

# The Church in Warden Hill

## LETTER FROM REV. IAIN

Last week our nation marked the anniversary of the first lockdown. One year ago none of us had any inkling what lay in store for us. None of us could have foreseen that over 120,000 people would lose their lives to covid. We had no idea of the further restrictions on personal liberty that lay ahead, e.g. the mandatory wearing of face masks. None of us imagined that a year later shops and public buildings, including churches, would still be closed. We could not have imagined that over a year would pass before we could once again embrace loved ones who were not part of our support bubble. Indeed, one year ago we didn't even know what a 'support bubble' was. We were unprepared for the mental health crisis that has been the by-product of lengthy periods of lockdown. We did not know the education of our children and young people would be disrupted for two academic years in a row.

As we call to mind all that has been lost over the course of the past twelve months, not just lives lost, but also the loss of hopes and dreams, the appropriate mood therefore is one of lament. An upbeat celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday might seem out of place. In fact the celebratory tone of the original Palm Sunday was premature for, within the week, Jesus' disciples were to be plunged into the deep disappointment and despair of the crucifixion on Good Friday, extending throughout Holy Saturday. Even as late as the evening of the first Easter Sunday, the two disciples walking to Emmaus were depressed as they discussed what had happened to Jesus. The appearances of the Risen Jesus to the disciples from Easter onwards planted seeds of hope that were to flower into the Church. There are signs of hope in our present situation too: the success of the covid vaccination programme, a roadmap out of lockdown, portents of spring in the natural world. We can have faith that the time will come when we will be able to give thanks for deliverance from the threat of covid, but that time might not be just yet.

Yours in Christ,  
Iain

## HOLY WEEK COMPLINE

There will be a series of three services of Compline, at 7.30pm at St Peter's, on Mon-Tue-Wed during Holy Week. The series is entitled 'Abiding in Light, Life and Love', and each session will focus on one of these aspects. The services will be live streamed, but you can also attend in person! More information from Revd Jacqueline at: [revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com](mailto:revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com)

Arrangements for Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptism, Confirmation, Banns of Marriage, etc., should be made with Revd Gary Grady.

If you are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital, or in need of a pastoral visit please contact Clergy, Elders or Readers.

If you have anything for the Grapevine please send it to: [grapevine@tcivh.org.uk](mailto:grapevine@tcivh.org.uk) by midday on Wednesday or call Brian Miles on 01242 862142.

Website: [www.tciwh.org.uk](http://www.tciwh.org.uk)

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Cypher



The Church in Warden Hill  
(Anglican & URC)

# Welcome



**THE GRAPEVINE 28th MARCH 2021**  
**PALM SUNDAY**

### The Collect

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.

### Palm Sunday

10am Holy Communion from St Stephen's with Revd Nick

*Liturgy of the Palms: Matthew 21.1–11; Liturgy of the Passion: Mark 15.1–39*

### Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion from St. Peter's with Revd Gary

### Good Friday

10am Family Zoom (email [nickduffdavies@gmail.com](mailto:nickduffdavies@gmail.com) for details)

2pm Final Hour @ The Cross

You can join all of the above live streams here:

[www.facebook.com/pipandjims](https://www.facebook.com/pipandjims) or [www.stpetersleck.org](https://www.stpetersleck.org)

### Daily Devotional Readings

*Morning Prayer will continue to be live-streamed at 9am during the week from:*

[www.facebook.com/pipandjims](https://www.facebook.com/pipandjims) or [www.stpetersleck.org](https://www.stpetersleck.org)

