



**St John the Divine Church,
Selsdon
Sunday 28TH March 2021
PALM SUNDAY**

Welcome

Welcome back to St John's it is so lovely to have the congregation back in the church. We hope that you enjoy today's service whether you are in the church or in the comfort of your own home. We thank all those who have helped keep the services running over the past few months and look forward to spring in the church.

Today the service will be taken by Revd Stephen Wright and Revd Michael Skinner

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU

Opening Prayer

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. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

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. **Amen**

Psalm Today : Verses taken from Psalm 118

First Reading:

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Gospel

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So, they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

John 12:12-16

For your prayers: Read by Gill Sharpe

We pray for God’s love to surround:

Tano Grima, Margaret Rapp, Robin Sullivan

We pray for those who have died recently:

Peter Brice, Gloria Sayer

We pray for loved ones on the anniversary of their death:

28th March	Percy Wilson	(1976)
	Lesley Jordan	(2014)
	Joy Beadle	(2015)
29th March	Roy Chesson	(1981)
31st March	Ronnie Corbett	(2016)
	Sidney Ferris	(2016)
1st April	Grace Hall	(1968)
2nd April	Joan Sheen	(2017)
3rd April	Ethel Smith	(2001)
	Robert McDowall	(1999)
	Keith Holt	(2012)

If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another, please email rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com And if you would like to include the name of a loved one among the list of the departed on the anniversary of their death, please email Amanda on the above email.

Please give NOTICES for inclusion in the weekly service sheet to Amanda bookingsstjohns@gmail.com preferably by e-mail, or in writing. It would be helpful to receive this before * Tuesday * each week.

If you'd like to discuss arranging a baptism (christening), a wedding or a funeral, please call

Tel: 0208 6572343 or email rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com

The Parish Office

Will be open Mon- Thur 9am -2pm

Tel: 0208 6

mobile number 07958 682103

email bookingsstjohns@gmail.com

St John's Website address is:

www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk

**To find our Facebook page simply (Google) search
St John the Divine Selsdon**

THE BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK'S LENT CALL 2021

In the last year so much has changed and we have all become much more aware of the fragility our lives and our communities. The footballer, Marcus Rashford, has helped to raise everyone's awareness of the need to ensure that our children are adequately fed during school holidays. But it is not just schoolchildren who are at risk. Whole families are in need of help, as well as couples and individuals. That is why the diocese is focusing the Bishop's Lent Call this year on food insecurity, both here in the Diocese and in our Link Dioceses.

**We are collecting for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call.
Please see our website for more details www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk**

You can make your donation down the drain at the back of church.

Sunday Services at 10 am

Could we remind everyone of the following:

Coronavirus is highly infectious. Older people and those with underlying health problems are at increased risk of severe illness and potentially death

It is critical that we follow strict rules if we wish the church to remain open

1 Everyone must wear a mask properly unless they have a compelling reason not to do so and must sanitise on entry to and departure from church

2 Spacing is critical, please do not huddle together and please keep 2m apart unless you are in a bubble, sit on chairs which have a green square on them

3 Leave church in a measured way, not in a scrum and do not stand at the back of the church talking to others

4 Windows need to be open, as does the back door

We hope to have a slow return to normal services and will still be streaming the service live on our facebook page at 10 am and there will also be a link on the website for a week

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP THE CHURCH OPEN AND PROTECTING OUR CONGREGATION

Please say a prayer for Gloria Sayer whose funeral will take place on Wednesday 31st March at Croydon Crematorium. Gloria was a member of the Wives group and would be there to give a helping hand at many of the events that the wives were involved in. She will be greatly missed.



Good Friday
Walking The Way Of
The Cross



Walking the way of the Cross - with Churches Together in Selsdon and Addington

This year we aren't able to hold the usual walk of witness on Good Friday through Selsdon. Instead, Churches Together have come up with an innovative alternative. One of the ministers from each church has recorded a short meditation on an episode of the Passion story. A link to this recording will be found via a QR code displayed on a poster outside the church, which you can connect with via a QR Code reader on your smart phone. So you can have a walk to any of the churches in your own time during Holy Week - or visit several in one walk - and pause to listen to the meditation when you get there. We hope this will be a meaningful way to remember Jesus' suffering and death in this strange year.



Plant Sale

SUNDAY 23RD MAY 2021

AFTER THE 10 AM SERVICE

With this in mind, please sow an extra seed or two, or pot up any spare plants from your garden.

Maybe make an extra pot or two of marmalade or put an extra cake in the freezer to sell on the day. Thank you.

BOOKS BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

A message from Gill Sharpe

I have been (slowly!) working through the church library which, as you probably know, has been very much enlarged by the legacy of Douglas and Sandra Walford, to weed out books which now need a new home.

I have delivered the first lot to Book Aid and received the following letter from the Director. I thought the congregation would like to see it, as I will certainly be asking them for spare bibles (see last paragraph).



Dear Gillian

Thank you for your phone call today and I hope that you manage to drop off the boxes of books successfully! Book Aid has been closed during this recent lockdown hence the lack of a response recently. However we are poised waiting for the go-ahead to reopen, unsure, of course, when that will be!

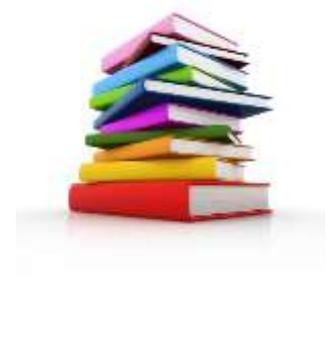
We are always grateful to receive good books to send abroad on our programme. Last year we sent approx. 400,000 in shipping container loads to our partner bookshops in Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria which help to maintain Christian bookshops in those countries. The ministry is founded on the principles of making books available 'at locally affordable prices' so that the shops can support themselves and last for many years.

The next country we will be packing for is Zimbabwe although they are in such need that they have asked us for half the shipping container to be filled with Bibles. We know that humanly speaking this is just not possible so we have to trust God to provide. Would St John's 'Spread The Word' about this for us? There is some urgency and Bibles in usable condition would be a real blessing.

*Once again many thanks Gillian
God bless*

Christine Pulsford- Director Book Aid Charitable Trust

**We don't know when our own book sales will come back to St John's in these uncertain times so we ask you to keep your books until we announce there is a sale so we don't have any books lying around the church and hall as we need all the space we can get at the moment.
Thank you for your co-operation in advance**



ST JOHN'S CHURCH

REMEMBERING AT EASTER

This year St John's is offering the opportunity to remember those we never forget by placing an Easter Lily card on an Easter Tree

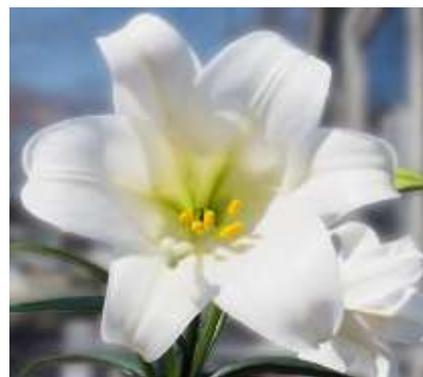
If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of Easter lilies in memory of a loved one, a donation box will be placed at the back of church at the 10am service each Sunday until Easter Day

Please write your loved one's name on an Easter Lily card, put it in the box provided at the back of church or return to Gill Salter or a Churchwarden

The card will be attached to an Easter Tree which will be placed in church on Easter Saturday 3 April 2021 at 10.30am

If you would like any further information or help please contact Gill Salter on 0208 405 9971

salterg@outlook.com



Father Michael's Diary

26 MARCH 2021

CHRIST THE VICTOR



During the days of Holy Week we follow in the steps of our Lord as he walks what Thomas à Kempis called the Royal Road of the Holy Cross. It is a painful road leading through rejection, betrayal, torture and death. It is not a road anyone would choose to walk, yet that is what Jesus did, laying down his life for his friends, for us. But what was going on in what was taking place? What did it all mean?

The one- word answer is atonement, but that isn't much help. "Atonement" is a made up word, it means what it says: at-one-ment. God and humankind are reunited, barriers are broken down, God and humankind at one. But how? How was that atonement achieved?

Various answers have been given to that question over the centuries varying from penal substitution: someone had to suffer for our sins in order to satisfy the justice of God; Jesus, though innocent, took upon himself our sins and our punishment and suffered instead of us. But that makes God out to be an implacable tyrant who demands the price of our sin must be paid even if God has to pay it himself. At the other end of the scale is the subjective theory which says that Christ died not for us but to be an example to us and to increase our love by the contemplation of his sufferings, but this view rejects the greater part of the New Testament. Neither of these, not the various other theories that have been put forward is completely satisfying, but there is a further theory which is most firmly based in scripture and the least open to modern objections.

This is what is known as the classical theory of the atonement. Christ saves humankind by breaking power of all defiles and diminishes us – sin and death. Christ's whole human life, the whole incarnation was a continual battle against these powers of darkness. A battle which reached its final climax on the Cross. Christ's victory there over them introduced a new power into human nature. A power which is gradually transforming the universe from within until the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of God. This is an invisible, at times an imperceptible process, but it is going on, nevertheless. One day we shall reach what Teilhard de Chardin called the omega point when the Kingdom of God will break out in all its fullness. As followers of Christ, we are committed to carrying that process forward by the way we live our lives.

