



# The Churches of Legbourne Woldmarsh

‘Bringing the good news of the kingdom of God’

## LENT AND EASTER 2019

**LENT** is an annual spiritual pilgrimage, undertaken by Christians as preparation for Easter. Our destination is home - our return to our rightful place besides Christ, so that we are then able to walk with him through the mysteries of Holy Week. In this sense Lent is best approached through the parable of the Prodigal Son. In that story Jesus told of a man who rejected the love of his father, and the duties of the family home, and instead spent his money and himself on dissolute living. Upon realising at last his own wretchedness, he finally picked up the courage to return home, expecting a severe reprimand. Instead he had barely got in sight of the house when he was embraced by his father, who had been watching for him and had ran up to him. The unconditional love, which always forgives, demonstrated by the father in the story represents the relationship our Father in Heaven has for all his children. At Lent, through acts of self-examination and penitence, through fasting, through study and through service we make our way back into his arms.

**HOLY WEEK** is the final leg of this journey. It is quite simply - and as its name suggests - the most important week of the Christian year. It is the beating heart of our annual cycle of worship, and the ancient and special ceremonies that take place within it have a unique capacity to bring the Gospel to life and to transform lives! The liturgies of Holy Week date right back to the earliest days of Christianity, as Christians in Jerusalem solemnly and prayerfully visited the sites of Jesus' passion and relived his last days.

Over these days we walk with Jesus as he is first welcomed into Jerusalem, only to be betrayed and executed, before rising victorious over death on Easter Day. The liturgical celebrations during the Triduum (the 'three holy days') on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Day are particularly rich with symbolism and flow from one to another in a seamless way. While it may appear as if these liturgies are separate and distinct, they are actually intended to be one continuous celebration that commemorates the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. For this reason, Christians are encouraged to observe the entire Triduum by attending all of the liturgies. We need to experience the confusion of Maundy Thursday, the desolation of Good Friday in order to share in the unspeakable joy of Easter.

As with all journeys, it is helpful to have some idea of what to expect along the way. It is hoped that this guide will set out what is happening, and how to take part.

## PROGRAMME FOR LENT

### PRAYER

#### Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. It is a day when all Christians are expected to attend Church. We gather to pray for a holy Lent, to ask for forgiveness and to receive Communion as food to strengthen us for the journey. The most distinctive feature of the liturgy is the marking of our foreheads with ashes, as a reminder of our mortality and need to seek God's forgiveness. From today the churches are without the usual decoration such as bright fabrics or flowers, to reflect the solemnity and seriousness of the season.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

10.30am St Vedast's, Tathwell

6pm All Saints', Legbourne

#### Midweek Communions

Throughout Lent, in addition to our usual offering of daily morning and evening prayer there will be a midweek service of Holy Communion using the liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer. This simple service makes use of the Church of England's ancient and beautiful prayers, in the intimate setting of the Lady Chapel (south aisle altar) of All Saints Church.

<b>All Saints, Legbourne</b> 10am
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April

### STUDY

Reading the 'Farewell Discourse': Bible Study led by Fr James

An opportunity to read through the 'farewell discourse' in John's Gospel (chapters 13-17)

Each week we will prayerfully read and think through a different section of this rich and moving address given by Jesus to his disciples on the night before he died.

No previous knowledge is expected, only a desire to learn!

There will be a morning and an afternoon session every week, each lasting no more than 45 minutes, and following on from an act of worship.

<b>All Saints, Legbourne</b> <u>10.30am</u> , following on from Holy Communion at 10am	<b>St Andrew's, South Thoresby</b> <u>4.30pm</u> , following on from Evening Prayer at 4.15pm
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April

## Sermon Series ~ 'Why we do what we do: Exploring The Way We Worship'

Every part of our service of Holy Communion has a meaning behind it, and communicates something about our faith, from the structure of the service to the words and symbols used. And yet even the most regular of churchgoers sometimes do not know the reason why we do what we do. Each Sunday in Lent the sermon will focus on a different aspect of the Eucharist service, to help to unpack our liturgy and make worship a richer experience.

