Prayers for the Community

For the people of: Vale Road, Southdown Close

For prayer: David, Heidi, Mark, Sally, Simon and Simon, Susan

In memoriam: Lilian Honey, Hazel Berry, Peggy Coates, Gordon Rayfield

To keep our prayers up to date please let Martin, Jill or Jerry know about people

to list and keep listed in Prayers for the Community.

CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE

'Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night.' PHILIPPIANS 2:15,16 (THE MESSAGE)

PALM SUNDAY Lord of majesty, who entered Jerusalem to shouts of 'Hosanna' just one week before You died on the cross, we worship You, who reigns over all, and rejoice that we have been redeemed by Your loving sacrifice and triumphant resurrection. Hallelujah! Amen.

Word of God, thank You that the biblical foundations of our culture still resonate and help shape British people's values, even though they may not acknowledge You as Lord and Saviour. O Holy Spirit, please move across our land to awaken fresh hunger for Your truth and kindle saving faith in the gospel of Christ. By Your grace. Amen.

Lord of all, inspire Your Church to seek to desire more of Your presence, pursue holiness, proclaim Your gospel, and do justice, love mercy, walking humbly with You!* May Christians increasingly share Your grace and truth with those around them. To Your glory! Amen. (*Micah 6:8)

Holy God, we pray against secular philosophies persuading people to embrace world views contrary to Your ways, such in issues of sanctity of life, sexual ethics, gender theory, and freedom of thought and religion. Speak prophetically through Your servants. By Your Spirit's power. Amen.

Lord, we intercede that millions of the world's rising generation will be converted, transformed by faith to serve and love Jesus and be moved by the Spirit to seek Your kingdom and its righteousness through prayer, evangelism and sacrificial love for others. In Your great mercy. Amen.

www.care.org.uk



Ascension Weekly

Sunday 13th April 2025 Palm Sunday

10.00 a.m. Palm Sunday Communion (Streamed online via Zoom) Readings: Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29 & Luke 19.28-40

Let's Keep Cheering

Palm Sunday reminds us of the excited crowds cheering, waving palm leaves and shouting 'Hosannah!' as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. And how only days later, those same voices would be shouting "Crucify him!" when their hopes...for a warrior Messiah to overthrow Roman rule...clashed



with God's plan. The people longed for political freedom, but Jesus came not to establish an earthly kingdom and self-rule, but to bring in *God's* Kingdom.

Palm Sunday raises a question for us all. How often do we reject God's way when it doesn't match our desires? When Jesus didn't meet the people's expectations, their enthusiastic welcoming of Him turned to rejection. We might not turn to shouting "Crucify Him!", but Palm Sunday still asks us about how easily we might reject God's way when Jesus doesn't fulfil our hopes or expectations.

Palm Sunday invites us to trust God's greater purpose—even when His way isn't what we think we want or would choose. As Easter approaches, we're reminded that God's ways are higher than ours. His way brings salvation, love and grace. His Kingdom brings *true* freedom, not from empires, but from sin, despair, and self-centredness.

Let's choose to keep cheering for His unfolding plan for all of us.

Martin

This Week

Palm Sunday 13th April 10.00am Palm Sunday Communion

Tuesday 15th April
9.30am - 10.30am Food Larder

Wednesday 16th April 7.30pm Stations of the Cross

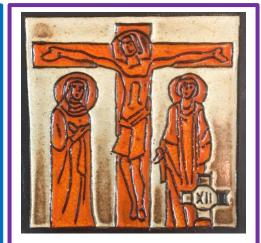
Maundy Thursday 17th April 8.30am Morning Prayers 12.00 - 1.00pm Food Larder 7.30pm Communion Service

Good Friday 18th April
10am - 2pm Open Church for
quiet and prayer
2pm - 3pm Good Friday Service
An hour at the Cross
3pm - 4pm Open Church for
quiet and prayer

Easter Sunday 20th April5.30am Easter Vigil Service10am Easter Day CelebrationCommunion Service

Please see the website for links for online streaming:

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk



"The Cross is the word through which God has responded to evil in the world. Sometimes it may seem as though God does not react to evil, as if he is silent. And yet, God has spoken, he has replied, and his answer is the Cross of Christ: a word which is love, mercy, forgiveness."

- Pope Francis

CONTACT US

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk email: enquiries@ascensionchurch.co.uk
Vicar: Martin Jones revdmartin@ascensionchurch.co.uk 01444 415229
Churchwardens: Jill Costello 07736285995 Jerry Whitehead 07540599309
ALM: Jill Costello

Easter Services

Wednesday 16th April

7.30pm Stations of the Cross
This is a quiet service, based around the Ascension's beautiful tile pictures, where we pray and reflect on Jesus' final hours

Maundy Thursday 17th April

7.30pm Communion Service with Foot Washing

Good Friday 18th April

10.00am until 2.00pm Open Church for Quiet and Prayer2.00pm until 3.00pm Good Friday Service 'An hour at the Cross '
This a quiet reflective service with readings and music3.00pm until 4.00pm Open Church for Quiet and Prayer

Easter Sunday 20th April

5.30am Easter Vigil Service (Dawn will be just about breaking at 5.30am)
The Vigil Service celebrates the Resurrection as the sun rises at 6.11am
10am - Easter Day Celebration Communion Service

A Prayer for Holy Week and Easter

Gracious and loving God,

As we journey through the sacred days of Holy Week, help us to draw closer to You as we encounter the depth of Your love revealed in the sacrifice of Christ and the triumph of His resurrection.

Deepen our faith as we reflect on His passion and renew our commitment to follow Him as disciples in every moment of our lives. May the hope and joy of Easter fill our hearts, transforming us into bearers of Your light in the world.

Through the risen Christ, we celebrate the victory of life over sin and death, love over fear, and hope over despair. Strengthen us to walk in His footsteps with courage and grace, proclaiming Your goodness to all.

In Jesus' name. Amen.