

### Holy Week services

Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th & Wednesday 12th April—Compline, 6:30pm  
Thursday 13th April— Last Supper, 7pm  
Friday 14th April 10.00am Good Friday—Parish Walk led by Jyl,  
followed by Hot cross buns  
Friday 14th April— Hour at the Cross, 2pm  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Sunrise service - meet at the church 6.15am. Return  
to church for cooked breakfast.  
Sunday 16th April – Resurrection Day! 10am Easter Celebration.

### Dates for April

10<sup>th</sup> Community Lunch 1pm in the hall.

24<sup>th</sup> Women's Fellowship 2.30pm in the hall. Meeting open to all.

29<sup>th</sup> Community shop 11.30am in the hall.

Prayer groups meet on each Tuesday 9-9.30am and each Wednesday 7-  
7.30 pm in the Church.

### Contact details:

Rector - Rev. Stefanie Hodges – 504228 (day off Friday)

Curate- Rev. Diane Peters – 532796

Organist – Dawn Scanlon – 07732 033448 or email  
[dawnscanlon1@icloud.com](mailto:dawnscanlon1@icloud.com)

Newsletter - Sue Hammond - 562661 or email  
[m\\_hammond@talk21.com](mailto:m_hammond@talk21.com) *material by Thurs. please.*

Hall manager/Lettings - Val Holt – 852764

Safeguarding – Eike Ndiweni – [Eike.ndiweni@btinternet.com](mailto:Eike.ndiweni@btinternet.com)

Stewardship – Mike Hammond - details as for newsletter.

## **ST. FRANCIS PARISH CHURCH, WESTBOROUGH**

**Sunday 9th April 2017 at 10 am**

**Palm Sunday – All age worship**

*A warm welcome to all joining us for our service today.*

### Readings:

Matthew 21 v.1-11 p.988

### Collect:

*True and humble King,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.*

*Please feel free to use the toys and books in the back room if your tiny one  
needs distraction during the service.*

***Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service.***

**Easter flowers. If anyone would like to make a donation to the Easter  
flowers in memory of a loved one please speak to Jyl Wheeler.**

**Quiz Night. Thank you to Dawn and family for organising the very  
successful quiz night which raised £341. Dawn hopes that these funds will  
be used to provide a dedication plaque for the memorial window.**

## **This week's notes from Stefanie.**

### **Modern testimony of Death and Resurrection.**

This is an extract from a letter I have received from a young lady. After many years of terrible hardship and abuse she ended up in prison.

I cannot express enough how wonderful it was to hear from her, to let me know how she was doing, the timing could not be better. I wanted to share some of it with you. Our circumstances may not be the same as hers and I pray we may never experience the horrific life [*I will call her Helen to protect her identity*] had to live but we all have our crosses.

Over this coming Holy Week let us use this letter and all we have looked at through the Lent Course to reflect on the wonderful transformation that can be brought to our lives by the amazing sacrifice and abundant love of God.

### **Why I wish to be a servant to the Lord.**

One of the first reasons that I feel very strongly about, this is sharing Christ's love for us all. Now many people feel that God has let them down, and being in a wheelchair myself felt this at the beginning, 'why me lord' what have I done to deserve living this way. Don't you love me, or have you just pushed me to one side.

These were my feeling at the start of my illness, I just couldn't understand why, and now I am in prison how much lower could things get, I have never been in trouble before but now I am I have never heard the Lord before and since being here He is talking to me.

I have realised that I was so full of pride and self-pity, I just didn't listen. In the last few weeks I have been resting more because of severe pain in my legs and while I was resting more I started to read the bible and tried to understand exactly what the Lord was trying to tell me, then the penny dropped.

How many people who are ill or lonely or in wheelchairs feel that God has deserted them? I hear it my-self, when I speak to others they say, "there is no such thing as God and if there were, and he is all loving which can't be true, because if it was, Why am I here!

This is where I feel God has work for me, there is a reason for everything we can't see it or even understand it. There is a reason, this I feel God wants to use me for.

I am in a wheel-chair, I have been through despair, and suicidal thoughts and also those lost and lonely feelings; God has pulled me out and said basically,

Get to grip of yourself, go out and show your friends that the greatest gift is the love of the lord.

We can have fun and enjoy life, being a Christian in fact we can probably have much more unity and friendship than we think.

God has a role for all of us, I feel that mine is spreading the word of God and love to the people in the same position as I was in.

Where I am now I have never met people who had so much hate against society it is frightening.

I know that the lord wants me to work for him it will be a rough ride; I need help to understand his words, and what he is saying to us. I feel I must concentrate and study hard, to learn the correct ways of the lord, before I can speak to others.

I have prayed many times over this and the feelings are still the same. Paul said 'learn my ways then teach others what I have taught you. With this as my purpose in life now, I feel that my life has a new meaning.

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Thank you to Jamie for designing the Easter leaflets.

Thank you to all who wish to remain as DCC and PCC committee members.

Let us pray for or Annual Church Meeting.

Please Pray for:

- Joe and Eike and members of the families, sadly Joram's sister died on Monday
- David and the family of Sue Gumbrell who sadly passed away last week, Sue attended the women's fellowship.
- Penny and Pete Smith.