



## Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Living the time between two great occasions can be challenging and joyful but also baffling. Last Sunday, we celebrated Palm Sunday with the signing, dancing, and shouting Hossana! On Thursday, it was much more sober with the celebration of the agape meal, foot washing and sharing of the Holy Communion as we remember our Lord's Command to love each other as he has loved us. On Friday, we joined our sisters and brothers in Weybridge as we walked in witness to Christ's death and resurrection, which was also a mark of our unity as followers of Christ. On the same Day, we reflected on the seven Words uttered by Christ as he was hung on the Cross.



Today is Saturday, and all seems to have stopped, just like it did for the first disciples. Nothing is programmed. Nothing is happening! I often wondered how the disciples must have felt as they celebrated Sabbath on the Saturday after the gory events of Good Friday. Words will not be enough to describe their feelings as they did not have the benefit we have of knowing that Christ will rise from the dead on Easter Sunday. The

importance of Holy Saturday is that it tells us that Jesus indeed died on the Cross and remained dead until Easter morning. As Christians, over 2000 years after Christ's resurrection, we seem to live in a perpetual "Holy Saturday," the time in between. He has been raised from the dead, resurrected, and promised He would return for us again. We are in between the time of his leaving and his coming back. We can also learn from the disciples' experience of this Day. They learn to wait. They continue to live in hope and expectation. They were witnesses of the joy of Easter. In some church traditions, Holy Saturday is celebrated with prayer and vigil. As you lay your heads down tonight, I encourage you to say this prayer. *"I entrust my whole being to You, dear Lord, as You lay lifeless and still. May your rest transform the brokenness of my soul, weaknesses, sin, and frailty. You are glorious, and You bring the greatest good out of Your apparent defeat. I trust in our power to do all things, and I entrust my life to You. Jesus, I trust in You."* Tomorrow, we will all wake an hour earlier (clocks change) to the joy of the resurrected life. Please join us at 8 and 10 am for Easter Day Holy Communion Services. Cooked breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9.45 (approx). There will be facilities for children during the 10 am service. The service will be followed with refreshments in the Church Hall and an Egg Hunt for younger ones in the church. Whatever you do in the next couple of days, remember that **Christ has died for your sake, Christ has Risen to give you life and hope, and Christ will come again to take you to the place prepared for you.**



Have a blessed Eastertide.

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**This Week's Bible Readings:** Acts 10: 34-43, 1 Cor 15: 1-11 and John 20:1-18. **From the Diocesan Calendar of Prayer:** John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631. **From the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church in the Province of the West Indies. **Prayer requests:** The joy of the Resurrection and the love, grace, and mercy of God. **We are praying for** All victims of abuse, violence and discrimination. We remember, in particular, victims of wars and atrocities in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Yemen, South Sudan the Congo and Haiti.

**Please remember our Mission Partner:** The Bible Society. **We pray for the sick in our parish:** especially remembering all who suffer from mental ill health and are victims of abuse and discrimination. **From the Memorial Book at their year's mind:** Wilfred Holland, Shirley Humble, Douglas Login, Muriel Scagell, Shirley Steen, John Solbett, Marjorie Watson and Patrick Sheedy. **We Remember the Recently Departed:** David Basham, Alan Ulrick, Vaughan Reading, Douglas Baynes, Paul Richmond and Anne Smith. **Holy Week and Easter services:** **Maundy Thursday** 28th March: 7.30 pm Agape Supper in the Church Hall. 8 pm Holy Communion service with foot washing. **Good Friday** 29th March 10 am 'Walk of Witness' (from St James' Church, Weybridge). 1-3 pm Music & Readings for Good Friday. 2.30-4 pm Free Children's Good Friday Craft Afternoon in the Church Octagon room. **Easter Sunday** 31st March 8 am & 10 am Holy Communion. 8.30-9.30 am Parish Breakfast. Everyone is welcome to have breakfast and fellowship. **Plant Swap Day** Sat 27th April 9am-12noon on the Church lawn. Browse, swap plants and information. Refreshments will be available. Please contact Rachel Bainbridge if you can help or need more information 07557408085. **Oatlands Village Fayre Sat 11th May 12.30-4.30pm.** We will be there once again with our Cake and Children's Crafts stalls. If you can help on either stall or pledge a cake for the cake stall, please use the signup sheet at the back of the Church or contact the parish office. **Quiz Night Sat 18th May** 7-10pm in SMO Church Hall. In support of Leon's Ministry and the charity LTHT (Let Them Help Themselves). Following last year's fundraising to support the management of menstrual hygiene in schools in SW Uganda, LTHT has sourced 750 Menstrual hygiene kits from Days for Girls Uganda.

This will be a ticketed event (£15). Tickets will be available after Easter. **Kim & Malcolm Groom's Open Garden** Sat 15th June 2-5pm 'West Lodge', 169 Burwood Road, Hersham, Walton-On-Thames, KT12 4AT (near Squires Garden Centre). **Sokkie Night**

Sat 22nd June 6-10 pm. Join us for a unique experience! We are supporting the work of Leon Chaunga, St Mary Oatlands Pais apprentice, with a Sokkie Night, including a fish and chip supper with wine in the Church Hall. Sokkie is a style of dance unique to Southern Africa. It is great fun, easy to learn, and fun to participate in. This will be a ticketed event (£15), and profits will go towards Leon's Ministry. Tickets will be available after Easter.

We are delighted to have Leon Chaunga with us. As most people will know, he comes to us from South Africa and is an apprentice under a missionary scheme called PAIS. Although he has only been



with us since September, he has already impacted our work with young people. One of the requirements is for Leon to carry out his fundraising since he is not paid directly while he is in the UK. Some Church members have already helped by hosting Leon since he joined us, and we are very grateful indeed to them for doing so, as is Leon. However, he needs to

have some money available for his day-to-day expenditures. Members of our Church can help with this by donating to his fundraising site, <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20485929>.

Leon will be with us until December, and, as a Church, we aim to support him to the extent of £400 per month. We are, asking members of our Church to consider supporting Leon with a regular donation. It will only need, say, 40 of us to agree to pay £10 per month each. To coordinate our response, it would be beneficial if donors were to advise me of the amount, they are prepared to commit so that we can measure the overall result. Thanks very much. Brian Stickland. Treasurer.

This week the floodlighting of the church has been sponsored by

**Ralph Humble Shirley Doris Humble 9.3.1935 – 31.3.2014**

'In loving memory of my wife Shirley, mother, grandmother and a courageous first mate.  
God Bless you, Darling. Your loving husband Ralph, sons and our greater family'

*If you would like to sponsor the lights for an anniversary or other occasion, please contact:  
parishoffice@oatlandschurch.org.uk 01932 231274*