



OLD HILLS MALVERN HEADLINES



PASSIONTIDE/HOLY WEEK 2026

Keeping you in touch with your churches across Powick, Callow End, Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland

SERVICES FOR THE COMING PERIOD

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH

Palm Sunday

10.30am Palm Sunday Service at Powick

(see guidance notes below)

(With Rev Gary Crellin and The Lay Team)

Liturgy of The Palms (Prior to Procession):

Matthew 21: 1-11

Liturgy of The Passion:

Isaiah 50: 40-9, Philippians 2: 5-11

Followed by The Passion

Intercessions for each week will be available to download from the website each Friday.

Midweek Communion – The Orchard Room

10.30-11.30am 26th March & 9th April

For those of you that came to church last Sunday, you were treated to the full 45 verses of the above reading. I still think it is better to read and digest the full story, especially as we begin our approach to Holy Week and all that brings in terms of our faithful journey to and through the Cross. Today we start the period in the Church calendar called 'Passiontide', but have you wondered what the word 'Passion' means? We think of passion as being associated with intense outbursts of strong emotion, like desire, or great enthusiasm. People are "passionate" about their football for instance. But the term was originally used to refer to severe suffering and applied to the period of suffering undergone by Jesus before the glory of His Easter resurrection. Passiontide comes with some huge themes, like suffering, death, resurrection and glory, as we shall see as we accompany Jesus through the last two weeks of his life. In the raising of Lazarus Jesus reveals his power over death, which we will see again at his own death and resurrection. We also see another of the seven "I am" statements - "I am the resurrection and the life!" But above all we should notice how yet again Jesus responds to another person's faith. Martha knows with every power of her being that her brother Lazarus could have been healed if Jesus had been with them earlier, and even though he has been in the tomb for four days, that Jesus can raise him from the dead. Her confidence brings forth a statement that believers too will one day be raised, for Jesus says, "Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Passiontide is meant to be a special penitential period where we focus on Jesus' bitter passion and feel sorrow within ourselves for our own sins. But the good news is that Passiontide doesn't have the last say, and this sombre period of preparation will end in two weeks' time, and then our hearts can rejoice in the glory of Christ's resurrection. *Rev Gary.*

THE VICAR'S BLOG

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was....

After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' John 11vv NRSV

A prayer for Passiontide: Lord Jesus Christ, as we enter this solemn period of Passiontide, when Your enemies began to gather around You, may we learn true faithfulness from Martha's example. Help us to trust in Your plans for our world, and to know when the days are dark, that through Your death and Resurrection You have already defeated death for all who believe in You. **Amen.**

What an Eggcellent start for Easter:

With grateful thanks for the "eggcellent" support for the impromptu Easter Egg Collection. The total, at time of writing is over 140 Eggs with more expected from the schools before Thursday. Thank you to those of you that donated in chocolate or with cash for this good cause which I am sure will be well received by children and families in Ukraine at Easter. The lorry for Ukraine will depart on Saturday 28th March from Wrexham and our donation will be taken to connect with the lorry by Teams4U staff over the weekend. Special mention must be made to the very large donations from MEYC and MSJ, but every egg received is a real gift with all churches and schools dominating. *Thank you.*

Vicar: Revd Gary Crellin – revgarycrellin@gmail.com 01905 830270

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For more information, please see our website: www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk

If you would like to be included in the email circulation list for this newsletter, please contact Liz Edwards, the Parish Administrator on oldhillsmalvern@gmail.com



C.A.T.O.
Churches Across to Ourselves



Church Services and Online Worshipping Opportunities for Your Church in the Old Hills Malvern Churches

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday

10.30am Benefice Palm Sunday Service with Procession at POWICK

Monday 30th March

7.00pm Compline at CALLOW END

Tuesday 31st March

7.00pm Compline at MADRESFIELD

Wednesday 1st April

7.00pm Compline at GUARLFORD

Thursday 2nd April

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy at POWICK

Friday 3rd April

Good Friday

9.40am Walk of Witness from Christ Church to Great Malvern Priory

All are welcome from Old Hills Malvern Churches to take part.

There will be An Hour by the Cross at

POWICK, GUARLFORD, CALLOW END and MADRESFIELD

between 12noon and 3pm. Please see local notices for details.

Sunday 5th April

Easter Sunday

9.30am Easter Communion at GUARLFORD

11.00am Easter Communion at POWICK

11.00am Easter Communion at MADRESFIELD

For more information go to our website: www.aldhillsmalvern.co.uk
or call 01905 830270

For Zoom Access codes and links, please contact us via
revgarycrellin@gmail.com or aldhillsmalvern@gmail.com



This should be a special time as we walk with a Cross on our holiest of days. The outdoor service is to start at Priory Park at 10.30am and the preacher will be Rev Emily Spencer from St Mary's Pickersleigh.

