

'In the footsteps of Jesus'
 Holy Week at St Mary's
 29th March – 4th April
 We welcome our Vicar
 The Reverend Stuart East

Palm Sunday
 Festival
 Eucharist 10am
 in Church
 St Mary's Festival Choir



The Procession with Palms starts at the Scout Hut (weather permitting) and moves up Church Lane, through the Lych Gate and, we hope, into the West end of the Church. We hope that Humphrey our local donkey will lead the procession again this year.

The procession sets the scene for the story of Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, where he was greeted with cheers by the crowd. The rest of the service is held in Church, with activities for primary age children in the Scout Hut.

Holy Week Prayers
 in the Hall Chapel

Mon 6th at 6.30pm
 Youth Service

Time for quiet with a Holy Week
 Reflection in the evenings
 Tues 7th & Wed 8th at 7.30pm

Wednesday 8th at 10.00am
 in the context of our usual
 service of Holy Communion



Maundy Thursday
 Eucharist of the Last Supper
 7.30pm in Church
 and Gethsemane Watch

By gathering together in the evening before his arrest, we share Jesus's last supper with his friends and the giving of the bread and the wine: '*Do this in remembrance of me.*' This is a holy night, beginning with joy, intimacy and friendship, but a shadow falls as Judas leaves to betray Jesus.



The Gethsemane Watch follows the story of the night as it unfolds, with readings from the Gospels and Psalms.

Good Friday
 12noon to 3pm

in Church, with the Choir

The story of Jesus's Passion from the Gospels; with music from the organ, singing from the Festival Choir and hymns. The World seems to hold its breath as time stops.

12 noon: The Passion (St John)

The greatest story of God's Love, with music from the choir and the organ.

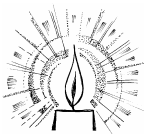
1.30pm: Prayers at the Foot of the Cross - Reflection and quiet prayers.

2.30pm: Liturgy of the Sacrament
 Holy Communion received in silence together. We glimpse the cost of Jesus's love and self-giving for us.

Easter Eve Carols 8pm

Church + Choir

A service of readings and Easter carols in Church, by candlelight. A similar liturgy to the Christmas Carol service. Joyful and uplifting, with wine and cake!



Alleluia! He is risen!
 Easter at St Mary's

Easter Eve
 8pm in Church
 with the Festival Choir
 on Saturday 3rd April
 Followed by wine and cakes

This is a wonderful experience of candlelit readings and carols for Easter Eve. Just as we begin to celebrate the joy of Christmas on Christmas Eve with our Crib services and midnight Eucharist, so on the Eve of Easter we begin in the darkness by hearing the story of God's promise to us to bring freedom and renewal to the world. This storytelling cycle emerged through thousands of years of history and could last for many hours. However, we hear selected readings at St Mary's, interspersed with anthems from the Festival Choir and Easter carols for all to sing.



The very ancient and profound liturgy is called **the Easter Vigil & Service of Light**. In past times (and still in the Orthodox Eastern Churches) the vigil would have gone on all night, watching for the dawn of Easter Day and the joy of the news of the resurrection in the Gospel reading. The new Paschal (Easter) candle is lit from a fire by the door and processed through the darkened Church, followed by all the people. We sing '*The Light of Christ*' three times as the candlelight dispels the darkness. All the other candles are lit as we celebrate in music and song. During the night, new

Christians would in the past have been baptized, ready to share Holy Communion at dawn.

The evening begins at 8pm and gradually builds up through story and music to the great announcement of the resurrection, with joyous organ music and choral singing.

If you have ever enjoyed a Christmas Carol service or Midnight Eucharist, you will enjoy the Easter Eve celebration! We celebrate with wine, juice and a special Easter Cake afterwards, breaking the Lenten fast together and beginning the Easter festivities.



Easter Day
 Sunday 4th April
 in Church

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Easter Festival
 with the Festival Choir - for all ages

6.30pm Evensong (BCP)

The Easter festival is the heart of our faith. Without Easter, there would have been no keeping of Christmas, for Jesus would have been forgotten. Easter Day is a time for celebrating together, whether you are here with family and visitors, or staying away.

Don't miss sharing the joy with all the family on Easter Day.