



St Mary's Church, Charlton Kings
Sunday, 27th March 2022 - Mothering Sunday (Lent 4)

A warm welcome is extended to all who take part in our services today whether you are here in person at St Mary's or watching online at home. Face coverings are now optional but Covid is still with us so please continue to respect the sensitivities of other people around you.

TODAY'S SERVICES

8:00am Holy Communion

President: Rev'd Graham Bowkett

**10:00am Service of the Breaking of
the Bread for Mothering
Sunday**

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Readings:

Old Testament: Exodus 2:1-10

New Testament: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: John 19:25*b*-27

Hymns:

SP43 Our Father God in heaven

MP225 He's got the whole wide world
in his hands

JP467 Thank you for the love

CP581 Take my life, and let it be

CP362 Tell out my soul

Choir Anthem:

Ave Maria—Caccini arr, Wikeley

**Please stay and join together for
refreshments after this service.**

Collect

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of
Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,

and on the cross drew the whole

human family to himself:

strengthen us in our daily living

that in joy and in sorrow

we may know the power of your

presence to bind together and to
heal;

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:

Loving God,

as a mother feeds her children at the
breast

you feed us in this sacrament with the

food and drink of eternal life:

help us who have tasted your goodness

to grow in grace within the household
of faith;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

12:00pm Baptism of Annabella

Brignull

5:30pm Prayer and Praise

Leader: Colin Revell

Regular Services in Church

Sundays: 8:00am Holy Communion (CW Order 2— Traditional language)
 10:00am 1st Sunday All Age Service with Communion
 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays Parish Communion (CW Order 1)
 3rd Sunday A Service of the Breaking of Bread (Communion)
 5:30pm 1st Sunday Choral Evensong (BCP)
 2nd Sunday Taizé style service
 3rd Sunday Choral Evensong
 4th Sunday Prayer and Praise
 5th Sunday Full Choral Evensong (BCP)

Thursdays: 11:00am Holy Communion (CW Order 2—Traditional language)

Monday to Friday: 9:00am Morning Prayer 5:30pm Evening Prayer

The 10:00am service every Sunday is also ‘live streamed’ and available to watch on St Mary’s website during the week.

Parish Diary

Monday 28th

7:30pm Choir Practice Church

April

Friday 1st

9:00am Church Flowers Church

12:00pm Lent Lunch Parish Centre

Saturday 2nd

9:30am Holy Dusters Church

Monday 4th

2:30pm Mothers’ Union Afternoon Group Parish Centre

7:30pm Choir Practice Church

7:30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting Parish Centre

Tuesday 5th

9:15am Mothers’ Union Corporate Communion Church

Friday 8th

9:00am Church Flowers Church

12:00pm Lent Lunch Parish Centre

Monday 11th

7:30pm Choir Practice Church



Ukraine — Community Fundraising Event

The total raised by the event on 13th March now stands at £3,850.00 plus there will be some gift aid to be reclaimed directly by the DEC so, although we may not hear the final result, we are hopeful that it will exceed £4,000.00. While this is a terrific outcome, we should not forget the catastrophic impact this unlooked for war is having on Ukraine and its people the effects of which will be with us for years to come. We continue to hold the Ukraine and its courageous people in our thoughts and prayers and will publicise ways in which we, in this country, may be able to offer help in meeting their future needs.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting—4th April at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre

The APCM will be held in the Parish Centre (not in church) on 4th April when there will be the election of Churchwardens and of six members of the Parochial Church Council. Nomination forms for both Churchwarden and PCC members are on the table at the west end of St Mary's. Completed nomination forms should be handed to the Vicar by Sunday 3rd April.

During the meeting the Annual Report and Accounts will be presented and there will be opportunities to ask questions of those presenting reports. As the PCC Treasurer is unable to be present at the meeting, finance questions can be emailed to him at treasurer@stmarysck.org.uk or by phone (Chelt 260575).

Lent Lunches

The Lent Lunches continue each Friday in the Parish Centre between 12:00 noon and 1:30pm until 8th April. Soup, a roll, fresh fruit and tea or coffee for £5.00 - good company, conversation and a warm welcome awaits. Proceeds are shared between Christian Aid and S Mary's Church.

Altar Servers

Discussions are underway to consider how we will use Servers and Acolytes at St Mary's post-Covid pandemic. More information will be issued, and Servers contacted, as soon as possible once the way forward has been agreed.

Mothering Sunday Flowers

Thank to everyone who helped to make up the posies of flowers for today's service.