Good Friday - Prayerful Opportunities

Each church across the Old Hills benefice is expected to be open at some point, either for a self-led act of devotion or private payer. See local churches notices for opening times. I intend to visit each church before 2pm.

Easter Saturday - A day of quiet prayer, I suggest

Easter Sunday - Happy Easter! Each Church (except Callow End) will have an Easter Service at their normal service time. Alleluia!

LENT COURSE

There is one remaining date for our Lent study - *Acts of Hope*. If you are able to come, please do so. The session will be held from 7.15pm-9.00pm on **24th March** at the home of Philip & Frances..

PRAYERS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST - THE WAR WITH IRAN – TUESDAYS AT 6PM

The Malvern and Upton Deanery has started an online Prayer vigil each Tuesday Evening, called *Tuesday at 6pm*. Timed to coincide with the main departure time for US Bombers departing RAF Fairford, this is a time of reflective prayer to seek for a peaceful solution to the humanitarian and economic situation that is affecting so many. It is also a time for uniting our prayers on any other mutual subjects - our first gathering last Tuesday featured the Canterbury Meningitis outbreak. Maybe the enthronement of the Archbishop of Canterbury will feature this week. It is a time of prayer timed for 20 or so minutes and is open to all. If anyone has a prayer need, please share it with me and I will pray for it online. The service will then be open to those that can use Zoom In or cannot. Just call me with your prayer request. The Zoom Code is our usual Zoom link, printed each and every time Headlines is printed.



Planning for the 'Parish Wedding' event on Saturday 25^h & Sunday 26th April is underway and we're excited by how it's shaping up. We have a few requests below if you are able to help with any of them:

-Can you help with setting up the event on Friday 24th April? If so, please let Kay know on 07702 733598 or kay@shuard.com
-Do you have any white tablecloths or sheets we can borrow to cover the tables where dresses are being displayed? If yes, please bring them to Powick Church this Sunday (Palm Sunday 29th March, Benefice service) or contact Kay (details above) for collection.

-If your wedding dress won't be on display, do you have a wedding photo (ideally in a frame) we could include in our wedding Hall of Fame?! If yes, please bring it to Powick Church Powick church on Palm Sunday or contact Kay (details above) for collection.

Finally, please pray for all those involved in organising the event, that it will be enjoyed and well-supported by the community.

ZOOM ACCESS CODES

Codes and access numbers for ALL Old Hills Malvern Meetings and Services 2026:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86594255282?pwd=UkZ2cytyMUd2OWN2Sy8yZndoMS8rZz09>

SAFEGUARDING: We are all responsible for protecting ourselves and others from abuse, harm, or neglect, especially our children, young people, and vulnerable adults, and report safeguarding concerns. If you have any concerns or questions, then please contact Gary (01905 8303270) or Sheila (07912 030805).

The notice above shows the services and prayer opportunities open to you all to journey through Passiontide and Holy Week. Here are a few comments to make in the services shown:

Palm Sunday at POWICK - 10.30am (note the earlier gathering time)

Please gather at the Church sign on the Upton Road at 10.30am as we begin our procession down to the church. Palms, palm crosses and service booklets will be available at the start. Whether we will be following a real donkey remains to be seen! If you feel that the walk to church is too far, join in mid-way down the church drive, or await the arrival at the church door. If the weather is poor, do await the procession's arrival in church. The service will be in two parts - the Liturgy of The Palms and the Liturgy of The Passion. The Gospel will be replaced with a reading from the Gospel of St Matthew in shared parts (it used to be called a dramatized reading - but no acting is required). The story is dramatic enough.

Compline or Night Prayer - Monday/Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of Holy Week at 7pm (30mins of prayer)

Note the venue changes each evening and may be led by different people.

Maundy Thursday Liturgy - Powick Church from 7.30pm

The Maundy Thursday Liturgy is made up of different components: the memorial of the institution of Holy Communion via The Last Supper, Foot Washing, The Stripping of the Altar and The Vigil. The service is long but will not go on beyond 9.15pm. Foot washing is optional.

Good Friday - A Walk of Witness - Christ Church - Gather at 9.30am

For the first time in a long time, our churches could gather for a Walk of Witness. Walking with Friends from Christ Church, we walk the short (slightly uphill) route to Priory Park where we can join in the outdoor service coordinated by Churches Together in Malvern.