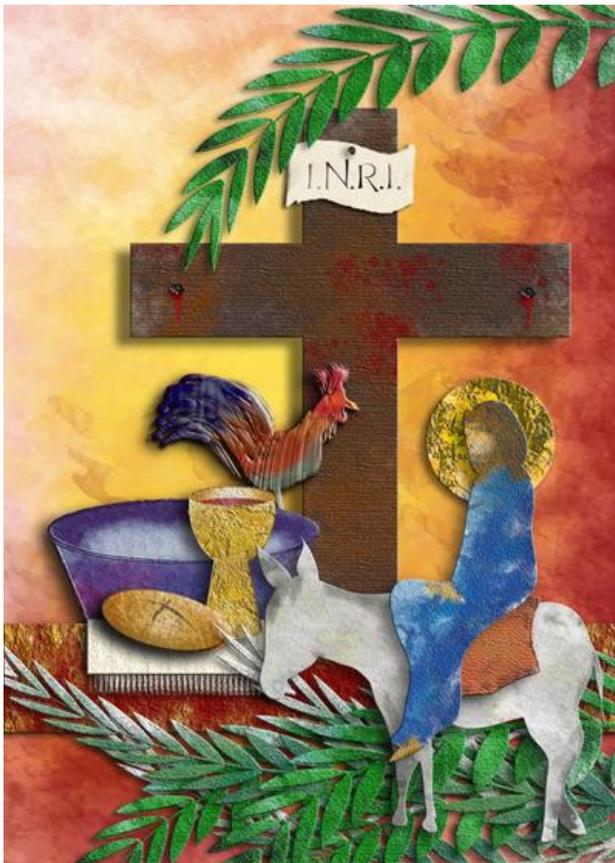


# CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

## MARCH 2026



### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

#### **Second Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with God's Gang  
(followed by refreshments)

### **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

7.30pm Lent Study Group *Everyday  
objects and plans*

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Holy Communion

11.30am Lent Lunch

5pm Evening Prayer

### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Lent Study Group *Everyday objects  
and plans*

### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

2.30pm World Day of Prayer at Gravesend  
Methodist Church

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Third Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by  
refreshments)

12noon & 1pm Holy Baptism

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

7.30pm Lent Study Group *Sheep and  
Goats*

### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

1.30pm Mothers Union, Lent reflections  
with Fr Michael Payne

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Holy Communion

2pm First Steps- pre-schoolers service

5pm Evening Prayer

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Lent Study Group *Sheep and Goats*

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

From 9.30am Working party

Please come and help us keep the church  
and grounds the way we like them.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with the Bishop of Rochester (followed by refreshments)

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

7.30pm Lent Study Group *Banquets and weddings*

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

6.15pm Semiquavers concert

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

7.30pm Parochial Church Council

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Lent Study Group *Banquets and weddings*

2.30pm Mustard Seed – tea cake, chat and good company

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

12.30pm Holy Matrimony

7.30pm St Patrick's Day concert hosted by Tom Shorter

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March Passion Sunday**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

6pm Choral Evensong

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

7.30pm Lent Study Group *Four Farms*

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March The Annunciation**

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Lent Study Group *Four Farms*

**HOLY WEEK**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**Palm Sunday**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with palms and procession (followed by refreshments)

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

7.30pm Stations of the Cross

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

7.30pm Night Prayer (Compline) and reflection

**Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

8pm Eucharist of the Last Supper and vigil

**Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

10am Good Friday Service for all ages with crafts and hot cross buns

12noon Good Friday service – *The community of the cross* three meditations followed by the liturgy of the day at

1.30pm

**MORNING PRAYER is usually said on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8.30am.**

**Please check the weekly sheet. Join us in church or on ZOOM.**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82117921556>**

**The Daily Prayer app can be downloaded on your smart phone. You will find the text and an audio version on <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>**



**Wednesday 4th March**

**Lent Lunch 11.30am in church please sign up if you are coming.**

**HELP NEEDED** Twice a year we have a parish card drop, letting people know about our special services. Could you spare half an hour to deliver cards in a street near you? The Holy Week and Easter cards will be available during March for delivery before Palm Sunday

**World Day of Prayer Friday 6th March 2.30pm Service**

Gravesend Methodist Church. All welcome The World Day of Prayer, promotes prayerful living and worship for men, women and young people, helping raise awareness of the lives and concerns of others throughout the world, especially those who write the service. This year's service has been prepared by women living in Nigeria.



