



## OTTERY ST MARY PARISH CHURCH

Part of the Otter Vale Mission Community

**Families with children are especially welcome**

*Sadly the church building is closed, but our church is not closed.  
The church is people - caring, praying, serving people - and we will continue to  
do this as best we can.*



### ***Sunday 5th April is Palm Sunday***



Bible readings for this morning are:

Matthew 21 verses 1-11

and Psalm 118 verses 1-2, 19-end.

You can also read Isaiah 50 verses 4-9, Philippians 2 verses 5-11

and Matthew 26 verse 14 to the end of chapter 27

Readings for Evening Prayer are: Isaiah 5 verses 1-7

and Matthew 21 verses 33-end



#### **A message from John Hall**

Palm Sunday's annual procession, with or without a donkey, is a widely practised custom. We sing God's praises as we walk – 'All glory praise and honour to you redeemer king'. But this Sunday, gatherings and processions, religious or otherwise, remain forbidden. It still is Palm Sunday but not as we know it. However, that doesn't prevent us observing this significant day when Jesus went into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Matthew's Gospel chapter 21 tells us there was 'a very large crowd' and the 'city was stirred'. The people asked, 'Who is this?'

Mission Statement: "To know Christ better and to make Christ better known"

At the start of Holy Week, as we journey with Jesus to the place of crucifixion and resurrection, it is a question for us to ponder again.

'Who is Jesus?' and who is he for me this Palm Sunday and in a time of national emergency?

### **Church Services you can listen to and watch**

BBC Radio Devon is broadcasting a church service every Sunday morning at 8.00am. If you can access the Church of England website,

<https://www.churchofengland.org/> you can also watch a video-recording of this service from 9.00am and find suggestions for activities/worship in Holy Week. On the same website you will find details of other live-streamed services plus examples of prayer and liturgy that can be used at home.

Join in the RSCM's hymn for the day <https://www.rscm.org.uk/hymn-of-the-day/>

On our website <http://www.otterystmary.org.uk> you can find recorded sermons (including one for last Sunday (29th), under the Services tab (recorded sermons).

**Rev David Carrington** is recording a short 'video service' for the Escot, Feniton and Payhembury parishes each Sunday, which we are all welcome to watch. The link to the video will be posted on their website <http://www.efpchurch.org.uk/> by 8am on Sunday morning. Or you can go to our website and click on the blue box on our home page. In the EFP churches, many are watching it 'together' at 10.30am. The 'service' lasts about 20 mins and there will sometimes be a simple service sheet, downloadable from Googledrive, [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GZ9aby-pGhVCxc8Y\\_JgWT4PCXUZ79jhl?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GZ9aby-pGhVCxc8Y_JgWT4PCXUZ79jhl?usp=sharing)

**MMUK Prayer request** – MMUK is very worried about the situation in Melanesia regarding COVID-19. Church services still took place on Sunday, and there is no clear government advice at present. Social distancing is not working as people evacuate Honiara in overcrowded boats, as instructed by the Government. There are no ventilators in the Solomon Islands, and suspected cases have their swabs sent to Australia for testing. At present there are no confirmed cases in the Solomon Islands or Vanuatu, but with such a widespread region, this may not give a clear indication of the situation. The Melanesian Brothers are worried about civil unrest, due to ethnic tensions, the large Chinese community and food shortages. We have one UK ordinand on placement with the Brothers stuck out there at present, all our gap year volunteers made it back to the UK. I am Tweeting all these concerns and prayer requests as we receive them. We are waiting to hear what plans the church is making and will look at how we can support them, in due course. Please pray for our Brothers and Sisters in Melanesia. Katie Drew.

**Ottery Prayer Diary for April** is now on the website.

Today, for **Palm Sunday**, if you can, why not try making your own palm cross out of paper or card and display it in a window.