#### Holy Monday

*Psalm 41  
Lamentations 1.1–12a  
Luke 22.1–23*

#### Holy Tuesday

*Psalm 27  
Lamentations 3.1–18  
Luke 22. [24–38] 39–53*

#### Holy Wednesday

*Psalm 102  
Jeremiah 11.18–20  
Luke 22.54–end*

#### Maundy Thursday

*Psalms 42  
Leviticus 16.2–24  
Luke 23.1–25*

#### Good Friday

*Psalm 69  
Genesis 22.1–18  
Hebrews 10.1–10*

#### Holy Saturday

*Psalm 142  
Hosea 6.1–6  
John 2.18–22*

# The Church in Warden Hill

## HOLY WEEK REFLECTION

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2.5-8)*

I have often pondered and reflected on this passage – about how Jesus accepted his humanity and submitted to the will of God; how he needed to do human things like eat, sleep, rest, pray, feel pain, bleed and die. We see all of these ‘human’ things in the news on a daily basis; the need for food, love, homes, care; how people are bleeding and dying; how people are in desperate need of new life. As we enter into Holy Week, spend some time reflecting on some of these things, and then ponder 1. What do you need to ‘accept’ so you can submit more fully to God? 2. What are the things you need to let go and ‘empty’ yourself of so you can be filled with new life? Every blessing for Holy Week. **Revd Gary.**

## AN ECUMENICAL PRODUCTION

**Charlton Kings Community Players and the Churches in Charlton Kings**

**Good Friday ‘Walk of Witness’ virtual street theatre**

Members of St. Andrew’s have been involved in the production of a piece of virtual street theatre. A video will be available from Palm Sunday (28<sup>th</sup> March) for viewing from the Charlton Kings Community Players’ web site. This virtual production is based on a piece called ‘**Good Friday Conversation**’ and includes contributions from members of the Players and local churches.

For more information see

<http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com/>

<http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com/forthcoming-events/>

## EASTER SUNDAY & BEYOND

Worship will recommence in-person on **Easter Sunday** (4<sup>th</sup> April) at 10.30am with a Holy Communion service, led by Revd John Horan. Face coverings and social distancing will still be needed. Please email [tciwhsec@gmail.com](mailto:tciwhsec@gmail.com) to book a seat. Thereafter, there will be a service each Sunday at St. Christopher’s at 10.30am. The South Cheltenham Team will continue to live stream a service each week, are available via [www.stpetersleck.org](http://www.stpetersleck.org) or [www.pipandjims.org.uk/online](http://www.pipandjims.org.uk/online).

## #SignsOfHope

Don’t forget to post and hash-tag your signs of hope on our Facebook page, or send them to the church office at [tciwhsec@gmail.com](mailto:tciwhsec@gmail.com)

# The Church in Warden Hill

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** our South Cheltenham Team as they prepare to hold Easter Day Services in our churches: for those attending in person or on-line that they all might have a blessed Easter.

**ALSO PRAY FOR** plans being made for the lockdown to be gradually eased: that everyone understands what any new rules are.

**WE REMEMBER** those who are sick in body, mind or spirit; those who have died, and those who mourn.

**R.I.P.** Elsie, wife of John Hutton, died on Wednesday 17th March. Her funeral will take place at 3pm on 9th April at the Oak Chapel, Cheltenham crematorium.

**R.I.P.** Revd. Ken Shill died Thursday 11th March. His funeral will be on Thursday 8th April 12.30pm at Emmanuel and will be live-streamed.

## WEEKLY PRAYER

28th	Little Shepherds	1st	Salisbury Avenue & Katharine Court
29th	Emergency Services	2nd	Woodlands Road & Silverthorne Close
30th	Open the Book	3rd	Winchester Way & Hazlewood Close
31st	Homeless & Unemployed	4th	Canterbury Walk & Norwich Drive

## MORNING PRAYER

This will continue to be live streamed each morning at 9am you can also attend in-person on a Tuesday and Thursday at St. Christopher’s and St. Peter’s, respectively, from w/c. 12th April.

NB. There will be **NO** service of Morning Prayer in the week after Easter.

**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES and CELEBRATIONS** let’s celebrate together:

Alison Neale has a birthday on 4th April, happy birthday Alison.

If you have a birthday this week—happy birthday and have a happy day.

Please let me know of any future birthdays that we can celebrate together.

**Brian Miles.**

## LANTERN - APRIL ISSUE

There will be a printed copy of the April Lantern available at St Christopher’s on Easter Sunday.