On **Mothering Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March** the Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Revd Jonathan Gibbs will preside at our Parish Eucharist at 10am. This is Bishop Jonathan's first visit to Christ Church. We look forward to welcoming the Bishop. Semiquavers will be singing, and there will be Mothering Sunday flowers, and refreshments after the service.

**St Patrick's Day Concert**

**7.30pm Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March** Don't miss this very special concert of Irish music led by our very own Tom Shorter. Folk songs with a classical edge and some appropriate refreshments. Tickets available in advance or on the door.

**Tell me another – reading the parables in Matthew's Gospel** Our Lent study groups have started. As usual there will be two opportunities in each week – on Mondays at 7.30pm and Thursday at 10am both in the choir vestry – come through the small door of the church. Our Lent Study Groups are an exciting way to go deeper in our faith and engage with each other. Come and join us. You can pick up a booklet at the back of church.

## CHRIST CHURCH MILTON NEXT GRAVESEND MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH



Our branch meeting this month is on Tuesday 10th March at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall when we will be welcoming the Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union Chaplain the Reverend Michael Paine who is vicar of St Aidan's, Gravesend. All are welcome to join us for this Lenten Reflection.



A big thank you to everyone who purchased items from our Table Top Sale raising a fantastic £144 for our branch funds.

Simnel Cake Raffle tickets are now on sale at £1.50 each available in church on Sunday and Wednesday mornings. The winning ticket will be drawn on Mothering Sunday.

As part of the 'Rise Up' campaign we continue to pray for those suffering from gender based and domestic violence. Our branch's dedicated lead for safeguarding is Priest Jacqueline.

We continue to make hats and scarves for the Mission to Seafarers so if you have any unwanted 4ply wool we would welcome any donations. Patterns are on our board should you wish to knit these items yourselves.



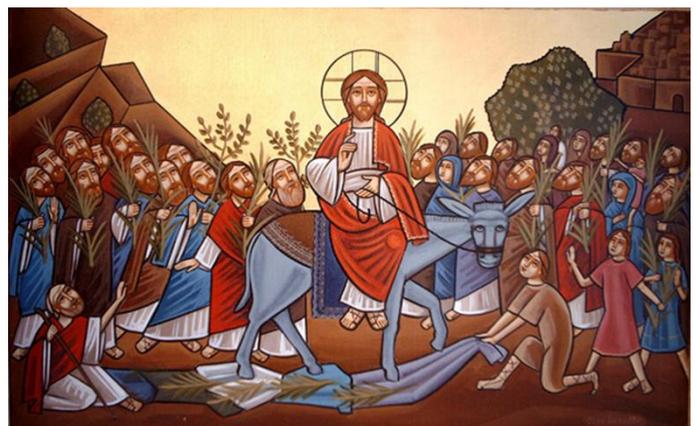
We are looking for new members as part of the 150 Years of the Mothers' Union so if you are interested to find out more about our group and what we do, please ask either myself or Jacqueline or indeed any Christ Church member. Jenny Shoemsmith - Branch Leader.

### Palm Sunday

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.*

Jesus arrives in a city in turmoil. Jerusalem is faced with a dilemma – what will it do with God's servant who speaks of a kingdom of peace? What will it do with a prophet who cares deeply for it, as a mother hen cares for her chicks? There is apprehension and confusion.

What did the disciples who had heard Jesus speak of Jerusalem as a place of suffering, rejection and death think they were doing as they reenacted Zechariah's prophecy of the humble king who comes to the city riding a donkey. For a moment Jerusalem seems to have a chance – will the killing and stoning of prophets finally end, and God's reign of peace begin?



Jerusalem was a place of judgement. The temple courts operated in a sphere which did not need interfere or consult with that of the Roman overlords. These systems will merge to

judge the humble king. But the city also stands judged. Amidst the clamour, the hosannas, the branches and the cloaks, the donkey steps uneasily into the crowds bearing a king who challenges what it means to a king, who represents such a different order.

The truth of Christ's kingship shames all other forms of power and authority as parodies. The acted parable of Palm Sunday grasps the prophetic imagination, as the Galilean pilgrim band make their entrance to the city. But the city does not recognise its king. Who is this? A man without the trappings of militarism and tyranny brings a challenge to a city that kills prophets.



On Palm Sunday, the hosannas are still echoing in our ears when we hear Isaiah's song of the servant, the teacher who faces ridicule and physical abuse yet sets his 'face like flint'. Then St Paul reminds us that this is the one who 'emptied himself', who assumed the 'form of a slave' who took the journey downwards to the cross.