**Ottery Community Volunteers and Help Scheme - the telephone number is 01404 600013. Please don't hesitate to contact them if you need assistance with picking up shopping, running essential errands or if you would like to volunteer as a helper. You can also email them on [help@ottery.online](mailto:help@ottery.online)**

### **Church News and Notices**

**In our prayers** – Dorothy Ward, Stephen Coley, Myra Risk, Jayne Costello, Hazel Abley, Anne Decent, Peter and Pat Cottrell, Patricia Jackson, Ruth and Barrie Swift, Suzanne Howse, Derek Baxter. We pray for the relatives of Mary Stevens, Leslie Tidwell and Bill Martin who have died, praying particularly for Bill's wife Gwen and for daughter Gill and family.

**Ideas and contributions welcome** - Please get in touch if you have any ideas for things you might like to see in this sheet in weeks to come and we will do our best to include them. Or if you would like to share anything that you have found encouraging or reassuring at this time.

**Coffee and Chatters** - if you are missing Grenville's dulcet tones, he is happy to chat over the phone, 01404 815142 . Grenville stresses this offer is not only open to Coffee and Chat regulars or restricted to Tuesday mornings! He would be happy to have a natter with anyone, particularly if you are feeling lonely and isolated.

**Blood donor session** - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Ottery St Mary Football Club, Butts Road, from 13:10 – 15:30 and 16:30 – 19:30 (appointments every 5 minutes). Blood donation is considered essential activity and is not included in the current restrictions around COVID-19. Staff are taking special measures to provide a clean and safe space for you to donate. Please note, if you come with someone who is not donating they will have to wait outside. Therefore, please do not bring children to the session. Donations from those over 70 cannot be accepted at this time. To book an appointment, call 0300 123 23 23.

**Cadhay Fete, Battle of the Buskers** - sadly, we have had to cancel these events.

**Ottery Food Bank** – The food bank's first week of operating deliveries rather than collections went smoothly. Current requirements are: Tinned potatoes, Tinned/cartons custard, Pasta Sauce, Sugar, Fruit Juice and tinned meat. Both Sainsbury's and McColls have a donations box. Alternatively if you can't get out, you can make a financial donation by bank transfer. If you wish to do this, please contact Sue Jeacock, 01404 850016, for the relevant account details.

**Annual Report** - Although we won't be holding our APCM in May, we are still preparing this year's booklet. So if you run a group or activity and usually send a report in (or if you haven't before, but think you should!) please get writing. Reports should be 250 words maximum and based on what the group did during 2019. Please submit them to Shirley-Ann Williams, [shan.will33@btinternet.com](mailto:shan.will33@btinternet.com) who has once again kindly agreed to compile the booklet, or to the church office.

**Suggestions for Maundy Thursday** - Read Mark 14.22-26, Luke 22.14-23, 1 Corinthians 11.23-25. Wash each other's feet (between members of the same household only).

*A prayer for these times – tears and hopes*

Loving God, we bring you our tears –  
for those who have died due to the virus,  
and those who will yet die,  
for all who have lost jobs,  
for the isolated and alone,  
for families and workers under pressure,  
for the anxious and fearful,  
for all that once was normal, that we have now lost –  
for a world in pain, uncertainty, and fear.  
Thank you that you weep with us.



We bring you our hopes –  
for containment of the virus,  
for health for our loved ones,  
our communities, and ourselves,  
for strength for medical staff,  
for wisdom for our leaders,  
for a world needing love, hope, and faith.  
Thank you that you take our hopes  
and can turn them into life.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.



