



KIDDERMINSTER EAST PARISH  
Five Churches One Parish One Lord

# THE KIDDERMINSTER EAST PARISH NEWSLETTER

Churches of St Cassian's, St Cecilia's,  
St Chad's, St George's & St Mary's Stone

5<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
**Palm Sunday**

**Our buildings are closed, our Church is open**

## SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> April

**Today we celebrate Palm Sunday.**



There is a [service of Holy Communion](#) celebrated by the Revd Robert Legge available on the Parish YouTube channel, which can be viewed at your convenience online. Robert will be also sharing a sermon on line for Palm Sunday and it will be available, all being well with the technology, by 9:30am on Sunday on the [website](#) and as a post on the [Facebook page](#)

In addition, Christine Hickman-Smith, one of the team of Lay Readers, has produced a [service sheet for Palm Sunday](#), which you may like to follow.

Finally, here is a link for free Palm Sunday resources, which families might like to use: [Faith Formation Resources for Palm Sunday](#)

### Readings

Isaiah 50: 4 - 9a

Philippians 2: 5 – 11

Matthew 26: 14 - 27: end

### 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.

### Prayers Of Hope and "Lighting" candles

As our nation faces the unprecedented challenge of the coronavirus pandemic, **Churches Together in England (CTE)** is encouraging Christians across our nations to continue uniting in prayer, **praying #PrayersOfHope in their homes at 7:00pm each Sunday evening.**

Following the overwhelming response of the National Call to Prayer and Action on Mothering Sunday, CTE has prepared a [candle poster](#) for those who would like to place a permanent symbol in their front windows of Christ's light shining in the darkness. Lighting live candles poses a potential fire risk & we are keen to avoid adding any pressure to our emergency service personnel.

There are also a number of prayer initiatives emerging from CTE Member Churches, which will be signposted to from the new prayer web page [cte.org.uk/prayer](http://cte.org.uk/prayer)

*'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'* John 1:5

**All Church of England churches remain closed** in line with the Government's instructions. The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England have urged everyone to stay in their homes, as instructed, in a national effort to limit the transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

They also called on us, the Church, to:  
*"continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable"*.

There will be no Church weddings or baptisms but funerals are permitted.

### **Message from Archdeacon Nikki Groake**

A further update in these ever changing times:

David Hildred's removals company is now unable to conduct the move, so in line with national guidance drawn up by the House of Bishops, we have agreed with the Diocese of Sheffield that David will stay there for the time being, until such a time that the situation changes. This is of course very unsettling for everyone, particularly David, so please continue to pray for him. At least one of you had suggested this might be a preferable way forward, so that David can continue to support pastorally the people known to him during this really difficult time. His stipend and housing arrangements will be extended in his current parish, so he won't be out of pocket, and as soon as things change, we will arrange for the move and licensing to be scheduled.

Many thanks for your patience. I know the team is well supported by Robert and the wider team of Readers and other lay colleagues, and of course you can draw on me as needed for help and advice. Please continue to take care of each other as the vacancy extends, and stay well. Every blessing, Nikki

#### **Alpha Online Prayer call Local**

Alpha Online will hold a prayer call via Zoom on 8<sup>th</sup> Apr  
This will be an opportunity to pray for our region.  
Watch out for a link posted via our parish social media.

#### **Gift Aid Envelopes at St George's and St Cassian's**

If you are concerned about being unable to deliver you envelopes while the churches are closed, please contact Robert Hudson (St George's) on 01299 822434 or Clare Stockford (St Cassian's) on 01562 777746 to discuss alternative ways of giving.

### **Review of Parish Electoral Roll**

The deadline for applications to be added to the Parish Electoral Roll has been extended and will now be set 4 weeks prior to the APCM (tbc). Please contact your Church Electoral Roll Officer if you wish to be added, or if you have any queries contact the Parish Electoral Roll Officers Bob & Maddy Smith. Thank you.

St Cassian's - Anna Hanson                      contact Bob & Maddy

St Chad's - Helen Perry-Smith                [haperry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:haperry@hotmail.co.uk)

St Cecilia's - Katy Cornwell                 01562 861023

St George's - Jan Ferguson                    [jferg541@gmail.com](mailto:jferg541@gmail.com) or 01562 630431

St Mary's Stone - Konrad Nofer              01562 639227

Bob & Maddy Smith                              [bob37\\_smith@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bob37_smith@yahoo.co.uk) or 07791 804135

## Faithful Friday Blog Post from Revd Robert Legge for Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

**Isaiah 40:29** He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless.

Is anyone else feeling weak and powerless at the moment or is it just me? If so, then I think that this verse calls out to us to remember where ultimate power rests; in the hands of our God. Weak and powerless as we are He gives us what we need to come through any situation no matter how desperate. This is not just a matter of "Keep calm and carry on!" rather it is an acknowledgment that the very creator of the Universe will always love and sustain us in the days that lie ahead.

