

## **Holy Week and Easter - Reliving the greatest Story on Earth: Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection**

In the week before Easter, called Holy Week, the Church offers special services from Palm Sunday to Easter Day to enable us to become part of those events nearly two-thousand years ago which are the fountain of our faith. Below find a short description and explanation of what happens in the Holy Week and Easter services.

On **Palm Sunday** we walk in procession round the market square carrying branches and crosses of palm, representing Jesus' procession into Jerusalem when the crowds cheered him and threw down branches in his path. Back in church, we read the full story of Jesus arrest, trial and crucifixion (the "Passion") as a foretaste of the week's events.

On the **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** of Holy Week we have opportunities for silent prayer at midday and a daily Holy Communion Service at 12.30 pm.

On **Maundy Thursday** the mood changes and for a moment we are celebrating. We are giving thanks for Jesus giving his disciples - and so us - the sharing of the blessed bread and wine at the **Last Supper** as a focus of his continuing presence. We also re-enact **Jesus washing his disciples' feet**. But, at the end, just as Jesus and the disciples went out to the Garden of Gethsemane to wait and pray before Jesus' arrest, so we take the consecrated bread and wine to St Andrew's Chapel, a place of waiting and prayer, where members of the congregation stay in a **vigil of prayer**. The church will be stripped of all ornaments.

On **Good Friday**, we return to church for morning prayer at 9am. From 12.30-3pm, we hold a **service of meditations on the cross** followed by a **liturgy of the cross** inviting us to stay with Jesus at the foot of the Cross until the hour of his death. We leave in silence.

**Holy Saturday** is a day of waiting and preparation – families come to church from 10.30am to make an Easter Garden.

On **Easter morning**, we gather at **5.30am for the Dawn service**, in the dark, to recall the great sweep of God's history with his people in readings from the Old Testament. We then **light the New Fire** - literally, a small bonfire - symbolising the rekindling of life in the Resurrection that first Easter morning. From the fire the **Paschal (means Easter) Candle** is lit, and we process into Church proclaiming "The Light of Christ". With a great organ fanfare and the ringing of bells (bring your own bells!) the lights come on, and we sing **the Gloria!** After the readings, we renew our baptismal promises as a sign of participation in Christ's new life. The service continues in the usual order, but the colour is now white/gold, and the hymns proclaim our Easter joy! On **Easter Day** at 10 o'clock we celebrate the Resurrection with a joyful All-Age Eucharist, which is followed by an Easter egg hunt for the children. Services of **Choral Mattins** at 11.30am and **Choral Evensong** at 5pm continue our Easter celebrations.

We invite you to travel with us through the momentous days of Holy Week and Easter, and look forward to proclaiming with you **"Christ is Risen!"**

## Services in Holy Week

<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>12pm</b>	<b>Christian Meditation</b> ( <i>in Michaelhouse</i> )
	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> ( <i>in Michaelhouse</i> )
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Ark</b> ( <i>in Michaelhouse</i> )
	<b>12pm</b>	<b>Silent Prayer</b> ( <i>in Great St Mary's</i> )
	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> ( <i>in Great St Mary's</i> )
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>12pm</b>	<b>Silent Prayer</b> ( <i>in Great St Mary's</i> )
	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> ( <i>in Great St Mary's</i> )
<b>Maundy Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Eucharist with foot washing and Vigil –</b> <b>Preacher: Bishop Stephen Conway</b>
<b>Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>12.30-3pm</b>	<b>Preaching the Cross and Liturgy of the Cross</b> <b>Preacher: Bishop Stephen Conway</b>
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Easter Garden decorating</b> ( <i>in Great St Mary's</i> )
<b>Easter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>5.30am</b>	<b>Dawn Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter</b>
	<b>8am</b>	<b>BCP Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Choral Eucharist (all ages)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Choral Mattins</b>
	<b>5pm</b>	<b>Choral Evensong</b>