

Holy Week and Easter 24th-31st March 2024

The Churnside Benefice
South Cerney with Cerney Wick,
Siddington and Preston



Holy Week

During Holy Week we follow the drama of our Lord's Passion from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through the events of the Last Supper, the garden of Gethsemane, his show trial, his crucifixion, death and resurrection. Taking this journey with Jesus is an important part of our faith as through it we learn more about the God who loves us and the Son who gave everything for us.

PALM SUNDAY

This is the start of Holy Week and the liturgical colours change from the purple of Lent into the red of martyrdom. As Jesus and his disciples entered Jerusalem the crowds took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" (John 12:13)

The palm was a symbol of triumph waved before conquering heroes and kings returning from victory in battle. For us this is a day not only of rejoicing but also of a darkening sadness as we read together the events of Jesus' suffering and death.



All our Services today begin outside, where the palms are blessed and we echo the triumphal march as we process into church. But the tone changes with the dramatic reading of the Passion Narrative, and the celebration is overshadowed by the contemplation of Christ's suffering which is to follow.

10.30am Holy Communion with Passion reading, All Hallows South Cerney

11.15am Palm Sunday service with Passion reading St Peter's Siddington

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in Holy Week
Compline with meditation 7.30pm

Monday Holy Trinity Church, Cerney Wick

Tuesday All Saints Church, Preston

Wednesday St Peter's Church, Siddington

MAUNDY THURSDAY

11.00 am Chrism Eucharist in the Cathedral

Here the clergy renew their ordination vows and the oils for baptism, confirmation and anointing of the sick are blessed. All are welcome to attend.

7pm Agape and Eucharist meal followed by Gethsemane Vigil in the chancel All Hallows Church South Cerney.

‘Agape’ is the New Testament word for love and was the title of the fellowship meal of the early church. It often occurred in association with the Eucharist and is frequently adopted by the contemporary Christians on the night of the Last Supper. In this service we share together in the fellowship of a meal based on the Passover meal that Jesus ate with his friends at the last supper as well as sharing in the Eucharist that is interwoven with the meal.

At the end of the Eucharist and meal you are invited to enter the garden of Gethsemane (the chancel) for the watch, where we spend time with Jesus as he prays to his Father. You are free to stay as long as you like here but will be asked to leave the church in silence.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of each church for catering purposes (alternatively let the vicar know you plan to attend), we ask for donations to cover costs and suggest you bring your own drinks.

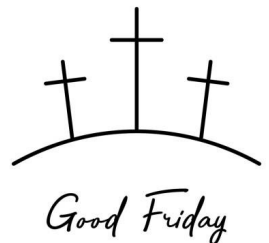
GOOD FRIDAY

Messy Easter—10.00am All Hallows’ Church.

An activity session for all the family and all ages exploring the Easter story in a fun, creative and engaging way followed by refreshments and hot cross buns.

2pm Meditation All Hallows Church, South Cerney

3pm Meditation St Peter’s Church, Siddington



Holy Saturday

This is a day of emptiness and yet of anticipation. In the morning we decorate our churches in preparation for our Easter celebration. In the evening as darkness falls we gather again at the foot for the cross and stay with the disciples in their despair and grief and wait for the dawn.

During the service we will move from the darkness of the cross and the tomb to the joy of the resurrection and we will renew our baptismal vows and light the new fire of Easter as well as our Pascal candles for each church.

As we begin our Easter celebrations we will be serving tasty refreshments after the service.

7.30pm All Hallows South Cerney A service from darkness to light

Easter Day

Today is a day of celebration as we rejoice with Christians from around the world as we join the disciples to discover the empty tomb and the wonderful news of Jesus' resurrection. We are reminded that we are resurrection people, restored, forgiven and loved by our Heavenly Father.

9.30am Holy Communion Holy Trinity Cerney Wick

9.30am Holy Communion All Saints Church, Preston

10.30am Holy Communion St Peter's Church, Siddington

10.30am Family Communion All Hallows Church, South Cerney followed by refreshments and an Easter egg hunt

