



st JOHN's

Living God's Love



Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2024

Introduction

This leaflet offers a guide to our journey through Lent, towards Holy Week and Easter. This is the most important time in the Church year and for all followers of Christ. Lent is a time to take something up (as well as to give something up). Here you'll find details of the important extra services, our Lent Course and more. I hope you will also join us for our regular acts of worship during this time.

The highlight of the Church year is Holy Week, which this year runs from 24th to 31st March. During this week we participate in the Passion of Christ (that is from his arrest to his death on Good Friday), and then joyfully celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Lent and Holy Week may inspire you to have a conversation about your spiritual life, or ask to questions about the faith. It may also be a time when you feel the need to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If any of this resonates with you, please get in touch with me.

As we remember that we are an Easter people, you'll also find details of our Easter services, including an enquirers course. Please do take a look; the more you are able to get involved, the more you will get out.

Whatever you decide to do, I wish you a holy and good Lent and a joyful Easter!

With best wishes

Revd Tim Vickers
Vicar of St John's

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Sermon Series

We are also offering some reflections during the sermons at our Sunday services. At the morning services these will focus on the five areas of our Mission Action Plan, and at the evening services on the Five Marks of Mission.

Sundays at 8am and 9.30am

17th March

Finance and Stewardship

Sundays at 5pm

17th March

Treasure

Special Services in Lent

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. The objective of the stations is to help Christians to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ.

At 10:30am on Wednesday of Holy Week a member of the ministry team will lead a service of Stations of the Cross for any who would like to do this with others.

Services for Children in Lent

Toddler Service, Thursdays in term time at 10.15am at St John's

We meet for an informal service suitable for pre-schoolers of all ages. We begin with a hot drink and snacks for children, learn about the bible, make a craft and re-enact the last supper. Lasts about 45 minutes. All are welcome. Some key dates are below:

21st March About Holy Week

28th March Maundy Thursday

Good Friday - 29th March at 10am

An All Age Service at St John's lasting about 45 minutes.

Easter Sunday - 31st March at 10am

An All Age Eucharist followed by Easter Egg hunt in the church grounds.

Nature in Lent and Easter

Parish Walks

A small group of individuals meet monthly for a walk, followed by refreshments. It's a great way to get to know people. Walking is also good for our well-being as well as enabling us to enjoy creation.

We will meet at 2pm at St John's for a local walk on: 16th March & 20th April. Everyone is welcome.

Beating the Bounds

We will walk the Parish boundary on Sunday 5th May. Details to follow.

Eco-Church

Our Eco Church Team are encouraging everyone to calculate their own carbon footprints, to help us move to 'Silver' in the Lifestyle Category.

Could you measure your personal carbon footprint?

<http://footprint.wwf.org.uk>

Pet Blessing

We will be holding a Pet Blessing Service at 3pm on Sunday 28th April. A great opportunity to pass on Easter blessing to all Gods creatures.

Holy Week

Holy Week is the most important week in the Christian calendar. We follow in the footsteps of Jesus to the cross. All our services this week are geared towards helping us all to journey further and deeper with Jesus.

Palm Sunday 24th March

9.30am Parish Eucharist with blessing of Palms and reading of the Passion Gospel

5pm Hymns and Readings for the start of Holy Week.

Holy Monday 25th March

7.30pm Taizé. A contemplative service of light and silence.

Holy Tuesday 26th March

7.30pm Celtic Evening Prayer, a quiet service following the Celtic tradition.

Holy Wednesday 27th March

7.30pm Compline. The ancient office of Compline, said by candlelight.



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Maundy Thursday

Thursday 28th March at 7.30pm.

Parish Eucharist (sung) with stripping of the Altar: followed by a Watch of prayer until 9pm.

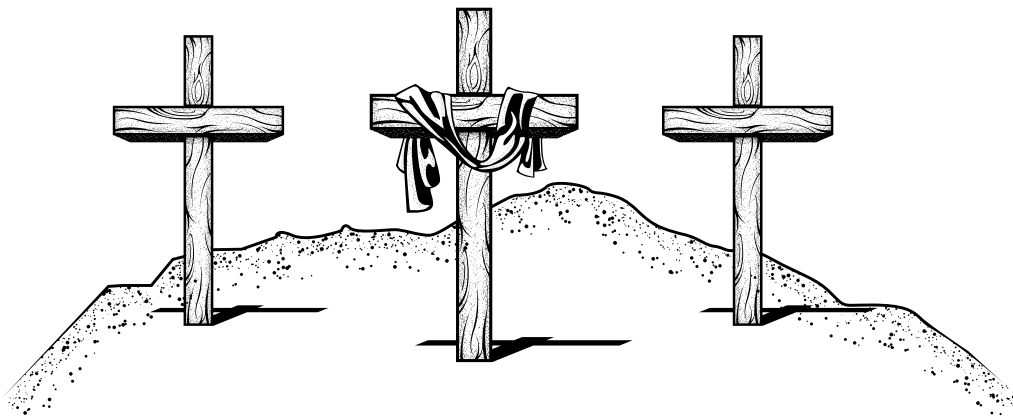
Good Friday

Friday 29th March

On Good Friday we sit with Jesus at the foot of the cross, exploring, reflecting and witnessing to the amazing love God has for all humanity.

10am All Age Service at St John's

2pm Liturgy of Good Friday at St John's. A devotional service where we reflect on the meaning of the cross, with a chance to venerate the cross.

