



6 April 2022

Dear Friends,

I had a truly spine-tingling moment in Holy Trinity last week. It started as wonderful, became even better – it was a moment that kept on giving!

There were 650 people in church for the end of year service for Holy Trinity Pewley Down School – all the children and staff, and many parents. This was the first time that the whole school community had gathered together in one place, for three years. That was special in its own way. The final song that the school sang had this chorus:

'Cause I am an air-breathing, water-drinking earthling.  
I like it when nature is in balance.  
If you are an air-breathing, water-drinking earthling,  
then let's work together to bring harmony to  
My planet, your planet,  
our planet, everybody, all of us.  
This planet, one planet,  
we are all a part of planet earth.

How marvellous to hear the children delighting in the difficulties associated with Climate Change, not as an insurmountable problem, but as a challenge that is fun and energising.

But the best moment – the moment when I could barely hold back my tears – began as the first song was sung. This being the time that the school has been learning about Holy Week and Easter, the song speaks about Palm Sunday: 'Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest'. The reception class (aged 5) sat in awe as older children start to sing. The first verse was sung by Years 1 and 2 alone. Then Year 3 was invited to join in. By the time Year 4 were singing, the church was full of sound. I could sense that Year 5 was straining at the leash to be allowed to start – the church was rocking with their voices. And then Year 6 – totally awesome! Everyone, but everyone, was at the top of their voices: Hosanna, Glory and Praise to God – young and old; Moslem, Jew, Christian and None; proud parents, exhausted staff and even a timid tearful Rector. Totally inclusive, fully honest, utter delight. Where else can we gather together like that to sing? To sing in a way that is expressive of our deepest values, and trust in each other, and our hope for the future.

Sadly, many church leaders today don't "get" Church Schools. They seem absorbed with the rhetoric of church growth, mission, increasing numbers, doing things in new ways. Whereas what I was caught up in was a totally traditional "school assembly" (maybe the sort of thing that you did 50 years ago) – but done with a passion and delight that tingled not just my spine, but every fibre of my being. The 650 people in HT that day may not attend church Sunday by Sunday; but they experienced a profoundly spiritual moment that is transformative, and is likely to be a dearly held memory in 25 years time. I know that to be true, since I meet wedding couples who, in response to "why do you want to get married in church?", refer back to the sort of event that I am describing.

Running an excellent Church School requires great skill. The place must be fully inclusive, as well as distinctively Christian. These two attributes are not opposites. Rather the Christian tradition requires an appreciation of wisdom, hope, community and respect that is thrilling, transformative and open to all. Evidence: the final song which locates the resources to face Climate Change in the Biblical narrative of a good God creating a good world. The recent White Paper from the government will be challenging to all Church Schools, as each has to decide how to join a Multi

Academy Trust. Some trusts seem focussed on the tricky task of running a profitable business. I long for Holy Trinity Pewley Down to find itself within a MAT that fully endorses the values that I saw – and heard – in action last week.

At the end of the school service, I said a blessing. It was only one hour later that I realised that the words of the blessing that I wished I had used were these:

Go forth into the world in peace.  
Be of good courage.  
Hold fast that which is good.  
Render to no one evil for evil.  
Strengthen the fainthearted.  
Support the weak.  
Help the afflicted.  
Show love to everyone.  
Love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If only our Church Schools educate all children into that attitude, with confidence! When that happens, the Kingdom of God will flourish.

- Robert

### Rector's footnotes



#### Palm Sunday

The service begins at 10.00 at St. Mary's, Quarry St, moving into the palm procession up to Holy Trinity. If you don't fancy the walk, the same service will begin at 10.00 at Holy Trinity. Please note that there is no parking in the High Street on Sunday as the vegan market is taking place.

#### Confirmation

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptised and your intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the bishop. The Church also asks God to give you power through the Holy Spirit to enable you to live in the way of Jesus.

This Saturday, Silke Nel, Joy Etta, Renee La-Touche and Rosanna Jones will be spending time with Pippa and Tom as they prepare to attend the Confirmation service at Guildford Cathedral on Holy Saturday.

We ask that you include them in your prayers this week as they prepare for this.

#### Parish Office

The Office will be closed for Holy Week. If you have an urgent matter, please contact the clergy team.