From the Vicar,

The world at the moment seems to be utterly beset with difficulties. We only just, it seems, getting out of the pandemic, when fuel shortages, food shortages, cost of living concerns – and war come straight to the top of worries.

Even worse though, it's Lent! The season of giving up things. I have had to give up chocolates and biscuits, and cake over the last few years . . . what is there left to give up? I know that in light of the problems facing the world at the moment this doesn't seem much, but boy has it made me grumpy. After all, giving stuff up for 40 days devoted to fasting and penitence in commemoration of Jesus in the wilderness hardly seems a good and proper reason to suffer such agonies year in, year out – does it? It was easy for him, He was the Son of God. How can He know what hardships a human being has to endure? I mean, who can live a proper dignified life without chocolate and biscuits and cake?*

One of the problems of Lent is that it is really easy to be negative about it. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday when ashes are put on the forehead and forgiveness sought. Lent could seem to follow a theme of prohibition, the subject some may consider to be the premise of Christianity. Not so, I proclaim. Lent, Easter, Christmas - Christianity proposes something far better than simply a set of rules, a set of restrictions, regulations or demands – Jesus is a declarative symbol of God's love, all humanity is loved and sought by God, so much so that anything, everything, all, can and will be forgiven if the person opens their heart to God and lives in peace and charity with their neighbour. This declaration is one of action though - you cannot be forgiven because you simply want to be forgiven. You must change your life, turn away from wrong, refrain from sin and open your heart to the possibility that life is not simply about satisfying yourself to the exclusion of others.

This is an invitation to be generous and open to others, to look for the good in all humanity and to not condemn those who are less fortunate than us. Jesus is an open book, tricky to define in terms of political persuasion, but as a human easy, as the Son of God easy, because He is on the side of humanity, all humanity! Lent is a funny time, and there is some very enlightening theology going on behind it. Simply put, it is this - we are preparing ourselves for Easter, looking inside ourselves and acknowledging our weaknesses. By doing so, we are aligning ourselves to the most brilliant gift of all, God offering us salvation through the vicarious offering of Jesus,

who atoned, and forgave, and offered peace and love to all humanity – by his own sacrifice. Humanity is utterly unworthy of that offering, but that doesn't matter, because God decided to hold out a hand and offer it to us. This Lent, this Easter, lose yourself in love; hold no malice to anyone, love all creation, love Christ, love God.

*this entire paragraph is irony, because Jesus very well knew the difficulties of being human. And while I'm at it, I might say I'm not really grumpy, but I have given up chocolate and biscuits and cake - just in case you were wondering, so please have some pity . . .

Every blessing,

Graham

Holy Week Services

All services/events take place in church unless stated otherwise

10th April **PALM SUNDAY**

8:00am Holy Communion

9:45am Blessing of Palms and Procession -

meet in the shopping precinct by the Stanton Room

5:30pm Taizé style service

11th April Monday in Holy Week

7:30pm Stations of the Cross

12th April Tuesday in Holy Week

7:30pm Seder (Passover) celebration

13th April Wednesday in Holy Week

7:30pm Tenebrae

14th April **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

11:00am Holy Communion

7:30pm Sung Eucharist and Stripping of the Altars

15th April **GOOD FRIDAY**

9:15am Good Friday Liturgy

12:00pm Church open for private devotions until 3:00pm

16th April **HOLY SATURDAY**

No services

Stewards for Good Friday - 12:00pm to 3:00pm

While, this year, we are not holding a Three Hour Devotion on Good Friday, we will be leaving St Mary's open from 12:00 noon until 3:00pm for people to drop in to spend some quiet time in private devotions. It would be very much appreciated if we could recruit some volunteer stewards to be present in St Mary's for a half-hour slot during those Three Hours. A sign up sheet will be placed in church so please consider whether you are able to help and sign up.

Cash Collections during services

Restrictions imposed to mitigate the effects of the Covid pandemic included a suspension of cash collections during services at St Mary's. The lifting of these restrictions means that we can resume 'normal' activities, including the taking of a collection during services. From Easter Day (17th April) we will again 'pass the plate' to take a collection at all services and a rota of sidesmen and women to assist with this will be circulated in due course. Former sidesmen and women will be contacted to assist in this but new volunteers to join the rota will be very welcome—please speak to Colin Revell or Jean Hockett if interested.

St Mary's opening hours

During the last couple of weeks we have been leaving St Mary's open from 9:00am until 12:00noon on weekdays. Happily there has not been any repeat of the antisocial activities which forced the daytime closure of church a couple of years ago and so we are pleased to say that we will continue to open St Mary's for visitors and private prayer on weekday mornings during school term-times.

