a, Psalm 31: 9-16, Philipians 2: 5-11, Mark 14: 1 – end of 15

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.



Easter Day – 4th April

Isaiah 25: 6-9, Psalm 118, Acts 10:24-43, Mark 16: 1-8



God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

2nd Sunday of Easter – 11th April

Exodus 14: 10-end, Psalm 133, Acts 4: 32-35, John 20: 19-end

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. Amen.

Keeping in touch (on Zoom)

We are still continuing our pattern of social events on Zoom so coming up we have:

Coffee Morning: Monday, 29th March – 10.30am
Tea at Three: Wednesday, 7th April – 3.00pm

**Live streamed worship every
Thursday morning at 11.00am
on  YouTube**



Although we are resuming Sunday worship in the churches our online service will continue, the link to the service is posted on our **Facebook** page (**Holy Trinity South Chatham**) and included in the weekly email that is sent out each Saturday.

Some materials in this booklet are drawn from Common Worship: Additional Collects, which is copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England 2004.

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and our facebook page Holy Trinity South Chatham



Holy Trinity is a partnership between the Church of England and the Methodist Church, comprising the churches of St. Alban, St. David and St. William and serving the communities of Blue Bell Hill, Lordswood and Walderslade. A registered charity no. 1135416