

Distant but United

St Martin's Parish Church



Palm Sunday, 5th April



“Palm Sunday has always been a time for a public demonstration of our faith. