

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

MARCH & APRIL 2024



BUMPER EASTER EDITION

- Pray for peace
- Return your Lent Offering Envelope
- Check you're on the church Electoral Roll
- Drop off some food for the Foodbank
- Nominate someone to be Churchwarden



MOTHERING SUNDAY

We will be celebrating Mothering Sunday at our

10am service

Everyone welcome

March 2024

Sunday 3rd March

Third Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with God's Gang
(followed by refreshments)

Monday 4th March

7.30pm Lent Group

Wednesday 6th March

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 7th March

10am Pilgrim Lent Group

Saturday 9th March

9.30am Church Working Party – come and help
keep the church tidy clean and fit for purpose

Sunday 10th March

Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

Monday 11th March

7.30pm Lent Group

Tuesday 12th March

9.30am Visit to British Library

7.30pm Mothers Union Speaker: Julia Jameson

Wednesday 13th March

10am Holy Communion

2pm First Steps service. If you are a family with
pre-school children, please come and join in the
fun.

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 14th March

10am Pilgrim Lent Group

Sunday 17th March

Fifth Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with God's Gang (followed
by refreshments)

6pm Evensong

Monday 18th March

7.30pm Lent Group

Tuesday 19th March

6pm Semiquavers Spring Concert

Wednesday 20th March

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

7.45pm Parochial Church Council

Thursday 21st March

10am Pilgrim Lent Group

2.30pm Mustard Seed

Saturday 23rd March

9.30am Rehearsal for Palm Sunday reading

Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday

10.30am Chrism Mass at Rochester Cathedral

8pm Eucharist of the Last Supper followed by time to watch and pray

Friday 29th March Good Friday

10am Good Friday service for all ages

A service exploring the meaning of this holy day with crafts and hot cross buns

12 noon-3pm Good Friday reflections

The cross in plain sight.... followed by the liturgy of the day in the final hour. You are welcome to come for all or part of the service.

Saturday 30th March

CLOCKS GO FORWARD

DON'T FORGET
To  SET
(LoCKS) FORWARD!

Sunday 31st March

EASTER DAY

6pm Dawn Service

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with baptisms (followed by refreshments) We will be admitting three of our young people to communion during the service

6pm Evensong

Wednesday 3rd April

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 7th April Second Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

12noon and 1pm Holy Baptism

Tuesday 9th April

7.30pm Mothers Union: Mary's Meals

Wednesday 10th April

10am Holy Communion

2pm First Steps service

5pm Evening Prayer

Saturday 13th April

From 9.30am Working morning

Sunday 14th April Third Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

Holy Week and Easter

24 MARCH **PALM SUNDAY** 10am

Palms, Passion Reading & Parish Eucharist

25 MARCH **MONDAY** 7.30pm

Stations of the Cross

28 MARCH **MAUNDY THURSDAY** 8pm

Eucharist of the Last Supper & Vigil

29 MARCH **GOOD FRIDAY**

10am Service for all ages with crafts and Hot Cross buns

12noon Reflections and Liturgy of Good Friday

31 MARCH **EASTER SUNDAY**

6am Dawn Service

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Easter Eucharist

6pm Festal Evensong

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with palms, procession and dramatic reading of the passion (followed by refreshments)

Monday 25th March

7.30pm Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 27th March

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

7.30pm Reflection and Night Prayer

Wednesday 17th April

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Saturday 20th April

12noon Memorial service for Margaret Davies

Sunday 21st April Fourth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

Wednesday 24th April

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 25th April

11am Pilgrim Group

Sunday 28th April Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

Wednesday 1st May St Philip & St James

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

MORNING PRAYER will pause during the first week of April and resume on Monday 8th at 8.30am. You can join us on Zoom – see Church website for link

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS Holy Communion at

10am continues through the month

ELECTORAL ROLL

Are you on our church membership list? The electoral roll is revised each year before our annual meeting. Michael Charles is our electoral roll officer – you can check with him during April and get a form .

GOOD FRIDAY



10am Good Friday service for all ages. A service exploring through pictures and prayers the meaning of this holy day, followed by crafts and hot cross buns

12 noon-3pm Good Friday reflections and the liturgy of the day
The cross in plain sight.... What happens when we look at the cross?

Hymns, liturgy, and scripture encourage us to 'survey the wondrous cross' and 'Behold the wood of the cross'. Good Friday encourages to pause and look at one of the most familiar signs of our faith but one that is often over familiar or misunderstood.

EASTER DAY

6pm Dawn Service Yes it does involve getting up early! Like the women who came to Christ's tomb we come to church before the sunrise. We gather around the fire to proclaim Christ the light of the world as we bless our Easter candle. In church we hear from the Hebrews scriptures the history of our salvation, culminating in the Easter gospel and the proclamation Christ is Risen! We celebrate the first eucharist of Easter before breakfast in the Church Hall.



A POEM FOR PALM SUNDAY

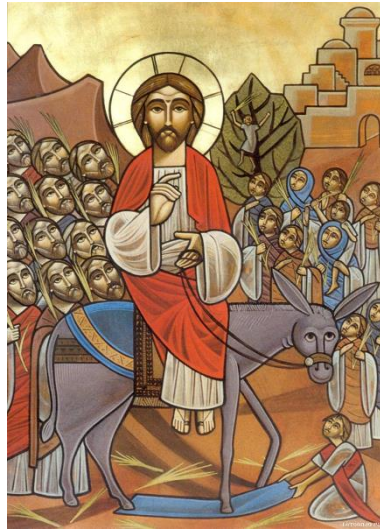
The following poem reminds us of the everyday nature of the instruments of the passion.

Astride the colt and claimed as King
that Sunday morning in the spring,
he passed a thornbush flowering red
that one would plait to crown his head.

He passed a vineyard where the wine
was grown for men of royal line
and where the dregs were also brewed
into a gall for Calvary's rood.

A purple robe was cast his way,
then caught and kept until that day
when, with its use, a trial would be
profaned into a mockery.

His entourage was forced to wait
to let a timber through the gate,
a shaft that all there might have known
would be an altar and a throne.



Marie J Post was a prolific hymn writer in the mid- twentieth century. Her hymns are often paraphrases of psalms and well known scripture. Her poetry fuses the everyday with the voice of scripture.

A POEM FOR GOOD FRIDAY

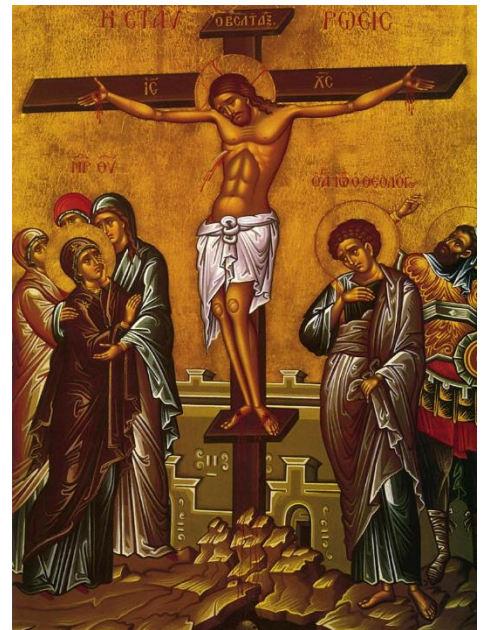
We usually think of Christina Rossetti as a Christmas poet. Here she is in a different gear reflecting on the emotions of Good Friday.

Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;

Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon –
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er,
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.



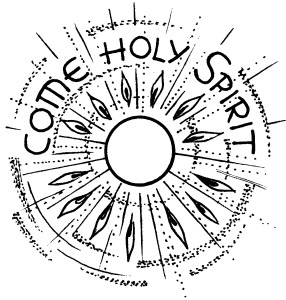
LENT LUNCH



There will be a Lent soup and cheese lunch in church on Wednesday 20th March from 11.30 am. Please sign on the sheet at the back of the church if you hope to come or contact David on 07880 978421.

And on Saturday 16th March at Rosebank, Stack Lane Hartley DA3 8BL 12-3pm hosted by Jasmine and Steve. RSVP to jekhumphries@gmail.com

Confirmation



We are planning a group to explore church membership and confirmation after Easter. The group will be for any adults who want to explore Christian commitment in the Church of England. Maybe you grew up in another Christian tradition, maybe you do not receive Holy Communion and want to be included, maybe you came back to Church as an adult and want to brush up on what it means to be a disciple of Christ. The group will be on a week day evening over 7 sessions. This is an opportunity to explore and think about faith and its implications – with no obligations! In September there will be a confirmation

service at which you may wish to confirm your baptism promises or be received into the Church of England. Please talk to the Vicar if you are interested.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL



Come eat with me

You may have seen the great fen table in the cathedral. This installation uses the table taking as its inspirational starting point the renowned Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper* painting

It portrays the moment in time when Christ stated 'One of you will betray me.' The emotions portrayed by the 12 disciples vary from shock to disbelief. Eighteen artists from Kent participated in painting 'icon' inspired roundels which portray the twelve disciples, and other important characters in

the life of Christ, such as John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary. Two well known icon painters also joined the project to depict Christ and Mary Magdalene as actual icons. Aylesford Pottery have also contributed by recreating vessels resembling first Century pottery. 9th-17th March and 23rd March – 4th April

The English Cathedral, the ambitious photographic project documenting all 42 of England's Anglican cathedrals by the late Magnum photographer Peter Marlow (, 1952 - 2016), will come to Rochester Cathedral in March 2023, continuing the aim to exhibit at all of the 42 cathedrals featured in the awe inspiring photographic series. These remarkable photographs bring into sharp relief the full splendour of the interiors of some of England's most magnificent buildings, great symbols of spiritual and architectural power, using only natural light to capture the interiors of these iconic buildings. 19th March-2nd April

CHRIST CHURCH 2024 WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Our Annual Church Meeting will take place after the Parish Eucharist on Sunday 19th May. What role might you play in Christ Church in the coming year? Our Church is dependent on people being willing to contribute and stand for offices. We will be looking for churchwardens, for Church Council members – please consider what you could contribute. Steve has indicated that he would at least like to have someone working with him with a view to taking on responsibilities as treasurer. Please think and pray about this, and speak to the Vicar, to those who have been Churchwarden or Steve our treasurer if you would like to know more. These are real opportunities to make a difference to our Church community. Nomination papers are available in church. If we are not able to fill these roles it puts more pressure on those who are willing to stand and the Vicar ends up doing more admin.



FOOD BANK

Please support Gravesham FoodBank. The following items are needed.

Toilet Rolls	Tinned Meat Pies
Tins of Ready-Made Custard	Tins of Fruit
Small Jars of Instant Coffee	Cartons of Long-Life Milk
Crackers	Microwavable Sponge Puddings
Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice	Tins of Cold Meat (not Corned Beef)
Small Bottles of Squash	Cereal Bars
Packets of Pasta N Sauce	Washing Up Liquid
Tins of Mac & Cheese	Anti Bac Sprays
Small Bags of Rice	Non-Bio Washing Capsules

We will accept other food items, toiletries, and cleaning products if they are donated.
NO BREAKFAST CEREALS, TEA OR BABY FOOD/MILK PRODUCTS PLEASE



PRAYER CALENDAR

	THE COMMUNITY	CHURCH
1	The Elderly	Those who use our hall
2	Those with poor mental health	Our preschool
3	The armed services	Our clergy
4	GPs and community health workers	Our Churchwarden Our Parochial Church Council
5	Schools	The children in our church God's Gang and First Steps
6	Young people at university & college, or in work or apprenticeships	For vocations in the church, and those in training for ordained and lay ministry
7	The unemployed	Street Pastors
8	Our parliament and MP	Churches Together in Gravesend
9	Our emergency services	Our companion dioceses in Estonia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania
10	Social workers	Neighbouring Parishes
11	Children	Our lay ministers
12	Prisoners and prison staff	Prison chaplains
13	The victims of racism and discrimination	Christian Aid
14	Those who support people in the workplace	Our Bishops and Archdeacon
15	Our neighbours of other faiths	Those who are new in our church
16	Our local hospitals	Hospital chaplains
17	All who work with young people School pastors	Inclusive Church and all who work for inclusion and equality
18	Those living with dementia	Our safeguarding team
19	Musicians and artists	Our organist, choir & Semiquavers
20	Family life	Our Mothers Union
21	Our councillors and council	Those who are persecuted for their faith
22	All involved in the production and distribution of food	Mustard Seed
23	All who work on the river RNLI	Those preparing for marriage
24	Victims of domestic abuse	Those who care for our buildings
25	Those who care for green spaces	That we may be more aware of our impact on our planet
26	Those who are affected by modern day slavery	Baptism families
27	Foodbanks and those who use them The homeless	Those who prepare our notice sheet and communications
28	Local businesses	The bereaved
29	Those fighting addictions	Uniformed organisations
30	Refugees and asylum seekers	Those who are housebound or isolated
31	Those who live and work in our local Care Homes	Give thanks for our diversity