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**CHILDRENS' TALKS** – Each Saturday lunchtime, Robert is planning to share some thoughts for Children & Young People. You can find an introductory video on the Parish [YouTube channel](#)

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**KIDDERMINSTER FOODBANK** – Donations to the local foodbank have decreased at a time when there is greater need. Please continue to support them by adding some items to your shopping and leaving them in the baskets in the local supermarkets.

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### Parish Prayerlink

Prayer requests can be emailed to: [prayerlink@kidderminstereast.org.uk](mailto:prayerlink@kidderminstereast.org.uk). Our praying friends across the whole parish will then be happy to pray for you. If you would like to become part of Prayerlink, please e-mail the same address.

Please note that for anyone without internet access or who would prefer to pass their prayer request to the Prayer Ministry Team in their church, Glenn & Anne Scott are willing to take requests for prayer for specific people / situations by phone or email (if available). They will then relay those requests on to the relevant Church / Parish Prayer Ministry / Prayerlink Teams by email. Contact number 01562 822690. Email address: [glennscott@mac.com](mailto:glennscott@mac.com). You can, of course, make direct contact with any member of the Prayer Ministry Teams if you have their phone or email details.

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### Online Resources for Services and Prayer

You can follow the Church of England **Prayer for the Day** and take part in **Morning, Evening and Night services** by going to <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Our neighbouring parishes are also sharing resources on Facebook. Please check out <https://www.facebook.com/KidderminsterwestTM/>, <https://www.facebook.com/stpeterscookley/>, <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnswolverley/> & <https://www.facebook.com/stmaryskiddy/>

**Please also keep an eye on other Radio & TV Schedules, where some Church services are being made available.**

### Requests for Prayer:

- For Team Vicar, Robert, all lay readers & volunteers who help to keep the parish running, especially at this difficult time. May they be inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Continue to pray for Revd David Hildred, whose move has been delayed and for the parishioners of Darfield.
- For the family of Christine Hickman-Smith following the death of a loved one.
- Please pray for all those working in our health service and in leadership roles and pray that we are all given the strength and courage to help those in need.

## DIARY PAGE

All events in the parish are suspended / cancelled until further notice.

Please remain at home, in accordance with government guidelines.

Remember to wash your hands regularly with soap and avoid spreading the virus. If you have to go out of the house use the social distancing guidelines and keep 2 metres (6 feet) apart from other people.

Check on family, friends and neighbours who live alone, are elderly or vulnerable, by phone if possible.

**Keep yourself safe: Coronavirus COVID-19 is dangerous and can kill.**

### THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL – Maundy Thursday

**READINGS:** Exodus 12: 1 – 4, [5 – 10], 11 – 14      1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26  
John 13: 1 – 17, 31b - 35

### FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL – Good Friday

**READINGS:** Isaiah 52: 13 – end of 53    Hebrews 10: 16 - 25    John 10: 1 – end of 19

### SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL – Easter Sunday

**READINGS:** Acts 10: 34 – 43      Colossians 3: 1 - 4      John 20: 1 - 18

### SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL

**READINGS:** Acts 2:14a, 22 – 32      1 Peter 1: 3 – 9      John 20: 19 - end

Robert will be putting up some **Holy Week reflections** online next week, during the evening talk time, which is available early each evening on the [Parish website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. He will also be recording a **Compline Service** for the end of the day (available from Maundy Thursday). Like the Communion service, the Compline service can be used as many times as people want and the liturgy will be available on the parish website & will be sent out via Mailchimp.

### Annual Parochial Church Meetings

The deadline for holding APCMs has been extended until the end of October, with current office holders remaining in office longer than they would otherwise do so. This means Churchwardens and PCC members remain in office until the APCM and current Deanery Synod representatives remain in office until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (instead of 30<sup>th</sup> June).

New meeting dates will be arranged in due course.

### CONTACT US

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www.kidderminstereast.org.uk

**TEAM VICAR - Robert Legge**

01562 827214 / 07854 252329

r.j.legge@kidderminstereast.org.uk

Find us also on Facebook – “Parish of Kidderminster East” and on Twitter - @parishofke

**If you can think of any other ways we can support you, as a Parish, please get in touch.**