When (beginning 10.30am)	Where	Sermon Subject
Sunday March 10 <sup>th</sup>	St John's, Belleau	Preparation
Sunday March 17 <sup>th</sup>	All Saints', Legbourne	The Gathering
Sunday March 24 <sup>th</sup>	St Martin's, Withcall	The Liturgy of the Word
Sunday March 31 <sup>st</sup>	St Andrew, S. Thoresby	Communion and the Eucharistic Prayer
Sunday April 7 <sup>th</sup>	All Saints', Legbourne	Sent out into the Word

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Lent is a good time to address the state of our relationship with God. If you would like to meet with Fr James at some point to discuss any issue regarding your life of faith then please do get in touch. It is an opportunity to ask questions about something that may be concerning you or to seek advice about how to develop your discipleship. All meetings are informal and confidential. The tone of each session is very much set by you. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) is also available.



### PROGRAMME FOR HOLY WEEK

#### **PALM SUNDAY Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am St Nicholas, Swaby** **Holy Communion with Procession of the Palms**

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, which commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We hold palm crosses to remind us of the palms that were waved and strewn in Jesus' honour and of the Cross to which he was destined. We hear the Gospel narrative of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and then re-enact that moment by processing into Church, singing hymns. Once the procession is over, the mood changes as we hear the Passion story (the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and Crucifixion). The crowd that greets Jesus on Palm Sunday shouting 'Hosanna' becomes the crowd shouting 'Crucify him' by the end of Holy Week.

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm All Saints', Legbourne** **Holy Communion and foot washing, stripping of the altars and vigil**

Maundy Thursday takes its name from an altered form of *mandatum est*, Latin for 'he commanded'. John's Gospel records that Jesus washed his disciples' feet when he ate with them for the last time and commanded them to do the same. For this reason, we have a symbolic foot washing at the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday. We also give thanks for Jesus' institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

When the Eucharist is over, two notable things happen.

- First, some of the sacrament is placed on an altar, which has been specially decorated to represent the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Second, the Church is stripped of its furnishing, which reminds us of the way in which Christ's tormentors stripped him of his clothes before the Crucifixion.
- Then follows an hour long vigil in the Church. Anybody is welcome to stay for as long as they feel able, or to come and go. In the silence we obey the command he gave his disciples to stay with him, and we contemplate Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, when he had to decide whether to obey his Father's will and submit to arrest and death or run away.

**GOOD FRIDAY   Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April**  
**10am Stations of the Cross   St Martin, Withcall**  
**2pm Good Friday Liturgy   All Saints, Legbourne**

Good Friday is the most sombre day of the Church's Year and, alongside the Easter celebration of the Resurrection, the most important. In the morning we carry on our parish tradition of walking the way of the cross, from Home Farm to St Martin's Church in Withcall. In the afternoon we gather for the last hour of Jesus' life (2-3pm), and perform the Solemn Liturgy, the ancient service of the day:

- It begins with the reading of the Passion.
- We reflect together on the Crucifixion.
- We then receive communion from some of the sacrament which has been kept from the night before.
- We then depart in sombre silence.

**HOLY SATURDAY   Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**  
**10.30am - Children help to make Easter Garden at All Saints', Legbourne!**

Children - and their parents - are invited to come and help make the Easter Garden. We will recreate the garden where Jesus rose, and tell the Easter story. Bring your gardening gloves! Refreshments provided.

**8.30pm (Easter Eve) All Saints', Legbourne**  
**The Paschal Vigil, lighting of the new fire and first Eucharist of Easter**

This is the Easter equivalent of Midnight Mass at Christmas. It is the central act of worship of the entire Christian year, and is unequalled in drama and joy!

- The service begins outside, where we gather around a fire. The Paschal Candle is lit from the flames and carried into the dark church, as ancient prayers are sung.
- A series of readings telling of God's saving work are read by candlelight.
- We sing the Gloria for the first time since Lent began, and the church is flooded with light!
- We renew our baptismal vows and celebrate the Eucharist.
- Easter is here! Time to celebrate with a glass of fizz!

**EASTER DAY   Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April**  
**Holy Communion   10.30am   All Saints', Legbourne**

With an Easter egg hunt for children!

On this happiest of days we greet each other with the Easter greeting:

**'Alleluia! Christ is risen!'**  
**'He is risen indeed! Alleluia!'**