Army Cadet Force (ACF)

From Monday, 4th April, the cadets of the Charlton Kings detachment of the ACF will be meeting in St Mary's Parish Centre. We are pleased to be able to welcome and accommodate their weekly meetings. Here at St Mary's we have developed, through Graham, links with the Air Training Corps, enjoying their presence at some services and, most recently, their help at the Ukraine fundraising event. We hope to build similar links with the Army Cadet Force for these uniformed organisations demonstrate the very best of young people today and we can all be rightly proud of them and the example of service they give to us all.

New cadets are always welcome. To find out more about the ACF visit their website at <https://armycadets.com/> and to learn more about the ATC see <https://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets/>.

Spring -

The season of new life and growth is with us and, despite rising costs, shortages in some commodities, we, in this country have much to be thankful for. We don't live in a war zone; free education and career opportunities, are offered to girls as well as boys; despite funding difficulties we enjoy the benefits of a National Health Service and a Welfare State and for these and other things we have cause to be thankful. It is now two years since the first pandemic-induced lockdown but life, this Spring is returning to some kind of normal.

Here at St Mary's we have already been taking advantage of the opportunities which Spring is bringing us. Since the beginning of the year we have built on the success of the informal 'All Age Service with Communion' by introducing a new monthly pattern of services for both morning and evening. These have been very well received and, together with the earlier start time for the evening service. Social and fundraising events have not been neglected as lockdown restrictions eased. In January our first Bum's Night Supper was followed on Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake and Coffee Morning while every Friday during Lent we are offering Lenten Lunches. Proceeds from the Lenten Lunches are being divided between Christian Aid and St Mary's. The Concert in support of Ukraine was a true community effort initiated and organised by St Mary's.

We cannot sit back and pat ourselves on the back for what has been achieved so far, planning what happens next is beginning but, in the words of Luke *the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few* (Lk 10:2). We need more labourers if St Mary's is to grow into the church that we all want it to be. Besides enjoying the worship, social and fundraising activities you can get more hands on by joining the PCC (there are 6 vacancies) or offering to organise an event? Ideas and offers of practical help should be made to the Churchwardens who will be delighted to hear from you.

Churchyard Cleanup Sessions

To avoid the Easter weekend, the monthly Churchyard Clearups will recommence on Saturday, 24th April between 9:30 and 11:30am. From May through to October the cleanup sessions will take place on the third Saturday each month.

No gardening experience necessary but it would be helpful, if you have any, to bring small tools to help with weeding, pruning, clipping edges and general tidying—not forgetting gloves! Refreshments are provided during the course of the morning's effort.

Please pray for:

Those who are sick including Val Flippance, Brian Clarke and Colin Johnson.
The family and friends of Maureen Potter and Tim Whales who have died recently.
We also remember Betty Kilbey, Clare Pipe-Wolferstan, Dora Talbot, Gordon Burge and Mary Leith whose year's mind falls at this time.

WEDDING AND BAPTISM ENQUIRIES

All enquiries about weddings or baptisms should be made directly to the Vicar.

CONTACTS:

Parish Office 01242 224883,
parishoffice@stmarysck.org.uk

Vicar -

Revd Graham Bowkett, 01242 253402
vicar@stmarysck.org.uk
(Day off—Tuesday)

Church Wardens -

Jean Hockett, 01242 300415
Jean.Hockett@stmarysck.org.uk
Colin Revell, 01242 285757
Colin.Revell@stmarysck.org.uk

Organist -

John Clift, 07708 244844
organist@stmarysck.org.uk

Vergar and Sacristan -

Derrick Walker 01242 525742
sacristan@stmarysck.org.uk

Pastoral Team Lead -

Heather Anderson-Paine, 07814 271716

Pastoral Team contacts -

Heather, Alison and Jenny
Email: pastoral@stmarysck.org.uk

Church Flowers -

Margaret Walker, 01242 525742

Bells -

Hilda Ridley, 01242 511706

Prayer

Mighty and merciful God,
may your kindness be known to all.
Be gracious to those countries
that are made desolate
by war, famine, disease, or persecution,
especially at this time we pray for the
people of the Ukraine in their struggle
to preserve their country in freedom.
Grant that the course of the whole world
may be so ordered in obedience to your
will
that all people may live in security
and freedom from want,
and children grow up
to be makers of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Items for inclusion in the Notices need to be emailed to
Jean.Hockett@stmarysck.org.uk by **Tuesday** each week