So as this week we walk with Christ that Royal Road we do so in faith that as we follow his example, we shall be helping to bring about his ultimate victory. So, we walk with him the Royal Road of the Holy Cross that we may share with him in the Resurrection, the eternal life of the Kingdom.

READINGS AND PRAYERS

28 March – Palm Sunday – Philippians 2.5-11 – that we may humbly walk the Royal Road of the Holy Cross with our Lord.

29 March – Monday in Holy Week – Fig Monday - Matthew 21.18-22 – that we may be fruitful disciples

30 March – Tuesday in Holy Week - Temple Tuesday – John 32.13-22 – that the Holy Spirit may purify our hearts and minds

31 March – Wednesday in Holy Week – Spy Wednesday –Matthew 26.1-5 & 14-16 – that we may be faithful to Christ

1 April – Maundy Thursday – 1 Corinthians 11.23-26 – thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist

2 April – Good Friday – Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12 – for grace to share Christ's sufferings

3 April – Holy Saturday – Job 14.1-14 – for the hope of the resurrection

Love and prayers

Michael

St Johns Church Selsdon, Upper Selsdon Road,
South Croydon.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday 1st April 7.30pm

This evening we commemorate the day when Jesus gave his followers the commandment to love one another. We recall tonight The Last Supper, where Jesus showed his love for his friends in the institution of the Eucharist- the celebration which is at the centre of our worshipping community



If you would wish to attend this service please
can you call Amanda on 07958 682103 or
email bookingsstjohns@gmail.com to reserve
a place

Singing hymns and spiritual songs...



A weekly roundup from Ian Brentnall

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and our attention is now focussed on the starkly real events of those final days before our Lord gave his life for us. I always found it curious as a youngster trying to come to grips with the ecclesiastical year that all the events which took place during 33 years of Jesus' life, and in particular the three years of his ministry, seemed to be condensed into a period of about three months, and yet this final week was marked in "real time"! As I became older I began to value the time and space we have been given to consider and reflect upon the abrupt contrast between the adoration of the crowds during Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the mocking, degradation and torture he suffered at the hands of the Roman and Jewish authorities only a matter of days later.

We customarily sing the hymn "All glory, laud and honour" in procession before our Palm Sunday morning service to remember our Lord being cheered as he rode into Jerusalem seated on the humblest of beasts. However, I would like to offer you the other best known of Palm Sunday hymns, "Ride on, ride on in majesty!" written in 1820 by Henry Hart Milman (1791 – 1868). Milman was clearly a brilliant poet, historian and cleric, having been awarded prizes for poetry whilst at Oxford, Rector of St Margaret's, Westminster, and Canon of Westminster, and in 1849 he became Dean of St Paul's. He was even elected a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1864. I find the juxtaposition of the first line of each verse against the reminder of what is shortly to occur we are given as the hymn progresses. The tune most usually associated with this hymn is called Winchester New and is derived from an old chorale published in Hamburg in 1690.

1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
Thy humble beast pursues his road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death an conquered sin.

3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The winged squadrons of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The father on his sapphire throne
Awaits his own anointed Son.

5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, your power, and reign.



Diary Dates

Thursday 1st April 7.30 pm

Maundy Thursday service

Friday 2nd April

Good Friday Online Service taken by the Venerable Rosemarie Mallett the archdeacon of Croydon
this service will be online only and can be found on our facebook page and our website

Sunday 4th April 10 am

Easter Day

Join us at 10 am for our Eucharist service children are welcome to join us but have to stay seated as the children's corner is not open due to restrictions.

The services will also be shown live on our face book page and placed on our website for you to watch in your own leisure during the week.

**You need to book a place for Maundy Thursday and Easter Day services
Please either call Amanda on 07958 682103 or email
bookingsstjohns@gmail.com**

Keep the date free

Sunday 25th April

for our APCM

To be held in the church

JOIN US ONLINE THIS GOOD FRIDAY

A quiet meditative service where we remember the trial and crucifixion of Our Lord.

This year our service will be online and led by the Venerable Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon, reflecting on the words from the prophet Isaiah on "The Suffering Servant".



Friday 2nd April

This service will be shown on our facebook page and our website

**St John's Church
Selsdon**



St John's Church, Selsdon, Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon,
CR2 8DD



Easter Day

Sunday 4th April at 10 am

The great day in our Church's calendar, where we give thanks and praise for Jesus' resurrection, his rising from the tomb—the act of love and generosity that has given us the promise of eternal life.



If you would like to attend this service please call Amanda on 07958 682103 or email bookingsstjohn@gmail.com to reserve your place as numbers will be limited due to covid restrictions.

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