

Hearing God's word

Do you have trouble with greetings cards with the words already printed on the inside? I do. Those words are so often deliberately composed to be very affecting, be they for a birthday, or Easter or Christmas, or an anniversary of any kind. The formula is so gut wrenchingly obvious and the effect is sentimentality for sentimentality's sake. I think Jesus felt the same. Even if he never received a greetings card, he certainly recognised sentimentality for what it is – an easy self-satisfying nursing of the emotions. Remember the words of the woman in the crowd, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!' They were no doubt meant as a common form of extravagant compliment. Jesus dismissed them as sheer sentimentality. He isn't rude about his mother, Mary, but he knows the danger of pious effusions. He knows such sweetness is readily enjoyed for its own sake and becomes a substitute for the one proper response to God's word.

On our journey through Lent we are seeking to hear God's word most clearly. To do so is our own individual responsibility. We can help each other by worshipping together, praying together, talking together. But to hear God's word for us in our own individual lives is our own challenge and our own responsibility. It isn't all down to us, of course. God is reaching out to us. We need to still the turmoil in our own hearts, and let him come to us. And when we receive Christ in our hearts, our response needs to be authentic.

Christ wants us to come to him with humility and with truth. We face something like the challenge of writing the message in the greetings card in our own words. When we are thinking, speaking, feeling with integrity and with truth, then we are with Christ.

Brian Roberts

If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter, please do so by visiting our website and www.htsmguildford/newsletter or contact Chloe at comms@holytrinityguildford.org.uk

Events this week

Thursday 14th March	Morning Prayer at St Mary's at 8.30am
Saturday 16th March	Saturday Coffee with the Hear Here Clinic at Holy Trinity Church from 10am University of Surrey Orchestra concert 7.30 in Holy Trinity Sweet Billy Pilgrim at St Mary's 8pm
Monday 18th March	Morning Prayer at St Mary's at 8.30am Words, Music and Stillness 12.00pm at St Mary's
Tuesday 19th March	Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity at 8.30am Trinity Club 10.30 in St Mary's GHS Senior Choir concert 7pm in HT (FREE)
Wednesday 20th March	Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity at 8.30am Holy Communion at Abbots Hospital 10am Chit Chat at St Mary's at 9.30am Jeremy Holt Memorial Service 2.30pm in Holy Trinity Rainbow Service 7.30pm in St Mary's
Thursday 21st March	Morning Prayer will be on Zoom only The Rector is unavailable today Lent Reflections 12.30 at St Mary's

This week's services

Lent 5 • 17 th March 2024	
<p style="text-align: center;">HOLY TRINITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10am Sung Eucharist <u>Sermon by Jonathan Hedgecock</u> Jeremiah 31.31-34 Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6pm The Call of the Cross <i>A Service of Music & Readings for Passiontide</i> <u>Sermon by Ben Cahill-Nicholls</u> 1 John 1.5-10 John 15.4-10 Romans 12.16-21 John 15.12-17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ST MARY'S</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>8am BCP Holy Communion</u> <u>Led by Jonathan Hedgecock</u> Jeremiah 31.31-34 John 12.20-33</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10.30am Morning Worship Led by Simon Butler</p>

Contact Us

Rector: Simon Butler – rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk
Operations Manager: Corinne Jones – office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk
Communications Manager: Chloe Benson – comms@holytrinityguildford.org.uk

Notices

Elections of Churchwardens, PCC and Deanery Synod Members: Our Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meetings will be held at noon (i.e. after both churches' morning services) on **Sunday 14th April** in the Trinity Centre. Nominations for elections to the above roles will open soon. To find out more, please speak to the clergy or Mike Bishop, Vice Chair of the PCC (mikebishop@ntlworld.com).

Tech Team Open Day: Would you be interested in being part of our tech team, broadcasting our Sunday services? If so, there will be a demonstration and explanation of the system next Sunday shortly after the Palm Sunday Service at about 11:15 am. We always welcome new people if you are interested in joining.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and the morning service will begin at St Mary's, followed by a procession to Holy Trinity (a 'static' service will happen in Holy Trinity for those who do not want to process). The service will include a dramatic reading of the Passion at Holy Trinity and if you would like a role in that email Rod: rod@holytrinityguildford.org.uk.

Palm Sunday Evening: A special service of readings and music led by Reverend Andy Wheeler and the choral group *In Nomine*. 6pm at Holy Trinity.

Holy Week Seder Meal: Monday of Holy Week, 25th March, in Holy Trinity, organised by Stephen Marriott. Ben Cahill-Nicholls will be reflecting on his own Jewish heritage during the meal and Simon Butler will offer thoughts on the Last Supper in the light of its Passover origins. Please book via the Parish Office: comms@holytrinityguildford.org.uk.

Maundy Thursday Service, 28th March at 7.30pm. This service will include an opportunity for twelve members of the congregation to have their feet washed as part of our commemoration of the Last Supper. To volunteer for what is always a special moment, please email Rod Pierce: rod@holytrinityguildford.org.uk. There will be a Watch of Silent Prayer from the end of the Service until 10pm.

Good Friday Walk of Witness: An ecumenical walk-through town on Good Friday. Meet at McDonalds at 10.30am. The service concludes at Holy Trinity.

The Three Hours' Service: Good Friday. Simon is preaching through Holy Week this year and the main focus will be six addresses on Good Friday from noon to 2pm. This will be followed by the traditional Good Friday Liturgy from 2pm to 3pm. The first two Hours is entitled *People of the Passion* and will be divided into 6 twenty-minute slots, each including reading, address, silence prayer and hymn. You can come and go between each address (12.20, 12.40, 1.00, 1.20, 1.40 and 2.00). There will be just a very brief address in the final hour, which will include the traditional Veneration of

the Cross, when you can come and kneel before the Cross on Good Friday for personal prayer. Why not give it a try: Good Friday is a Holy Day rather than a holiday for Christians!

Easter Sunday: There will be an ecumenical sunrise service at St Martha's Church, St Martha's Hill, at 6am. Our own services will be at the usual time, with the Festival Evensong at 6pm including an enlarged choir reunion.

Holy Trinity Pewley Down School: Please be praying for the appointment of the new Headteacher: shortlisting is this week and interviews are in Holy Week. Thank you!

Spring Clean

Holy Trinity Church

Saturday March 23rd 10am – 12 noon.

It would be lovely to have the church looking spic and span before Easter.

If you have any time to come and help for just one small job it would be grand.

PLEASE NOTE: Trinity Club is a week earlier this month

Trinity Club Tuesday 19th March at St Mary's: Building St Mary's, Guildford Tim Tatton-Brown, an eminent archaeologist and architectural historian and consultant archaeologist will uncover the architectural history of St Mary's. 10.30am for coffee, talk at 10.45am, finish at noon.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday 24th March

10.00 Palm Sunday Service with communion at Holy Trinity

18.00 A Holy Week Commemoration sung by In Nomine at Holy Trinity

Maundy Thursday 28th March

19.30 The Liturgy of the Lord's Supper with Watch of Prayer in Holy Trinity

19.30 Informal Communion with Tenebrae at St Mary's

Good Friday 29th March

09.30 Morning Worship at St Mary's Quarry St

10.30 Walk of Witness from Guildford Friary to Holy Trinity

12.00 The Three Hours' Service (Preacher: Canon Simon Butler) concluding with

14.00 The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Death

Easter Sunday 31st March

06.00 Easter Sunrise Service at St Martha's Church

08.00 Holy Communion at St Mary's Quarry St

10.00 Festival Eucharist for Easter Day at Holy Trinity

10.30 Easter Communion at St Mary's Quarry St

18.00 Festival Evensong at Holy Trinity



Holy Trinity
St Mary's

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