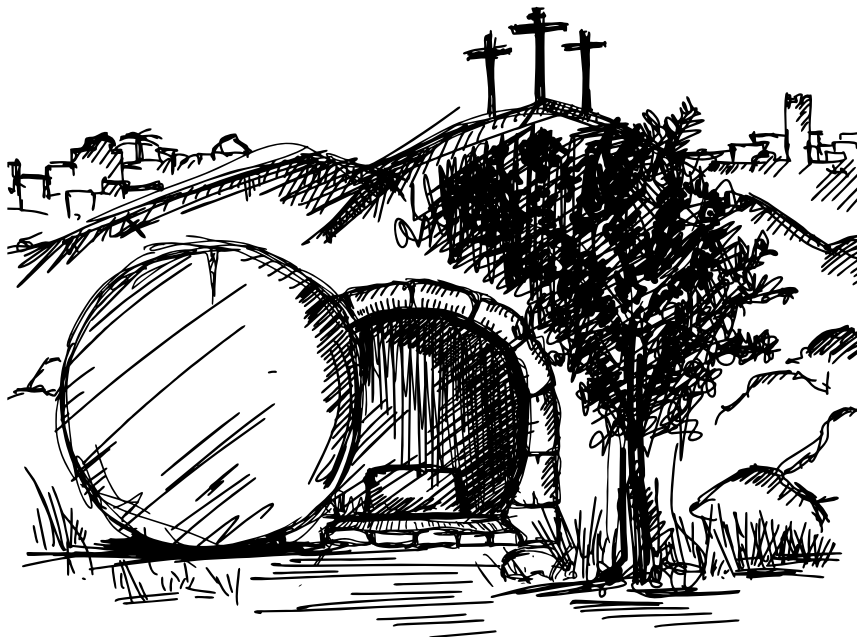


Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday 31st March

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

10am Easter Sunday All Age Eucharist followed by Easter Egg hunt in the church grounds.



Easter Season

Easter is a 50 day season, and so we will be celebrating Easter for all of this time. We mark this through wearing white vestments, and by lighting the Easter candle at every service. It's a great season to celebrate a baptism.

Stations of the Resurrection - 21st April

Join us for a reflective service on the Stations of the Resurrection at 5pm. Like the Stations of the Cross, but this time we reflect on the resurrection appearances. Followed by a glass of fizz!

Ascension Day Thursday 9th May

Ascension Day is the moment we celebrate Jesus ascension into heaven. Our practice is to join with other churches in the Deanery, so please look out for more details nearer the time.

Pentecost - Sunday 19th May

Known also as the birthday of the Church, on this day we celebrate the gift of Holy Spirit. Its also the day we take our annual church photograph. Services at 8am and 9.30am.

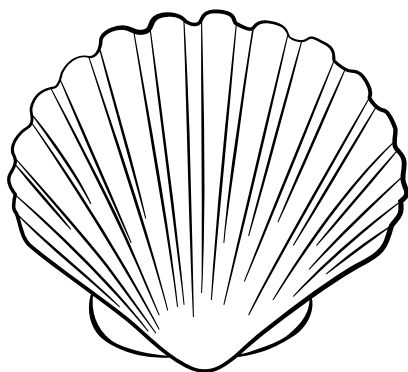
Parish Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage to St Edmundsbury, 18th May 2024

Our Lent Course, on the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, made us think that it would be a good thing to organise a pilgrimage of our own this year. We have decided to organise a day pilgrimage to St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Suffolk. Maybe you might want to join us?

In medieval times the ruined abbey next door to the Cathedral was a major shrine (even to rival St Albans) to St Edmund who was martyred about 870AD. The modern cathedral was also extended by the same architect who designed St John's Lady Chapel.

The day will include an opportunity to walk a small part of the pilgrim way, a time for reflection and prayer, a pilgrims tour and lunch and will finish with Evening Prayer in the Cathedral at 3.30pm. We are hoping that this will cost no more than £20 based on sharing lifts. For more information email parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk



Regular Services and Bible Study

Regular Worship at St John's.

You may wish to join us for some of our regular services at St John's

Sundays

8am Holy Communion (This will be Matins up to and including 24 March)

9.30am Parish Eucharist

5pm Evening Worship

Morning and Evening Prayer, Monday to Friday at 9.30am and 5pm.

Midweek Communion: Wednesday at 10.30am (This will be Prayer During the Day up to and including 20 March).

Regular Times of Study and Contemplation

Monthly Bible Study – third Wednesday of the month at 2pm (in the Vicarage). Please note this isn't taking place in Lent.

Monthly Meditation session – third Monday of the month at 10.15am. Please note this isn't taking place in Lent.



Next Steps

Enquirers Course

We hope you've enjoyed journeying with St John's this Lent and Easter. So what might be next?

Maybe you'd like to learn more about the Christian faith? – We will be running the 'Start Course' which will explore some of the main themes of Christianity.

For adults we will be running this over six sessions
Wednesday 8pm-9.30pm, 17th April – 22nd May in the Committee Room.

For young people, we will run the course at a time which works for those who'd like to know more.

If you are interested, speak to the Vicar. If you can't make the course but want to be confirmed we will arrange something for you.

Confirmation

There is a confirmation service at All Saints, Harpenden on Wednesday 5th June 2024, presided by Bishop Stephen Venner. If you'd like to be confirmed in your faith, please speak with the Vicar.

Useful contacts

Useful contacts

Revd Tim Vickers, Vicar of St John's (usual day off Friday)
vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk 01582 469343

Revd Ritah Namakula, Assistant Curate (usual day off Monday)
ritah@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

Parish Office: Amanda Knights
parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk 01582 712776

Sign up to our weekly newsletter:
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Website: www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

