



St Mary's Acton Dates and News

April 2021



Services

We are delighted that public worship will begin again from Easter Day, 4 April. Holy Week services will be held via Zoom, WhatsApp and through e-mailed resources.

Please be aware that changes may, regrettably, need to be made depending on the COVID-19 infection rate.

	Acton	Church Minshull	Wettenhall	Worleston
4 April (Easter)	11.00 Communion	9.30 Communion	11.00 Communion	9.30 Communion
11 April	8.00 Communion 11.00 Morning Prayer	11.00 Service of the Word	11.00 Morning Prayer	9.30 Morning Prayer
18 April	"Messy Church at home" 5.00 Evensong	11.00 Communion	11.00 All Age	No Service
25 April	11.00 Morning Prayer	Messy Church (TBC)	6.30 Communion	9.30 Communion

Bible Readings

	First Reading	Second Reading	Psalm
4 April	Acts 10: 34 - 43	Mark 16: 1 - 8	
11 April	1 John 1: 1 - 22	John 20: 19 - end	Psalm 133
18 April	1 John 3: 1 - 7	Luke 24: 36b - 48	Psalm 4
25 April	1 John 3: 16 - end	Luke 24: 36b - 48	Psalm 23

Would you like to receive SMS Text Messages about Services and Activities at St Mary's?

This is the fastest way of letting you know about last minute changes to worship which may be necessary as well as a way of receiving reminders

Please send a message, including your name, to 07486 020 084 to be added to the circulation list

Help Needed

Do you have word processing/desktop publishing skills?

Would you be able to produce the newsletter each month? If so, please contact Rev Anne (details at the bottom of the first page). All offers of help welcome.

Vicar: Revd S Anne Lawson

Tel: 01270 628864

e-mail: revanne@uwclub.net

Parish Office open Tuesday and Thursday Morning 9.30 - 12.30 e-mail: crosscountryparishes@outlook.com

Mobile: 07486 020 084

Mothering Sunday Flowers for Acton School

The PCC were delighted to support an idea from Joyce Percival to provide a primula plant to every child in Acton School to give to their mums for Mothering Sunday. Plants were also given to each of the staff in the school. Each child also had a worksheet about Mothering Sunday. The photograph shows the plants all loaded up into Philip's landrover ready to be transported to the school. The flowers were very well received by the staff at the school and the parents.



Alleluia! Christ is risen... even in the midst of a pandemic

Dear Friends

As I write we are about to observe a moment of reflection to mark 1 year since the first lockdown. The death toll for the UK has just topped 126K, and our lives continue to be restricted as we work to prevent that figure from rising further. This is the backdrop to our Easter celebrations this year.

So how can we sing a resurrection song against such a distressing backdrop? Certainly, a shallow celebration which makes us feel good is inappropriate. If we are to celebrate the resurrection, and let our (albeit muffled) alleluias ring this Easter, we must do so against the reality of the world immediately around us. We must find a celebration which is as real now as it is when life is easy.

Which brings us to the good news about Easter and the resurrection song we are called to sing. Real resurrection songs spring from the depths of a tomb. They are not the songs of easy victory, but of victory which has experienced the deep darkness of death and triumphed over it. They are victory songs which can only be sung with integrity when we too have touched the depths, and walked with Jesus all the way to the cross.

However difficult it may seem, we can shout victorious alleluias this Easter. Real sounds of victory which can bring real hope into the darkness of a world weary and hopeless from COVID-19. Victory sounds which bring hope, not mockery, because, in our remembering of the crucifixion, we have touched the darkest of places in the company of Jesus.

Yours in our resurrected Lord,

Rev'd Anne

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday You may wish to make a cross and place it in your window during Holy Week.

Palm Sunday Worship (28 March) will be available through Zoom and WhatsApp* and a service and sermon will be distributed by e-mail.

Maundy Thursday (1 April) 7.30pm service via zoom & WhatsApp *and service and sermon will be distributed by e-mail.

Good Friday (2 April) Services in the 4 churchyards (9.45 Worleston; 10.30 Church Minshull; 11.15 Wettenhall; 12.00 Acton) *Government restrictions permit worship in churchyards provided social distancing is observed.*

From 12.30 pm a Good Friday Walk (similar to 'Follow the Star' at Christmas) will take place if government restrictions allow groups of 6 to meet outside. **Booking necessary**, look out for details as the COVID situation becomes clearer.

2.00 pm 'An Hour at the Cross' via Zoom and WhatsApp* and a service distributed by e-mail.

* To access worship via WhatsApp, you need a smartphone with WhatsApp installed. You can join the Cross Country Parishes WhatsApp by contacting Chris Pope on 07771 684000.

Website update

The parish website is currently being rebuilt. If you have photographs of the church and church activities (please ask permission if the photographs are of people), please send them to Stephan Davies at: stephen.davies1@talktalk.net.

Would you like a copy of the magazine posted?

If you are not able to access the internet, and would like a copy of the magazine posted to you each month, please contact Rev Anne/the Parish Office (details at the bottom of the first page) and this can be arranged.

NB For the foreseeable future it will not be possible to pick up a hard copy of the newsletter in church because of COVID restrictions. If you wish to have a copy posted for now, and review the situation when it becomes possible to pick up a hard copy from church, we would be happy to post a copy to you for the time being.

A (brief) contribution you wish to make to the newsletter?

Please send it Revd Anne by **15 April 2021** (contact details at the bottom of the front page)

Triduum* for COVID-19

Maundy Thursday: A subversive kiss

A kiss. Sign of affection; of passion; of love;
now turned weapon of mass destruction,
an instrument of germ warfare,
as Christians gather to remember
another subversive kiss.
A kiss not of affection, but betrayal
launched from the lips of Judas
the traitor

Good Friday: Isolation

A society that discovered
how harmful isolation can be
plunged into self-isolation
for the benefit of the greater good;
the healing of humanity.
As Christians gather to remember
in the soft spring of Good Friday afternoon
the greatest isolation;
a man upon a cross.
His Father's face turned away.
Alone and separate.
Isolation for the greater good;
the healing of all humanity.

Holy Saturday: A day beside the tomb

So it is finished. Hope gone.
The body cut down from the cross;
laid in a fresh hewn tomb
in haste before the Sabbath.
We sit and wait.
An in between day without an end.
A pause; a nothingness;
between death and resurrection.
And this strange Holy Week,
we too sit and wait among fresh hewn tombs.
A pause; a nothingness; an in between;
as Spring bursts forth and promises
a resurrection which must surely come.

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Holy Week 2020

S. Anne Lawson (2020) Triduum for Covid-19, Rural Theology, 18:2, 122-123, DOI: 10.1080/14704994.2020.1818388

* *'Triduum' is the term used to describe the 3 days before Easter Sunday in the Church year, namely, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday*