

ALL SAINTS @ EASTER 2019

April 14th PALM SUNDAY

8.00am Communion Service

A quiet service with the whole passion of Jesus read from the gospel in place of a sermon.

9.45am Parish Communion with palm procession

Starting at the Jubilee Hall, everyone receives a palm cross to keep for the coming year and is blessed at the start of the service. Carrying palms, we process down Church Lane and into church, singing the first hymn, led by the choir. The youngest children join the procession and then return to the Jubilee Hall for their own activities. The sermon on Palm Sunday is the reading from Luke's gospel. Read by many different voices, we all join in unfolding the story of Jesus' last days on earth ending with his crucifixion.

April 18th MAUNDY THURSDAY

8.00pm Communion Service with foot-washing, stripping the altar and prayer vigil.

The Communion service is a remembrance of and thanksgiving for the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his friends on the night before he died. Before the meal, Jesus washed the feet of all his friends and in church, the Vicar will wash the feet of some of the gathered congregation to remind us, that as Jesus demonstrated we are servants of each other.

It was during this meal that Jesus broke and shared the bread which he said was his body. He also shared the wine which he told them was his blood which would be shed the following day. Once everyone has received the bread and wine, what is left is put on a side altar and the church is plunged into darkness. On the night of the original last supper, Jesus went outside into the dark night, was arrested by the guards and taken away. His friends all ran away.

In church, in the darkness, while the choir sing psalm 22, all the hangings, furnishings, and books are removed so that the church is left unadorned and stripped down to the plain wood. People will be in church praying until later that evening.

April 19th GOOD FRIDAY

9.00am story, tea and toast

The story of Jesus, death and resurrection is simply told for toddlers, (who may bring an adult) and followed by toast and tea or coffee.

10.15am Family Service

This act of worship was specially written for this day. A huge cross is set up as a focal point and the story of Good Friday slowly emerges, through readings, drama, songs and prayer, involving many different voices. The story reaches its sad climax and we are all invited to come forward, stand in front of the cross and receive a wooden pocket size reminder of the event. By the end of the morning, we learn why what seems to be so bad is turned into Good Friday. The service lasts about 50 minutes and is followed by coffee and hot cross buns

12noon Liturgy of the Day

In front of the cross, using the common worship liturgy with many other Christians round the world, we become involved with the sombre and solemn nature of Good Friday. Beginning with a series of readings, prayers and silence, followed by hearing the last chapters of John's gospel read by one voice, the focus of the service is on the sacrifice of Jesus and how it affects us personally. Towards the end of the liturgy, everyone is invited to come forward and stand in front of the cross to make their own personal act of thanksgiving, while thought provoking music is played. The service ends with a litany of prayer.

April 21st EASTER SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion a quiet celebration of Easter with a short sermon and followed by Bucks Fizz and croissants

9.45am Parish Communion

Starting with the choir singing a joyful Song of Praise at the back of the Church, this sung service is a huge celebration (*with many alleluias*) of the Resurrection. The major Festival of the church's year is full of joy and Easter music, with all the words printed in one booklet for everyone to join in! Lasting just over an hour, Prosecco or soft fizzy drinks are served afterwards to celebrate the 'fizz' and excitement of the resurrection – tea and coffee are also available.