

EASTER DAY (16 April)



**Sung Eucharist
at 8.30 am**

An early morning celebration of the risen Christ making himself known as we break bread and share the communion wine.
Joyful Easter hymns and music sung by the full choir.

**All Age Worship
at 10.45 am**

An informal gathering with the opportunity for all to join in singing the *Hallelujah Chorus* by Handel and a distribution of Easter eggs.

**Holy Communion (shortened)
at 12.00 noon**

For those who wish to stay on after All age Worship as well as for those unable to come to the early morning Eucharist.

**Festal Evensong
at 6.30 pm**

A glorious choral service with a sermon to conclude Easter Day.

**HE IS RISEN
ALLELUIA!**

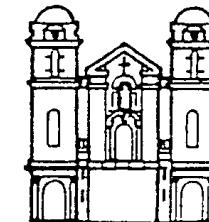
**There is an Easter Carol Service
on the fifth Sunday of Easter
14 May at 6.30 pm.**

Eastertide is celebrated until **Pentecost – Whit Sunday – 4 June.**

Holy Week &

Easter 2017

AT THE CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE GREATER



**LONDON ROAD
(opposite Victoria Park)
LEICESTER**

KEEPING HOLY WEEK is one of the oldest Christian traditions.

The idea of re-enacting the last week in the earthly life of Jesus goes back to a time before Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

This was in the first 300 years of the church when Christian festivals had no place in the calendar most people lived by. In recent years, England has been drifting back into a pagan way of life.

For most people Good Friday is just an ordinary weekday, and the 'holiday weekend' is marked by DIY projects, congested roads, boredom and even loneliness on the 'Bank Holiday' Monday.

The Alternative is to *keep* Holy Week - and to encourage your family, friends and neighbours to do so as well!

This means reckoning with the *whole* week - including the crucial fact of Jesus' suffering and death - and then the joy of God raising him from the dead. If Good Friday is missed, Easter loses its meaning.

A description of each of the days follows ...

Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY (April 9)

There is the usual service of **Holy Communion at 8.30 am.** The mid morning congregation is invited to assemble earlier than usual **at 10.10 am** in the Church Hall. There we recall Jesus setting out from the Mount of Olives to enter Jerusalem. We shall then process to Church. In the **Eucharist** that follows **at 10.30 am**, a dramatised reading of the Passion Gospel according to St Mark introduces the rest of the week. **Evensong** is sung by choir and congregation **at 6.30 pm.**

MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY (April 10, 11 & 12)

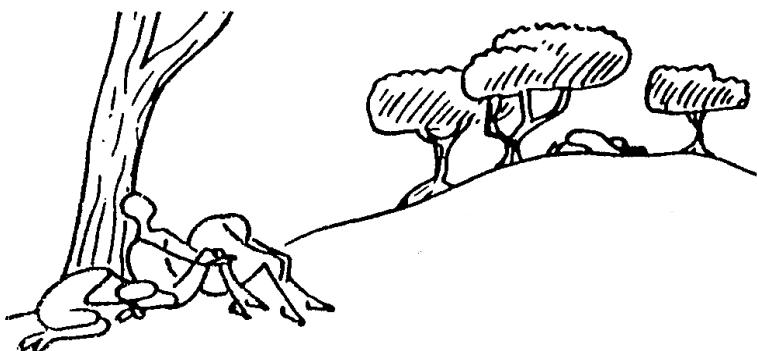
The late night service of **Compline** is each evening **at 7.30 pm.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 13)

There is the usual service of **Holy Communion at 10.15 am.** From **7.30 pm** an observance in three parts – we shall recall Jesus washing his disciples' feet, the Last Supper, and Jesus' night of prayer in the garden of Gethsemane.

The celebration of **Holy Communion** on this, of all nights, will alert us to the presence of Christ as we share bread and wine in remembrance of him. **A Watch of Prayer** continues until 10.00pm as we – latter day disciples – are in heart and mind with Jesus on the night before his death.

Please put your name to half hour or so on the list in church to ensure continuity in the watch.



GOOD FRIDAY (April 14)

DAYTIME

Leicester@theCross from 11.00am Leicester's famous Good Friday Christian witness with readings, drama, music and singing.
www.leicester.anglican.org/leicester-at-the-cross

Lunch is available from 12.00 for those who have come from the town centre witness as well as for those glad to share a simple lunch before the service in church. A donation of at least £3 is suggested. **Please sign the list at the back of the church in advance.**

At the Foot of the Cross is from 1.00pm.

This includes music from the **Seven Words of Christ on the Cross** by Joseph Haydn played by the University of Leicester String Quartet with reflections by Reverend David Clark. *Please note this service will last approximately 120 minutes*

EVENING

A Devotional Service based on the ancient Holy Week service of Tenebrae (meaning 'darkness') is **at 7.30 pm** – readings, prayers, choral music and congregational hymns in a progressively darkened church.



Easter

EASTER EVE (15 April)

In the morning the church is decorated by the Flower Guild.

Please donate for Easter flowers.

Beginning **at 8.30 pm** for the lighting of the New Fire, the **Easter Watch** includes the renewal of Baptismal Vows – with the powerful reminder that our Baptism identifies us with the death of Jesus. Candlelight spread from the Pascal Candle represents the light of Christ overcoming death and despondency.