We sing hosanna, then stand with the crowd as we hear the words of the Passion reading. We are faced with the challenge – do we see in Christ the fullness which God wants to offer each of us? Do we see the love of God who brings 'salvation' to all who suffer from injustice and sickness by becoming like them; God who will be a refuge to those excluded from society and religion; who will grant unmerited forgiveness to sinners?

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.*

## Join us as we journey through Holy Week

### Palm Sunday 29th March

- 8am Holy Communion
- 10am Palm Procession & Parish Eucharist  
*with dramatic reading of the Passion Story*

### Monday 30th March

- 7.30pm The Stations of the Cross  
prayers, readings and reflections on the way of the cross

### Wednesday 1st April

- 10am Holy Communion
- 7.30pm Short address and Night Prayer

### Maundy Thursday 2nd April

- 8pm Eucharist of the Last Supper and vigil  
recalling Jesus' final meal with his friends, finishing with time to watch and pray

### Good Friday 3rd April

- 10am Good Friday service *for all ages*  
a service exploring the meaning of this holy day with crafts and hot cross buns
- 12 noon-3pm Good Friday service  
three meditations followed by the liturgy of the day at 1.30pm.  
*You are welcome to come for all or part of the service.*

## Celebrate the Resurrection Easter Day 5th April

- 6am Dawn Service  
*A service of light welcoming the risen Christ followed by breakfast*
- 8am Holy Communion BCP
- 10am Easter Eucharist  
*Followed by refreshments and Easter eggs*
- 6pm Choral Evensong



**Christ is Risen:  
Alleluia!**  
We wish you joy this  
Eastertide

Vicar: The Revd Canon Dr Andrew Davey  
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## PRAYER CALENDAR

	THE COMMUNITY	CHURCH
1	The Elderly	Those who use our hall
2	Those with poor mental health	Our preschool
3	The armed services	Our clergy
4	GPs and community health workers	Our Churchwarden Our Parochial Church Council
5	Foodbanks and those who use them The homeless	The children in our church Tots' Group, God's Gang and First Steps
6	Young people at university & college, or in work or apprenticeships	For vocations in the church, and those in training for ordained and lay ministry
7	The unemployed	Street Pastors
8	Our parliament and MP	Churches Together in Gravesend
9	Our emergency services	Our companion dioceses in Estonia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania
10	Social workers	Neighbouring Parishes
11	Children	Our lay ministers
12	Prisoners and prison staff	Prison chaplains
13	The victims of racism and discrimination	Christian Aid
14	Those who support people in the workplace	Our Bishops and Archdeacon
15	Our neighbours of other faiths	Those who are new in our church
16	Our local hospitals	Hospital chaplains
17	All who work with young people Our local Schools School pastors	Inclusive Church and all who work for inclusion and equality
18	Those living with dementia	Our safeguarding team
19	Musicians and artists	Our organist, choir & Semiquavers
20	Family life	Our Mothers Union
21	Our councillors and council	Those who are persecuted for their faith
22	All involved in the production and distribution of food The Foodbank and DailyHub	Mustard Seed Those who are housebound or isolated
23	All who work on the river RNLI	Those preparing for marriage
24	Victims of domestic abuse	Those who care for our buildings
25	Those who care for green spaces	That we may be more aware of our impact on our planet
26	Those who are affected by modern day slavery	Baptism families
27	Those who work in information, journalism and social media	Those who prepare our notice sheet and communications
28	Local businesses Our local funeral directors	The bereaved
29	Those fighting addictions	Uniformed organisations
30	Refugees and asylum seekers	Our Cathedral in Rochester
31	Care homes in our parish SpringwoodCorner, Larchwood and Sheringham	Those preparing for First Communion or Confirmation

### Final week to see the whales at Rochester Cathedral

Haven't been yet? There's still time before the exhibition closes on Saturday 7th March.

The awe-inspiring artwork depicts three majestic sperm whales suspended in the Nave.

Whales offers viewers a glimpse into the world of Whales and invites them to question our increasing ecological impact on the world's climate.

# ST PATRICK'S CONCERT

Saturday 21st March 2026, 7pm

Irish folk songs & refreshment\*

## Corcora —

Antonia Cviic — Mezzo

Jack Harberd — Tenor

Abigail Dance — Violin

Wyndham Tsai — Cello

Tom Shorter — Piano

\* The concert will include a short talk by Hugh Burkitt on the history of the Guinness family and brand



© Hugh Burkitt



Tickets:

£12 on the door

£10 in advance

£16 per pair in advance

*Under 18s free*



[stpatricksconcert.eventbrite.co.uk](https://stpatricksconcert.eventbrite.co.uk)

