

We would like to welcome you to our monthly publication, which we hope will be something to lift your spirits and be thought provoking too, during this time when lockdown restrictions are at last easing! There are a few printed copies available in Lady St Mary Church and these can be picked up at the 10am service and taken to people who do not have the internet and so if you can share it by posting a copy to a neighbour, but please be careful to practise all necessary precautions.

News from the Ministry Team ...

Dear Friends

Rainbows – Did you know that a rainbow consists of millions of spheres of water that refract the light, breaking white light down into the seven component colours? Did you also know that everyone looking at a rainbow sees it slightly differently because of their angle to the light source? However you look at it, a rainbow is a wondrous and beautiful thing. According to the Bible the rainbow is a sign of God's promise never to flood the whole earth again.

The season of self examination, of re-aligning our lives to that of Christ, reaches its great climax with the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. On Good Friday we mourn his death but on Easter Sunday we celebrate glorious new life.

The ominous black clouds are blasted apart by brilliant rays of sunlight seemingly splitting the sky in two.

Because of Easter, we know that God is the one and only, the supreme power worthy of our worship. He is the one that created the rainbow in the heavens as a promise, a testament, of His continuing love for us.

In gratitude for that open-handed love, we should live our lives as Jesus showed us; honouring God and turning away from the tempting lure of worldly excesses.

Jesus Christ is risen – Alleluia

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter.

Brigid

Services for Holy Week and Easter 2021

The services for Holy Week and Easter are outlined below. Palm Crosses will be given out at the beginning of the Palm Sunday Holy Communion, we are also hoping to deliver some around the parish. If you would like to receive a cross please contact Debs or one of the ministry team, alternatively you may like to collect one from the back of church during the week.

From Monday to Wednesday, at 9am in Lady St Mary church, there will be a Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion service, including an extended reading from the passion accounts of Mark and Luke.

On Maundy Thursday evening at 7.00pm, in Lady St Mary church, there will be a Common Worship Holy Communion remembering the institution of the Lord's supper. At the end of this service the church will be stripped of all ornamentation and decoration, ready for the austerity and solemnity of Good Friday. This will be followed by a time of vigil (optional), during which Stainer's crucifixion will be played.

Normally on Good Friday we would hold a three-hour service of reflection in Lady St Mary church, but due to the current restrictions we will be holding just 'The Final Hour' in which there will be three reflections on the Silence, Suffering and Solitude of the Cross. This starts at 2pm. A version of this service will also be available on YouTube, on the Wareham's Church of England Family channel.

On Easter Day there will be a Dawn Holy Communion service, outside at East Holme Priory, starting at 6.30am. Then there will be Easter Communions at Sandford St Martin church, at 9.30am (also available on Zoom); Lady St Mary church and St John the Evangelist, East Holme, both at 10.00am. To round things off, there is an all-age Easter celebration in the school field at Sandford St Martin school, starting at 4.00pm.

All are welcome to our church services but please remember to bring your masks, and remember that social distancing rules apply in church. However, if you are still isolating you will be able to follow our services on YouTube and/or Zoom.

Palm Sunday 28 th March	10.00am Holy Communion	Lady St Mary Church
	9.30 Sandford Zoom	Links will be provided by the Parish Office
	10.30am YouTube service	
	11.15 Virtual Coffee	
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week 29 th - 31 st March	9.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer with Gospel of the Passion)	Lady St Mary Church

**Wednesday
of Holy Week**

31st March

11.00am Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)

St Martin on the Wall

Maundy Thursday

1st April

7.00pm Holy Communion
(Common Worship)
including stripping of the
sanctuary and followed by a
time of vigil listening to
Stainer's Crucifixion.

Lady St Mary Church

Good Friday

2nd April

2.00pm The Final Hour

Lady St Mary Church

**12.00pm YouTube Online
service of Reflection**

EASTER DAY

4th April

**6.30am Dawn Holy
Communion**

East Holme Priory

**9.30am Easter
Communion**

Sandford St Martin
church and on Zoom

**10.00am Easter
Communion**

Lady St Mary Church

**10.00am Easter
Communion**

St John the Evangelist,
East Holme

**4.00pm All-age Outdoor
Easter Celebration**

Sandford School,
playing field

YouTube Watch here: <https://tinyurl.com/warehamchurches>

**If you go down to the church today you may
get a big surprise!**

By now – weather permitting – there will be a bright yellow banner across the front of the church above the door that says "back the climate and ecological emergency bill." This is a bill that was put before Parliament last September and is an attempt to encourage our government to actually fulfil the promises that they have already made in respect of taking care of the Earth that we as Christians believe that God made and gave to us to look after.



ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

The banner, which hopefully will be there until the end of Sunday, is a statement that our church believes taking care of the natural environment not only matters but is an integral part of the expression of our Christian faith. This is not us saying that we've got it right by any stretch of the imagination; as a church we are right at the beginning of trying to get our ecological house in order through our commitment to "eco-church."

All over the country churches and other organisations are putting up similar banners this weekend. The idea is to raise the profile of the conversation: to take pictures of it, possibly pictures of yourself with it, and to send those pictures to your MP, to social media, or any other ways that you have of sharing the message that not only do we want our government to do all that they can to protect our planet, but that as Christians we see creation care as part of our faith and are committed to doing what we can to show that through our actions and our prayer and worship.

Simon said *"Having looked at the environmental crisis affecting our world in our parish Lent course this year, it seems only right to keep highlighting the issues and then actively pursuing the agenda for change. If our banner highlighting the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill can make people think, it can hopefully encourage them to change and to seek change in our nation and around the world. Let us pray this is so".*

Families Zooming Together!

One of the challenges during lockdown has been how to stay connected with the young families who are part of our Angel Voices and Breakfast@9 communities. Services with social distancing, no singing, and little interaction between different households, are difficult for children, especially younger ones.



So we have had to be creative and think differently! Over the last couple of months, we have held two Sunday afternoon online Zoom gatherings for families. On both occasions, we delivered activity bags for each child to their homes beforehand, containing all the things they needed to join in with an activity on Zoom. In early February, this took the form of a Zoom Christingle to celebrate Candlemas, with Hilary Bond leading the children through the process of making their Christingles live on Zoom. Then in early March, our theme was preparing for Mothering Sunday, led by Helen Williams, with the children making gift boxes to give to mums and other family members. On both occasions, we heard a Bible story, sung songs of worship, and prayed together.

Of course, we look forward to the time when things like this can be done in person once again, but during the current restrictions these Zoom gatherings have been a really important way of staying connected. They have been fun, joyful and prayerful, and we have received lots of great feedback from the families. Watch this space for plans for future events!

Thank you to everyone who has joined these family Zoom gatherings, and to everyone who has helped to make them happen, including Mary Appleton, Hilary Bond, Rachel Cocksedge, Anne Smith and Helen Williams.

Stuart Cocksedge

A New Sermon Series - The 'I Am' sayings of Jesus

The Times newspaper once wrote to eminent writers and thinkers asking them what was wrong with the world. The author G.K. Chesterton came back with the most succinct and honest answer, simply replying, 'I am'. But what if the question had asked what the solution was to humanity's problem there is only one person in the whole of history who could answer, 'I am' and that was Jesus.

Throughout John's Gospel we have seven occasions when Jesus asserts "I am...". Taking the divine name revealed to Moses at the burning bush (Ex3:14), Jesus makes it his own by applying it to different facets of his life and calling. Thus, he establishes himself as the divine Son of God, the light and life of all people.

Starting on Easter day, with 'I am the resurrection and the life' we shall be exploring in our weekly sermons the 'I am' saying of Jesus and learning what they reveal to us about his humanity and deity, and how that impacts on our lives.

Easter Day I am the Resurrection and the Life John 20:1-18

11th April I am the Bread of Life John 6:35

18th April I am the Light of the World John 8:12

25th April I am the Door John 10:9

2nd May I am the Good Shepherd John 10:11

9th May I am the Way, the Truth, the life John 14:6

16th May I am the Vine John 15:5

Celebrating 2020 – Wareham's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Despite the lockdown and all the problems and chaos that it caused, believe it or not, there is still much to celebrate within the parish of Wareham. On Wednesday 21st April at 6.30pm, on Zoom, we will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). This will start with the election of the Churchwardens for the Parish and East Holme. This year Merville Gover will be stepping down as Parish Warden having completed six years in office. I would like to take this opportunity (in case you cannot make the meeting) to express my sincere thanks to him for his service to the parish over the years. I am most grateful for his support and hard work, he and Hilary have made a good team.

The rest of the meeting is given over to receiving and accepting the accounts (copies available at the back of church or via the Parish Office) and hearing reports from the different committees and groups that come under the auspices of the parish. As the annual report suggests, this is a time to celebrate the life of our churches in and around Wareham.

The final part of the meeting is receiving the electoral roll and then electing church members to the Parochial Church Council and Deanery Synod. If you are interested in standing please do contact Debs Barclay, the Parish Administrator, via the Parish Office.

New Look PCC

Well, not quite! But at our last PCC meeting it was agreed that parish mission and outreach should be given much greater prominence within our meetings. Being a large parish, comprising of five churches, there is much routine business and maintenance that needs attending to, which from now on will be carried out largely within sub-committees and then report to the PCC with recommendations and observations.

The whole PCC will be the Mission and Outreach committee for the parish and will look at ways to help our churches communicate with the wider parish and local organisations, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action. If you have a heart for mission and outreach, as well as an interest in helping the parish run efficiently and effectively why not consider standing for the PCC?

Canon Simon Everett – Team Rector

Something to make you smile!

Divine Intervention?

A little boy was playing outside with his mother's broom in the garden. That night his mother realised her broom was still missing and asked her son to go out and bring it in.

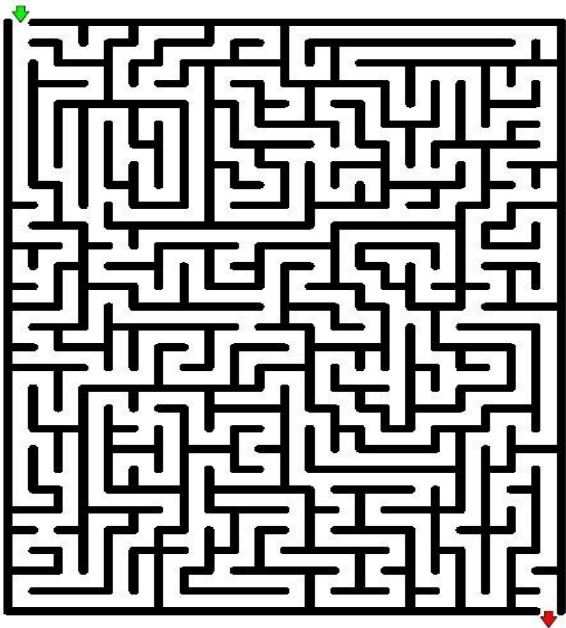
When the little boy confessed he was afraid of the dark, his mother tried to comfort him: 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.'

Hesitantly, the little boy opened the back door and peered out. He called softly: 'Lord, since you're out there already, please will you pass me the broom?'



...rumours that we would be giving out easter eggs are unfounded - er, there aren't any left!

Puzzles



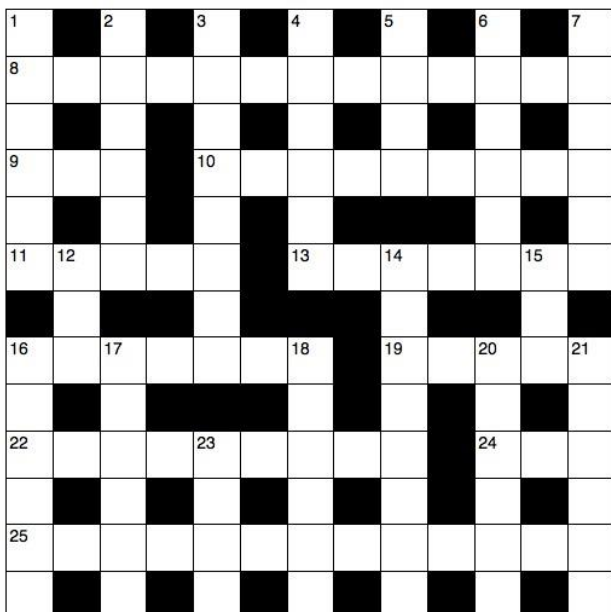
The Maze

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3			2					
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Sudoku

Crossword



ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
 13 Muslim holy month (7)
 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

Contact information

Parish Office

The Parish Office is now closed due to the new Covid-19 restrictions but is able to answer all telephone and email enquiries Monday, Wednesday and Friday. At all other times enquiries and queries can be made by email and they will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Contact details: www.warehamchurches.org.uk

Tel: 01929 550905, Email: parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk

Address: Parish Office, Church Green, Wareham BH20 4ND



Members of the Team are available for confidential help, support and advice. Please contact:

Clergy Team

Team Rector The Reverend Canon Simon Everett
01929 289236

Email: rector@warehamchurches.org.uk

Team Vicar The Reverend Stuart Cocksedge
01929 550972

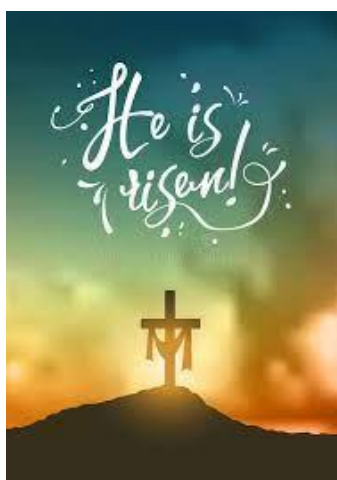
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Happy Easter