

**APRIL 2025**

**FROM THE RECTORY DESK**

Dear Friends,

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the triumphant feast of the risen Christ, but I wonder how much thought is given to the Saturday before Easter Sunday?

Traditionally it was thought that Jesus descended into hell on Easter Eve and ministered to the lost souls there. It is known as the harrowing of hell. The word harrowing comes from a military term harrying in which pre-battle raids were made against the enemy. Medieval theologians believed Jesus trampled down the gates of hell and rescued the imprisoned, the first to be rescued being Adam and Eve. "Truly I say to you the hour is coming and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the son of God and those who hear shall live" - words of Jesus recorded in the gospel of John.

The descent into hell referenced in the creed was a deliberate act, the completion of Christ's saving work, sealed at the resurrection on the following day. So, Easter eve was a day of great significance for the redemption of the living and the departed. There is a magnificent example of the harrowing of hell carved on the ancient baptism font at Saint Mary Magdalene Church, Eardisley, Herefordshire.

Liturgically, Easter Eve is the time to reaffirm our baptismal vows in which symbolically we died in the waters of baptism and rose refreshed and renewed in the power of Christ's resurrection life.

Happy Easter

Rector

**ADVANCE NOTICE OF APCM/AGM**

Please note the SPW PCC APCM/AGM will be held at the church of the Good Shepherd Sands on 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 6.30pm.

All electoral roll members' application forms need to be completed and returned.

## ZOOM CHURCH

Every Sunday at 6.00 pm                      Virtual Compline

For all zoom services please use this link: [Church Services](#), then enter this Passcode: 2022

Or by phone - dial one of the following: 0203 901 7895 ; 0208 080 6591  
Meeting ID: 81259506242 – then enter Passcode 2022, followed by # when asked (you may need to repeat the last step)

Download Order of Service here: [Virtual Compline](#)



## APRIL SERVICES

### Sunday 6 April – Fifth Sunday in Lent (Purple)

9.00 am      Morning Prayer      St Bartholomew, Wanborough.  
*Readings: Isaiah 35.1-10 ; Romans 7.21 - 8.4. Hymns: 499, 557, 609.*

10:30 am    Holy Communion      St Laurence, Seale.  
*Readings: Philippians 3.4b-14 - 4.2 ; John 12.1-8. Hymns: 499, 100, 557, 609.*

### Sunday 13 April – Palm Sunday (Red)

9.00 am      Holy Communion      The Good Shepherd, The Sands.  
*Readings: See Order of Service. Hymns: 128, 129, 112, 123.*

10:30 am    Morning Prayer      St John the Baptist, Puttenham.  
*Readings: See Order of Service. Hymns: 128, 129, 112.*

### Thursday 17 April – Maundy Thursday (White)

10:00 am    Holy Communion & Vigil      St John the Baptist, Puttenham.  
*Readings: 1 Cor. 11.23-26 ; John 13.1-17, 31b-35. Hymns: 130, 432, 296, 318.*

### Friday 18 April – Good Friday

10.00 am    Stations of the Cross      The Sands.  
*Readings / hymns: See Order of Service.*

2:00 pm      Devotional Service      St Laurence, Seale.  
*Readings / hymns: See Order of Service.*

### Sunday 20 April – Easter Day (White)

9.00 am      Holy Communion      St Bartholomew, Wanborough.  
*Readings: Acts 10.34-43 ; John 20.1-18. Hymns: 147, 136, 138, 160.*

10:30 am Holy Communion and egg search St Laurence, Seale.

*Readings: Acts 10.34-43 ; John 20.1-18. Hymns: 147, 136, 138, 160.*

10:30 am Easter Praise and egg search St John the Baptist, Puttenham.

*Readings: See Order of Service. Hymns: 147, 136, 138, 160.*

**Sunday 27 April – The Second Sunday of Easter (White)**

9.00 am Morning Prayer The Good Shepherd, The Sands.

*Readings: Exodus 12.1-13 - ; 1 Peter 1.3-12. Hymns: 163, 137, 605.*

10:30 am Holy Communion St John the Baptist, Puttenham.

*Readings: Acts 5.27-32 ; John 20.19-31. Hymns: 163, 456, 137, 605.*

### **DIARY FOR THE MONTH**

Tue 1 Apr	12.00 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 2 Apr	2.00 pm	Pilgrim Hub at The Good Shepherd, The Sands
Fri 4 Apr	12.30 pm	Lent Course at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Tue 8 Apr	12.00 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 9 Apr	2.00 – 4.30 pm	Tower Café at St John the Baptist, Puttenham.
Fri 11 Apr	12.30 pm	Lent Course at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Tue 15 Apr	12.30 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 16 Apr	11.00 am	Pastoral Hub at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Tue 22 Apr	12.30 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 23 Apr	2.00 pm	Bible Hub at The Good Shepherd, The Sands Studies in the Acts of the Apostles.
Tue 29 Apr	12.30 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.



**SAFEGUARDING AND DBS OFFICER**

**ANNE CONCANEN: 01483 811017**

You can contact Anne confidentially if you have any safeguarding concerns.

## STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

We rely on the generosity of our worshippers, regular members and visitors to fund the costs of quota, maintaining the buildings and running costs and fulfilling our mission to the churches in the parish.



It costs about £8,000 per month to keep our churches in good order and open for regular services. Apart from rental income from Glebe Cottage, we receive no financial support for operational costs other than what you give. Our giving is always a response to God's unfailing generosity and grace and to the needs of the church.

## GIFTING TO THE CHURCH

**BY BANK TRANSFER OR STANDING ORDER:** to the SPWPCC bank account, which is at Lloyds Bank, Farnham, sort code 30 93 20, account number 02210758, (do include your name for reference).

**BY CHEQUE:** Send to the Treasurer, c/o The Rectory, Elstead Road, Seale, Farnham, GU10 1JA. Contact the Churchwardens for Gift Aid forms and increase the value of your giving.

**CONTACTLESS:** now available at Seale, Puttenham and Wanborough.

**ONLINE:** once or monthly [by following this link, where you will find a Gift Aid option.](#)

**PARISH GIVING SCHEME** To change your regular Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) donation, please write to: Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GL1 3BD, email to [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk) or phone 0333 002 1260. It helps to include the PGS reference number, which can be found below your address on PGS correspondence. If you would like to start a regular PGS donation, or have any questions, please contact Mike Cloughley, our PGS coordinator: Telephone number: 01252 793639 Email: [cloughley@btinternet.com](mailto:cloughley@btinternet.com)



Please contact any member of the Ministry or Pastoral team if you are anxious, lonely or would like a spiritual or social chat.

THE RECTOR: 01252 783057 or [Rector@spw.org.uk](mailto:Rector@spw.org.uk)

PASTORAL TEAM: Linda Thatcher & Kathleen Smith