

Prayers: Loving Father, your Son our Saviour showed us by his Passion the way of humility, give us the courage to walk humbly and obediently with you this week, that we may learn afresh the cost of our redemption, and the victory he won for us over death.

We pray especially for:

Sick: Lolita Alvira, Inez Bennett, Dawn Forey, Hanna Librato, Jack Mannix, Marion Mason and Ken Peters.

May we walk carefully and faithfully with You, in Jesus Name. Amen.

Who's who Rector	The Revd Matthew Stone Email: rector@stjohnschurchstanmore.org.uk	020 8954 3876
Assistant Curate	The Revd Jonny Rapson Email: jonny.rapson@london.anglican.org	07557 808527
Safeguarding Officers	Mark Lynch Louise Gregory	07982 906833 07504 527118
Children's Champion Vulnerable Adults Champion	Sue Wright Sheila Oliver	07958 499682 020 8954 4976
Churchwardens	Mark Lynch Jane Prentice	07982 906833 07976 388958
Deputy Wardens	Susan Jones Graham Nicholson	07864 846148 01923 226969
Treasurer	Jenny Neve Email: jenny.neve@googlemail.com	07989 378840
Data Protection Compliance	The Rector/Karen Stirrup	as above/below
Parish Office (9am-2pm) Tue, Wed & Fri	Karen Stirrup Email: parish@stjohnschurchstanmore.org.uk Website: www.stjohnschurchstanmore.org.uk	020 8954 7064

**Matthew and Jonny are continuing to say
Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer
at their homes every day.**

St John's Church

Alternative Pew Sheet

5th April 2020

Welcome!

The Church of England continues to follow Government advice. Sadly it is not possible for services, baptisms, weddings and funerals in church to take place. We also have to keep the church closed.

This is the third edition of our alternative pew sheet. We are committed to keeping in touch with everyone at St Johns and offer some resources: [here](#).

If you need any help or assistance from Matthew or Jonny, please be in touch (see page four).

**"God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Be still and know that I am God!
The Lord of Hosts is with us,
the God of Jacob is our refuge."
Psalm 46. 1.10-11.**

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - MISSION STATEMENT

Drawn together by Christ's love, we seek by his grace to live out his commandments to love the Lord our God with all of our being; and to love everyone we come across as we love ourselves.

St John's

Palm Sunday

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bible Readings (click on links to access passages):

[Matthew 21:1-11](#) (Palm Gospel)

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)

[Philippians 2:5-11](#)

[Matthew 27:11-54](#)

Short Sermon (by Jean Orpwood)

We live in strange days as we stay home for both our own protection and that of others. Instead of gathering in Church, we are still invited to follow the events of Holy Week and Easter by revisiting those stories and see how they speak afresh to us in our current situation.

The Palm Gospel (Matthew 21:1-11) is often described as Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but his entry was not like that of a general or a warrior. Riding a donkey, Jesus is revealed as a humble peasant on a peace mission and not a military warrior. This was lost on many at the time and the cries of "Hosanna" at the beginning of the week quickly turned to "Crucify", by its end.

One feature of that day is the peaceful donkey. As the animal that is often used to mock and ridicule others, it becomes a sacred throne not only for a King, but the very Son of God. The donkey and her colt are borrowed from an unnamed man in the tiny village of Bethphage. As we ponder this seemingly small detail, we hear Jesus' words, "The Lord needs them" (v. 3). Jesus constantly turns every-

St John's

thing upside down; he rides the humble donkey for his triumphal entry to show us that that which we think has no value, has tremendous value in God's eyes. Jesus challenges our values and notions of dominion in every way; from political dominion to the cruelty we may dare to exert over God's created world and his beloved creatures. Similar messages are echoed by Sir David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg, among others. Jesus comes in peace and humility riding a donkey. Society can be reluctant to conquer evil with peace, humility, and non-violence, preferring to resort to violence and power.

Today, the Lord needs those who some may think have limited value. We obviously give thanks for the emergency and healthcare services in the current times especially, but also for the many volunteers who are giving their time for smaller, but none the less important tasks of enabling care for individuals at home. Some go shopping or collect much needed prescriptions; others have been unexpectedly home teaching their own children or delivering much needed equipment to health facilities.

What about those of us at home? The Lord needs us too; to make phone calls to our neighbours, or pray for those on the front lines of this grave emergency. The Lord may also be asking us to use this extended time to be with him more often and to walk with him during this Holy Week, all the way to the Cross of Good Friday and beyond.

The Lord needs us, both you and me. As we offer ourselves afresh to God this Holy Week, may we value not only those already at work, but also ourselves and the little we can offer. We are all chosen and precious in the sight of the Lord and he loves each one of us.

"Hosanna to the Son of David,
Hosanna to the King of Kings,
Glory in the Highest Heaven,
for Jesus the Messiah reigns".

Amen.