

Sunday 22nd March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent and beginning of Passiontide

- 10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion with Children's Church
- 11.30 a.m. APCM
- 4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church
- 5.30 p.m. Youth Group

Collect for Today

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Service Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (*p.820*), Romans 8:6-11 (*p.153*) and John 11:1-45 (*p.101*)

Please pray for

- ... Beverly, Hannah, Sam, Joe, Lydia and all of Bishop Andrew's family.
- ... Dave Barclay, Mark & Jan Knott, Jenny Powell, Jean Reed, Mike and Rosemary Woodcock.
- ... the family and friends of Malcom Groves, Sheila Watkins and Hazel Woolcock whose anniversary of death is at this time.
- ... those who live and work in Farm Walk, Farnham Road and Friars Gate.
- ... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Financial Giving

Donations are welcome at all our services. If you don't give regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme, please put your donation in the bowl, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

Dear Friends

I wonder how your Lenten journey has been this year? With Easter Sunday just over two weeks away, we are nearing then end of Lent. Did you manage to stay away from chocolate or wine or cakes? I wonder what you started to do for the first time, if you didn't give anything up?

Above all, I wonder how this period has bought you closer to God? What conversations have you had? Perhaps you can hear that quite whisper a little more clearly. What has God called you to do now?

For me, Lent has been a very different experience. My dad died just before Lent and we had his funeral during Lent. I have found that God has given me enormous strength during this period. I feel I can take on anything, actually! I've discovered that, by God's grace, as I approach ordination, I have a public life now. I look out at our congregation and community to the people I have the privilege of serving - it is really quite formational and God given. My calling is getting stronger and stronger every day.

Personally, I have learnt to not just ask God for help when times get tough, believing I can handle all the other times. There's so much to do when someone dies - from funerals to lawyers to wills to finances to changing names. It can be quite overwhelming. However, I know God is by my side. He will never let me down or let me do anything I can't cope with. So now, rather than just hand over the hard stuff, I hand over my whole day. At the end of my daily prayers, I say "I hand my day over to you God". Amazingly, everything gets done that it important. In the words of my dear friend and tutor, Revd Dr John Valentine "who knew"?!! Well, God!

So, I hope Lent is a moving, spiritual and changing time for you. Perhaps Matthew's words might help:

"Ask and it will be given, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7).

Andy

Mission Focus for March: A Rocha International

A Rocha International (arocha.org) is a global family of conservation organisations including A Rocha UK which is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK and worldwide to care for the environment – for God, nature and all People. Recognising the need 'more than ever' to act to protect and care for nature today, they have a commitment to Creation Care via a ten-year framework for caring for our planet in a way that honours God and his creation.

Notices

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM): Please stay after the 10am service today for the APCM. We'll be electing our Churchwardens and new PCC members and you'll also hear a report on the year.

Bishop Andrew's Funeral: takes place at 12 noon on Monday 23rd March at the cathedral, followed by a private committal. The service will be livestreamed and you can watch from home at this link:

www.youtube.com/live/0hrS37i-h_M?si=LUsF35-24nFTXwGK

Easter Lilies: If you would like to make donation for an Easter lily in memory of a loved one, please put your donation, with names, in an envelope along with in the letter box opposite the office door. Suggested donation is £5 per lily.

Orchard Volunteer Morning: Saturday 28 March, 10.30am -1.00pm: We plan to weed round the saplings and put wood chips by the entrance to the car park. We'll bag some compost, and tidy the top wildflower bed. Maybe a bit of strimming too. We'd love new volunteers (no gardening experience needed). Come any time and stay as long as you can! Meet by the metal shed (bring suitable tools eg secateurs, small fork/trowel, gloves).

Holy Week and Easter Services:

✠ ***QE School Easter Services, 24th and 25th March, 10am***

✠ ***Palm Sunday, 29th March***

10am: All-Age Communion with procession. Meet at the top of Vicarage Gate at 9.50am if you'd like to join the procession.

6pm: Choral Meditation on the Passion led by Jeremy and the All Saints' Choir. A special time of words and music

✠ ***Maundy Thursday, 2nd April***

9.30am: Holy Communion

8pm: Holy Communion with foot washing

9-10pm: The Vigil – a time of quiet reflection in the Reading Room

✠ ***Good Friday, 3rd April***

10.30am: 'Walking with Jesus to the Cross' on the field followed by hot cross buns. The children will be re-enacting the story of the last days of Jesus' life.

12-1pm: 'The Watch' An hour of quiet reflection in church.

✠ ***Easter Day, 5th April***

5.30am: Sunrise Communion Service. An outdoor service around an open fire at the front of church. Stay for breakfast afterwards.

10am: All-Age Family Communion followed by an Easter egg hunt.

Diary for the Coming Week

Morning prayer Mon, Tues and Weds 9.15am on Zoom.

Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.

Mon 23rd The Funeral of Bishop Andrew, Guildford Cathedral, 12 noon

Tues 24th QE Easter Service (Yrs 3 and 6), Church, 10.00 a.m.

Weds 25th QE Easter Service (Yrs 4 and 5), Church, 10.00 a.m.

Sharing & Learning Group, 5 Elmside, 7.45pm

Thurs 26th Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am

Choir Rehearsal, Church, 8.00pm

Fri 27th Baby & Toddler Group, Church, 10.00am

Sat 28th Orchard Volunteer Morning, 10.30am-1pm

Sun 29th *Palm Sunday*

Church Family Communion with Children's Church, 10.00am

Choral Meditation on the Passion, 6.00pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 23rd Ps. 73, Exodus 8:1-19, Hebrews 11:17-31

Tues 24th Ps. 35, Exodus 8:20-end, Hebrews 11:32-12:2

Weds 25th Ps. 111, 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Romans 5:12-end

Thurs 26th Ps. 40, Exodus 9:13-end, Hebrews 12:14-end

Fri 27th Ps. 22, Exodus 10, Hebrews 13:1-16

Sat 28th Ps. 23, Exodus 11, Hebrews 13:17-end

Service Readings for Sunday 29th March: Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11 and Matthew 27:11-54

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