

## 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](http://www.care.org.uk)



# Ascension Weekly

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.00am** Palm Sunday  
Communion

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

**9.30am - 10.30am** Food Larder

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**7.30pm** Stations of the Cross

**Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**8.30am** Morning Prayers

**12.00 - 1.00pm** Food Larder

**7.30pm** Communion Service

**Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**5.30am** Easter Vigil Service

**10am** Easter Day Celebration  
Communion Service

Please see the website for links for  
online streaming:

[www.ascensionchurch.co.uk](http://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

## Easter Services

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**7.30pm** Communion Service with Foot Washing

**Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.00am** until **2.00pm** Open Church for Quiet and Prayer

**2.00pm** until **3.00pm** Good Friday Service 'An hour at the Cross'

This a quiet reflective service with readings and music

**3.00pm** until **4.00pm** Open Church for Quiet and Prayer

**Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### CONTACT US

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THE ASCENSION