



Open to God, Open to all

The Parish Churches of St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham,  
St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour and St Nicholas, Silton

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6802/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6802/)  
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## Sunday 29 March PALM SUNDAY

*CW Lectionary Liturgy of the Palms Matthew 21. 1 – 11; Liturgy of the Passion Phil. 2. 5 - 11; Matthew 27. 11 - 54*

10:00am Procession & Holy Communion St Mary's Church, Gillingham

*(For procession, please meet in the Vicarage School Room by 10am)* Hymns: 163 (printed in order of service), 161, 147 (omit \*vs), 423 & 181 (choir), 159 (omit \*vs), Anthem: God so loved the World (Stainer)

Prayers for healing are usually available after the 10am service in the side chapel at St Mary's

10:30am BCP Holy Communion St Nicholas Church, Silton

10:30am Procession & Holy Communion St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour Hymns: 9, 580, 396, 738

*(For procession, please meet in the school car park by 10:30am)*

3:00pm Messy Church Vicarage School Room

### Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father.

### For your thoughts and prayers

Norma Morris, Adam Cooke, Steve & Mary Rae, Roberta Wyatt, Rita Burns, Allen & Pauline Bryant, Carol Hebden, Mary Andrews, Diane Whitford, Ann Lockyer, Jean Harding, Anne Clarke, Shirley Lynch, Sandra Haward, and David Clegg & family.

We commend to God's care all those who have died, especially Maureen Atkinson, and we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

## LITURGY OF THE PALMS

### THE PALM GOSPEL Matthew 21. 1 – 11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

## LITURGY OF THE PASSION

### READING Philippians 2. 5 – 11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### THE PASSION READING Matthew 27. 11 – 54

For those at St Mary's and St Simon & St Jude, please see separate sheet. If you would like to read the Passion Narrative according to Matthew for yourself an online link to the text can be found in dramatic form at <https://www.oremus.org/liturgy/passion/matthew.html>



## Monday 30 March, Tuesday 31 March, Wednesday 1 April

10:30am Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

5:30pm Compline at St Nicholas Church, Silton

## Wednesday 1 April

2:00pm – 3:30pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Singing Together' at Rawson Court

2:00pm – 4:30pm Eden Café and TerraCycle recycling in the Vicarage School Room

*Also today at Eden, Jo's Crafts - new in hand embroidered lavender bags, Easter cards and gifts.*

## Thursday 2 April Maundy Thursday (Parish Office closed, re-opens Tuesday 7 April)

10:00am – 12noon Eden Café and TerraCycle recycling in the Vicarage School Room

11:00am Eucharist of the Chrism and Re-affirmation of Vows at Salisbury Cathedral

*Celebrating ministry and service, the Chrism Eucharist is an opportunity for the clergy and everyone to renew their commitment to Christian service as the clergy renew their ordination vows. The Bishop leads this service, and blesses oils for use in ministry the following year.*

2:30pm – 4:00pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Sing-a-Song of Praise' at The Malthouse Care Home

5:30pm BCP Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church, Silton

7:30pm Eucharist and stripping the altars, followed by vigil at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

*Hymns: 165 (Gathering), 489 (Gradual), 604 (Washing), 171 (Offertory), 460 (Communion)*

*We would really appreciate a few people to volunteer for foot washing as an important symbol of this Holy evening; please come prepared. Alternatively, we will also be offering hand washing. The service will end without notice, leading into the Watch in the Good Shepherd Chapel which people are welcome to stay for.*

## Friday 3 April Good Friday

9.30am – 10am Informal Prayer Group at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

11:00am Churches Together Walk of Witness, with refreshments in the Vicarage School Room following

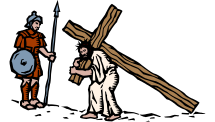
*Walk of Witness procession starts at The Barn Surgery car park.*

12noon Short Service at St Nicholas Church, Silton

1:00pm Short Service at St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour, with byo picnic lunch to follow

2:00pm Last Hour of the Cross Service at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

*During the service there will be a procession of the cross with veneration, and simple distribution of communion.*



## Saturday 4 April Easter Eve

9:30am onwards Decorating for Easter at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

*Any donations of foliage will be gratefully received on the day or please leave in the church porch.*

*Monetary donations towards flowers will also be most gratefully received. Thank you.*

10:00am Meditation in the Vicarage School Room

8:00pm Easter Eve Service of Light and Vigil at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

*Hymns: 189 (Before Readings), 188 (Gradual), 199 (Post-Sermon)*

*Please note that a small amount of incense will be used at this service.*

## Sunday 5 April EASTER DAY

*CW Lectionary Acts 10. 34 - 43; John 20. 1 - 18*

8:00am Holy Communion St Mary's Church, Gillingham

10:00am Holy Communion St Mary's Church, Gillingham

*10am Parish Communion with children's activities and Easter egg hunt after the service.*

10:30am BCP Holy Communion St Nicholas Church, Silton

10:30am Holy Communion St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

11:15am Holy Communion St George's, Langham



## Finance Bite Size 18 for St Mary's

Now that the 2025 balanced accounts have been approved by PCC and passed inspection, they are now ready to present to the APCM. The Stewardship Campaign concluded with a stirring sermon by the Revd. Canon Tim Heaton and a preliminary review of the campaign results will also be presented at the APCM. To contribute to how and where we might go from here please do attend the APCM on 28 April.