Rev Robert Cotton [rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk) 01483 575489

Rev Tom Pote [curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk) 01483 511725

## Sunday Worship • Palm Sunday 2022

### HOLY TRINITY

#### 10am Palm Sunday

Sermons by Brian Roberts, Keith Beckingham and Robert Cotton

Philippians 2.5-11; Mark 11.1-10;  
Mark 15.16-20, 25-32, 33-39

#### 6pm Stainer's Crucifixion

Led by Andy Wheeler and In Nominee  
choir

[CLICK ON THE TITLE OF THE SERVICE FOR LINKS TO ZOOM AND YOUTUBE](#)

### ST MARY'S

#### 8am BCP Holy Communion

Led by Robert Cotton

**10:00am Palm Procession to Holy Trinity**

**Midweek Holy Communion • Wednesdays • 12 noon**

(except the 2nd Wednesday of the month)

[SERVICE SHEETS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE HERE](#)

[INSTRUCTIONS FOR ZOOM SERVICES CAN BE FOUND HERE](#)

[Daily Morning Prayer on Zoom 8.30am \(9.30 Saturday\)](#)

## Holy Week and Easter Services

### **Palm Sunday 10th April**

10.00 Palm Sunday Service with communion at Holy Trinity

### **Maundy Thursday 14th April**

19.30 Sung Eucharist at Holy Trinity

### **Good Friday 15th April**

09.30 Morning Worship at St Mary's Quarry St  
10.30 Walk of Witness from Guildford Friary to Holy Trinity  
12.00 Prayers and Readings at Holy Trinity  
14.00 The Final Hour at Holy Trinity

### **Easter Sunday 17th April**

08.00 Holy Communion at St Mary's Quarry St  
10.00 Festival Eucharist at Holy Trinity  
10.30 Easter Communion at St Mary's Quarry St  
18.00 Festal Evensong at Holy Trinity

[www.htsmguildford.org](http://www.htsmguildford.org)

Holy Trinity  
St Mary's



# Notice, events and reminders

## Talk about Holy Trinity Church

Mary Alexander is returning to Guildford on the 13th April to give a talk about Holy Trinity Church and its associated buildings. This will be in St Catherines Village Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford, GU2 4HF starting at 2:30 pm. Entry is £7 per person in aid of the [Friends of Guildford Museum](#).

## Plant and Book Sale

In aid of Kwasa College, South Africa  
Saturday 7th May 2022 10am – 3pm  
Holy Trinity church

We are so pleased to announce that after a two-year break we'll be holding a fundraising event for Kwasa College – a plant and book sale – on Saturday 7th May in Holy Trinity church.

Please would you consider sowing a few extra seeds or potting up some perennials to sell on the day. All donations will be welcome!

We will also be seeking donations of books, DVDs and CDs, as well as cakes to serve with our refreshments on the day.

If you would like to help with this event please contact Stephi Pratley at [stephi.pratley1@btinternet.com](mailto:stephi.pratley1@btinternet.com)

## Churchyard

The next Churchyard gardening party will be on Saturday 30th April from 9.30 to midday. Please do come along. No gardening skills required, just a willing heart. Do bring gardening gloves. Yvonne Cameron

## REMINDERS!!

- The next Parish Walk will be on Saturday 23rd April in the Wotton area. Please let the Parish Office know if you would like more details.
- Guildford Youth Symphony Orchestra will be performing a free concert this Saturday in Holy Trinity Church at 7.30pm.

## REMINDERS!!

Please remember that there will be Palestinian goods for sale at the back of church this week. Cash only! (more details in last weeks letter)

ABF The Soldiers' Charity  
THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY presents  
A CELEBRATION CONCERT for  
HER MAJESTY'S PLATINUM JUBILEE  
Saturday 23rd April 2022  
with  
**HART MALE VOICE CHOIR**  
special guest Mezzo Soprano **Vanessa Crocker**  
For a lively evening of Superb Songs & Soaring Anthems  
at  
The Historic Holy Trinity Church Guildford High Street

Doors open at 6.30pm Concert starts at 7.00pm  
Tickets £15 ( including interval refreshments )  
Buy tickets on-line at : [www.hartmvc.org.uk/future\\_events](http://www.hartmvc.org.uk/future_events)  
Or by email to : [jubileeconcert@SurreyABF.org.uk](mailto:jubileeconcert@SurreyABF.org.uk)  
(payment details will be sent)  
Or by cheque made to - ABF The Soldiers' Charity Surrey Branch  
c/o 66 High View Road, Guildford GU2 7RU- also giving name and email address.  
All Profits go to ABF The Soldiers' Charity Reg: 1146420

**POP-UP CAFÉ... for EASTER**

For a break from shopping...  
to enjoy coffee and cake...  
for young visitors to make  
an Easter garden...  
to explore the Easter Pathway  
call in at  
**ST. MARY'S**  
Quarry St Guildford GU1 3UP

**Saturday 16 April**  
**10.30 - 12.00**