

GRAPEVINE

5th April
2020



Our Vision:

Letting people know about the love of Jesus Christ

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. Nelson Mandela

Welcome to St Peter & St Mary's Church

I don't think most of us realize how big a thing it was when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on that first Palm Sunday. I'm guessing that we can all imagine the scene, having seen it in children's picture books or in films or on TV biblical dramas. It usually comes across as an ordinary bloke riding a donkey, looking a bit baffled as the crowd around him go wild.

But to the people who were there, this wasn't a dad taking over the children's ride on the beach at Clacton. This was a well-coordinated act of defiance and a politically motivated peaceful protest which, if not handled carefully, could end up with someone getting hurt.

By riding into the capital city on a donkey, at the Passover Festival, Jesus was acting out an Old Testament prophecy that identified Him as the Messiah, God's king, to rule the whole Universe, physical and spiritual.

The people of His day took that to mean overthrowing the Romans but Jesus had something much greater in mind. He was out to overcome the biggest enemy of all. And the donkey rides and the waving of palm branches pale into insignificance as He prepares to pass through the valley of the shadow of death and return to show us what's on the other side.

Michael

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Regd Charity Number 1132857

The lockdown across the country is starting to have a major effect on our nation and our town. More shops have taken the difficult decision to close and if you walk through the town centre there are very few places open and very few people on the streets.

My exercise walk takes me around the Church and St. Peter's Hall for a security check and to make sure there's no damage. So far there haven't been any problems and alarms are doing their job.

If you are unable, or not allowed to get out and need something getting, don't be shy about asking those in your Geographical Support Group to help. That is what they are there for.

I've been asked whether we would be willing to help out our neighbours in a similar way, even if they don't come to Church. The answer is a very big 'YES'. That is what being Church is all about. The whole reason for coming to Church is to build us up to go out and be Church with those among whom we live.

As we are unable to gather and worship as a community together, we have more time to serve, in prayer and in other practical ways. But I have to emphasise that in doing so you MUST follow the Government rules about social distancing and personal hygiene.

As this Sunday is Palm Sunday we were hoping to deliver a palm cross to each of you but limits on movement restrict us to only essential visits so I'm having to say that we can't go ahead and do this. Instead, there have been suggestions of attaching some twigs, greenery or branches to your front door. OR, if you would like to make your own palm cross see the Church Website and Facebook.

This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month when the Church Services would usually be: 9am Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (without hymns) & 10:45am Family Service. You will have a choice this week. There will be a recorded service using the BCP or you can join in with something different from 10:30am on Sunday 5th April by using the ZOOM app. At 10:30am go to <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/100569033>. Meeting ID is 100 569 003 Bring a Bible and a cuppa for a chat. I hope to see to you then.

This week, if you may become frustrated because of the circumstances that restrict your movement and force you to go without the things you like, remember its Holy Week and that Jesus Christ lost everything so that you might truly live

Keep faithful, keep safe and keep washing your hands.

Michael