

WELCOME TO THE WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR ST MARY'S APSLEY END

Palm Sunday 29th March 2020 and Holy Week

Again, due to the lockdown from Covid-19, sadly there will be
NO organized services at St Mary's. However:

**There will be live streamed services
by Richard from the vicarage
which everyone is invited to join.**

To join live or to watch later, go to the St Mary's page of the website
(address below) to learn how. **For Palm Sunday you might like to create a
'Palm Cross' yourself from leaves or other material before the service.**

Programme for Holy Week for St Mary's and St Benedict's:

Palm Sunday 10am	A reflective service with the Palm and Passion readings
Palm Sunday 9pm	Compline
Monday 8pm	First part of reading the entire Gospel of Matthew
Tuesday 8pm	Second part of reading Matthew's Gospel
Wednesday 11am	Informal all-age service including making an Easter Garden
Wednesday 8pm	Stations of the Cross, using St B's Church Stations
Thursday 8pm	Maundy Thursday service with vigil until 10pm
Good Friday 11.30am	Family Stations, led by members of St M's
Good Friday 2-3pm	Stations of the Cross, using St M's Stations
Easter Day 6.30am	Dawn Service – from the garden weather permitting
Easter Day 10am	Easter Communion

Please pray for

Eileen Kemp,
Clare Tofield-Wallington
All our congregation as we
adapt bigtime.

St Mary's Collect for Growth

Dear Lord, please help us grow St Mary's Church. As we grow
in love of you, draw new people week by week into this church
family. May we show your love to all, within and beyond our
walls. **In Jesus' name. Amen**

Contact Details

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Administrator:	Norma Howie, 01923 266596 saintskl2@tiscali.co.uk (Mon & Wed 7.30am-2.30pm, Thurs 12.00pm-3.00pm, Fri 11.00am-2:30pm)

Weekly Newsletter No 2 from Richard Howlett our team vicar

Dear Friends

As I write, I am preparing for Palm Sunday and services during Holy Week. It hardly needs saying that it will be very different to any Holy Week any of us can remember. Katherine and I have just stood outside the vicarage, where the whole community seemed to be outside their doors and at their windows, clapping all the people of the NHS and letting off fireworks and sounding car horns. A moving, collective, expression of support. Yet it was also a moving expression of solidarity; when we join our hearts, words and actions together, we are not alone.

In the Communion service as Christians we affirm this too 'though we are many we are one body, because we all share one bread'. That bread is Christ, and when we unite in worship, we feed on Him, spiritually. We do not need to share actual bread to do that. Christians in prison and the persecuted church have shown that, despite any adversity, we are united by affirming that 'Jesus is Lord'

So, I hope we will all make extra efforts to join with the different things that will be happening this Holy Week, even if it's very different from what we are used to. A combination of resources produced by the Church of England, our diocese and our local churches will be on offer. In this time of challenge, without parallel in recent memory, for our country and our world, we have an opportunity to go deeper into God's love. In each day of Holy Week, I invite you to travel with the Lord into the confrontation between love and hate, darkness and light, faith and despair. In the story of God's love, we will find a love that is stronger than death, and a Church that was reborn despite all that the powers of death and hell could throw at it.

The Coronavirus has changed things, but let's not allow it to prevent us worshipping the one who died that we might have life. Many of us are aware of friends and loved ones who are ill. It is very painful when we are unable to be with them. Some have died from Coronavirus or its complications. Yet nothing can separate us from God (please read 1 Thessalonians 4 v13-18). As an African Bishop friend said when his son had been killed by a mob at Easter, "our God is not defeated".

**With our love and prayers
Richard and Katherine**

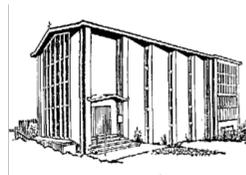
Do join our email list (opposite) as we are trying to keep everyone up to date via at least weekly emails. Another useful source of contact is the **St Mary's Facebook group**.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 27.11-54 GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!' So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

The Benefice of Langelei



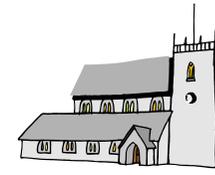
St Benedict's,
Bennetts End



Holy Trinity,
Leverstock Green



St Mary's,
Apsley



All Saints,
Kings Langley

PALM SUNDAY

5th April 2020

The Collect

True and humble King,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

Amen.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

50. 4 - 9a

The servant of the LORD said: 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 backwards. 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?
This is the Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

2.5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD!**