



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

## Notices for 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### Services for Holy Week and Easter

**Palm Sunday** – 10.30am Holy Communion, with a reading of St Mark's Passion Narrative (his account of Jesus' final days)

**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** – 9.30pm Night Prayer for Holy Week, using the New Zealand Prayer Book

**Maundy Thursday** – 7.30pm Holy Communion

**Good Friday** - 2.00pm The Last Hour, a service of readings, music and reflections

7.30pm Witnesses, a reflective evening service

**Easter Sunday** – 10.30am All-Age Holy Communion

*Orders of service for Palm Sunday and Holy Week are circulated with these notices. We will send round Easter Sunday's order of service with next week's notices.*

### Walking Holy Week...

...with children. **Holy Week Scavenger Hunt** – get out and about with the younger members of your family (or the young at heart) and do a Holy Week Scavenger Hunt to help you retell the events of Holy Week. This is also circulated with these notices. If you do it, WhatsApp Revd Mary your

photos, and she'll add them to our Facebook Page.

....for all ages **Stations of the Cross** in the churchyard. These will be put up on..... on the grassed area opposite the clocktower. With your back to the tower, start at the bottom left of the grassy area, near to the path, and make your way around clockwise, praying as you go.

### Palm Crosses

Pick up your Palm Crosses from –

**Ashby** – the plastic box outside the Rectory front door

**Breedon** – from Pete's wood store – the box marked 'parcels'

**Coleorton** – from Roz's garden wall

**Staunton** – from Alan and Julia's garden gate.

Dear Friends

Over the last week or so, I've been meeting with each of our PCCs in turn to consider whether we could safely return to our buildings for Easter Sunday – and onwards.

In considering this, we have borne three key factors in mind:

1. the proportion of our congregations who will have received two vaccines by Easter Sunday;
2. the local infection rate;

3. a request from the County Council that places of worship stay closed for the time being; a request linked to the local infection rate.

Weighing up each of these factors, every PCC in the Flagstaff Family has decided that our buildings must remain closed for Easter.

I know that some of us will find being out of our buildings for the second Easter in a row very tough, but you will understand that we have made this decision to protect the most vulnerable, and to play our part in the regional effort to drive down infection rates, which remain above the national average.

In the meantime, although our buildings are closed, our church communities are very much 'open', as you can see from the list of services and activities we have planned for you. I think it will be a very special Holy Week and Easter, and I look forward to journeying through it with you.

Looking further ahead, St Helen's PCC has agreed to re-open for in-building services once our local area moves to Stage 2 of the government road map; that is on or after 12 April (the same stage that non-essential retail and hairdressers and so on reopen). When we do return to our buildings, we will continue to be live-stream our worship for those who are unable to join us in the buildings for whatever reason.

May God bless you and grant you a Holy Week.

Much love

Mary

## NOTICES

### Zoom Prayer Gathering

Please do join Revd Stewart as he leads our Zoom Prayer Gathering this Saturday at 9.30am. The Gathering, which lasts for about 45 minutes, includes a Bible reading and a time of prayer, where people pray aloud or in silence as they feel led.

The Zoom link for this meeting is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84963408355?pwd=dINLVklLRzlhSHN1QURsY0xzcmQ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 849 6340 8355

Passcode: 389093

NB This is a new link.

### Messy Church for Palm Sunday

Please join us for a Messy Church on Zoom this Sunday, Palm Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, at 3.30pm.

Join via this Zoom link –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84297849921?pwd=SU5kVm0zWE1iOWIZeHNlMmUveFYwUT09>

Meeting ID: 842 9784 9921

Passcode: 486789

### Working parties in church

We need two working parties in St Helen's to get church ready to reopen for worship. The first involves some heavy-lifting, the second is cleaning. Please let Mary know if you can help with:

**Heavy-lifting: Tuesday 6 April, 10.00am**

**Cleaning: Thursday 8 April, 10.00am**

## Everyday Spirituality

The Diocese are offering 'Everyday Spirituality' taster sessions to help people develop spiritual habits for everyday life. These are on Tuesday 20th April 7-9pm and Saturday 24th April 9.30-11.30am. To book email: [liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org](mailto:liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org)

## St Helen's APCM: change of date

Notice is given that the St Helen's APCM will now be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

## NEWS

### Thanks from Adrienne and family

The donations received in Alan's memory have now been sent to the Fishermen's Mission. The total amount collected was £830, a wonderful testimony to the love felt by our church communities here and Thornbury and Devon, work colleagues and friends for Alan. Our thanks to you all, Adrienne, Alison & Kate xx

### Electoral Roll 2021

If you would like to join our Electoral Roll at St Helen's, please email Eileen Coombs at [eileencoombs@aol.com](mailto:eileencoombs@aol.com). The Diocesan Registrar has confirmed that online worship counts as habitual worship and so, if you have only worshipped with us online during the pandemic, you are still eligible – and most welcome – to join the roll.

Once the roll is closed two weeks before the meeting, if we are still not worshipping in our building at that

time, the Electoral Roll will be available electronically, on request to [revmarygregory@aol.co.uk](mailto:revmarygregory@aol.co.uk)

## Compassionate Leave

Please note that Jill is on compassionate leave. Please send any enquiries to Mary, or Stewart, or one or our wardens.

## PRAYER

### The Sick

Pray for those who are sick, disabled or housebound.

### The bereaved

Pray especially for the families and friends of anyone known to you who is recently bereaved, and for all families for whom the funerals of their loved ones have taken place during the pandemic.

## Contact Details

- ◆ Revd Canon Mary Gregory:  
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The Flagstaff Family of Churches