March 2020

**If you would like to speak to the vicar, if you need anything or would simply like someone to chat with, please get in touch with us.**

**Team Rector: Rev Steve Weston (day off Tuesday)** 01404 812979 or 01404 812062  
[revsweston@otterystmary.org.uk](mailto:revsweston@otterystmary.org.uk) or [churchoffice@otterystmary.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@otterystmary.org.uk)

**Churchwardens:** Michael Farley 07836 243036, [yelraf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:yelraf@hotmail.co.uk) and Jules Corkhill  
[julescorkhill@otterystmary.org.uk](mailto:julescorkhill@otterystmary.org.uk)

**Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:** Jill Rose 01404 814709, [jill.rose@otterystmary.org.uk](mailto:jill.rose@otterystmary.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.otterystmary.org.uk](http://www.otterystmary.org.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/otterystmarychurch](https://www.facebook.com/otterystmarychurch)



## Letter from the vicar

Hello everyone! Hope you're all surviving lockdown week 2. This epidemic continues to affect us all in so many ways – divorce rates around the country will probably soar, but think of the benefits to climate change of having no planes, cars or buses!

No doubt the longest lasting consequences will be on the economies of businesses small and large - local and multinational, including the government's finances..... and of churches!!

Which is the main reason for this article, as having no church services – and no fundraising events – is going to take its toll on our church finances, as many income streams have dried up. These include plate offerings and white envelopes, shop income, coffee after church and Coffee and Chat – believe it or not, these give us at least £1200 a month – and that doesn't take into account any fees income from weddings and funerals, or the £7000 surplus from our now-cancelled Summer Fair.

*If you are a giver and you are used to putting white envelopes, yellow envelopes, cash, or cheques in the plate on a Sunday, please don't put your giving on furlough – don't stop giving!* There are other ways to give, and we really count on your financial help to be able to rise to the financial challenges the lockdown presents us with. The other ways to give are as follows, starting with the best (simplest and most efficient and convenient for us all) and ending with the somewhat less favourable to us (e.g. we pay a % transaction fee for donations by mobile phone). But, to be honest, any giving, done any way, is most welcome!

1. Join the Parish Giving Scheme (please request an application form from Treasurer Phil Whitlock 01404 814840)
2. set up a regular standing order from your bank account to the church account (details below)
3. pay by BACS (bank transfer) to the church account (details, again, are below) - especially easy if you manage your bank account online
4. give via our donations page on the church website (<https://www.otterystmary.org.uk/donations>) - you can choose to do this via PayPal, debit or credit card; and can select a one-off or monthly payment
5. give by text message, using your mobile phone (it IS possible – but this route is maybe more familiar to our younger members!) - instructions how to do this also via <https://www.otterystmary.org.uk/donations>

If any of you, however you give, would like to give additional help with the bailout (let's face it, we're not going to get any money from the Government !) and would like to make a one-off donation, we would be very grateful.

### Church Account details

PCC of Ottery St Mary, 09-01-29, 36273067

Lyrics to Song recorded by the Weston family band, which can be found on the website (on the Contact page). Featuring Johnny, lead guitar, Sam on drums and percussion, Cathy, vocals and Steve, bottleneck guitar and lead vocal.

Why should I feel discouraged,/Why should the shadows come,

Why should my heart feel lonely/And long for Heav'n and home,

When Jesus is my portion?/A constant Friend is He:

His eye is on the sparrow,/And I know He watches over me;

His eye is on the sparrow,/And I know He watches me.

Refrain:

I sing because I'm happy,/I sing because I'm free,

His eye is on the sparrow,/And I know He watches me (He watches me)

His eye is on the sparrow/And I know he watches (I know he watches)

(I know he watches me)

I sing because I'm happy,/I sing because I'm free,

His eye is on the sparrow,/And I know He watches me (He watches me)

His eye is on the sparrow/And I know he watches me (He watches me)

He watches me (I know he watches me)

Verse 2:

"Let not your heart be troubled,"/His tender word I hear,

And resting on His goodness,/I lose my doubts and fears;

Though by the path He leadeth/But one step I may see:

His eye is on the sparrow,/And I know He watches me;

His eye is on the sparrow,/And I know He watches me.

Verse 3:

Whenever I am tempted,/Whenever clouds arise,

When songs give place to sighing,/When hope within me dies,

I draw the closer to Him,/From care He sets me free:

His eye is on the sparrow,/And I know He cares for me;

His eye is on the sparrow,/And I know He cares for me.

