

*At the communion services, all who are confirmed or who are full members of other churches are welcome to receive Communion. All others, adults and children, are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

### TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00 a.m. **Holy Communion (CW)**  
 Celebrant and Preacher: The Vicar

**10.45 a.m. Palm Sunday Procession:**  
**Meet at Otford Methodist Church**

11.00 a.m. **Service on the Village Green**

6.30 p.m. **Evensong**  
 Leader and Preacher: The Vicar

Hymns (NEH): 509, 86, 79, 511

Psalm: 31: 10-17

### PARISH PRAYER CYCLE

This week we pray for residents in **Willow Park and the work of the South American Mission Society (SAMS).**

### VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Philippians 2:5-7

## SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS

### Isaiah 50:4-9a (page 737 OT)

Embedded in the heart of prophecies of Isaiah are four Servant Songs. These passages were originally with reference to the nation of Israel, but the Early Church soon came to see how they were fulfilled in the person of Jesus. This third Servant Song reflects the trial scenes in the passion of Jesus and the insults and torture to which he was subjected. Even in his sufferings, Jesus could echo the words of the Servant knowing that God will uphold him.

### Philippians 2:5-11 (page 1179 NT)

Paul urges his friends in the Philippian Church to follow Jesus in his example of humility and obedience to God's will. This early hymn about Christ captures the paradox of Palm Sunday – the Servant who is the King, who exercises his power through the vulnerability of suffering love. Jesus emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, but now he is exalted above all.

### Mark 11:1-11 (page 1016 NT)

In a highly symbolic act, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a colt. This action fulfils the prophecies in Zechariah that the Messiah would stand on the Mount of Olives and ride into Jerusalem. This symbolism was not lost on the crowds who laid their cloaks before him and spread leafy branches, recalling the occasions when Jehu was anointed as King and when Judas Maccabeus entered Jerusalem in triumph. However, Jesus would not accomplish God's purposes through political or military might, but through his forthcoming death and resurrection.

### DAILY READINGS

Day	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
Mon	41	Lamentations 1:1-12a	Luke 22:1-23
Tues	27	Lamentations 3:1-18	Luke 22:24-53
Weds	102:1-18	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Luke 22:54-end
Thurs	42	Leviticus 16:2-24	Luke 23:1-25
Fri	69:1-18	Genesis 22:1-18	Hebrews 10:1-10
Sat	142	Hosea 6:1-6	John 2:18-22

## THIS WEEK'S DIARY

### Monday 6th April

7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

### Tuesday 7th April

9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

### Wednesday 8th April

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

### Maundy Thursday 9th April

9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer  
 No Belling practice

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
 (Otford Methodist Church)

### Good Friday 10th April

10.00 a.m. Family Worship (Church Centre)  
 2.00 p.m. The Last Hour at The Cross

### Saturday 11th April

9.00 a.m. Decoration of the Church for Easter

## NEXT SUNDAY - EASTER DAY

8.00 a.m. **Holy Communion (CW)**  
 Leader: Bill Lattimer  
 Celebrant and Preacher: The Vicar

9.30 a.m. **Holy Communion (CW)**  
 Leader: Dawn Hallam  
 Celebrant and Preacher: The Vicar

6.30 p.m. **A Festival of Lessons and Easter Music**  
 Leader: The Vicar  
 Preacher: Margaret Lidbetter

### Palm Sunday

There will be the usual united churches' procession, beginning at Otford Methodist Church at **10.45 a.m.** ending with an act of worship on The Green. Refreshments will be served in the Church Centre afterwards. Palm crosses will be distributed at all services today.

### Easter Flowers

If anyone wishes to give money towards Easter flowers, please hand it either to Sylvia Grafton or to Susan Reid.

### Magazines

Magazines for April are available at the back of church.

### Hand-made cards

These are available at all services today. Proceeds are for The Children's Society and Church funds.

### New Paschal Candle

A new paschal candle will be dedicated in memory of Rev. David Towne next Sunday, Easter Day, at the 9.30 a.m. service.

A paschal candle is lit for the first time at Easter each year and it symbolises the light and life of Christ that shines forth at the resurrection. It is lit each Sunday throughout Eastertide leading up to Pentecost. It is also lit at Christmas, symbolising the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. In addition, it is lit at baptisms, weddings and funerals throughout the year. Each baptismal candidate receives a candle which is lit from the paschal candle symbolising the light of Christ being passed to them through baptism; at weddings it is a reminder of the presence of Christ (John 2:1-11) to guide and support the couple in their life together; at funerals it symbolises the hope of heaven that is rooted in the Easter message of Christ's resurrection.

### Lesson Reading

Would you like to read a lesson once or twice every four months, or lead the intercessions? If you would, please contact the Church Office. Thank you.

### Good Friday

Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District are holding their annual Evening Music Service for Good Friday, with a united choir, at St. Mary, Riverhead at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome.

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This takes place on Tuesday, 21st April at 8.00 p.m. in the Church Centre. If you would like to nominate, or would like to be nominated as a member of the Parochial Church Council, please inform the Churchwardens as soon as possible, and in any event by Sunday 12th April.

### Sidesmen and Sideswomen

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is the time when we elect the sidesmen/sideswomen for the coming year. We should be grateful if anybody not at present on the list, who would be willing to serve as a sidesman/sideswoman, could contact one of the Churchwardens as soon as possible. Similarly, if any of the existing sidesmen/sideswomen wish to stand down, please let the Churchwardens know before the meeting on 21st April.

### **EASTER SERVICES**

#### **Maundy Thursday**

8.00 p.m. Joint service at Otford Methodist Church

#### **Good Friday**

10.00 a.m. Family Worship for Good Friday  
(Church Centre)

2-3.00 p.m. The Last Hour at the Cross

#### **Easter Day**

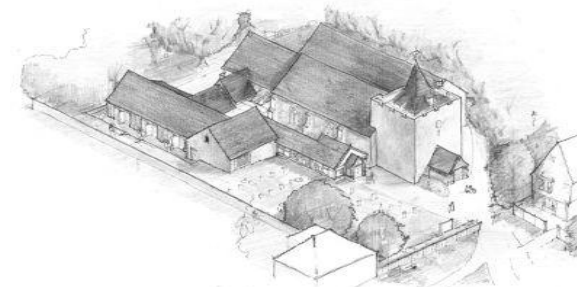
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)

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6.30 p.m. A Festival of Lessons and Easter Music

We hope you will be able to join us for  
the above services

## THE PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW, OTFORD



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## **WELCOME TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

**Sunday 5th April 2009  
Palm Sunday**

### **COLLECT**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example  
of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.  
**Amen.**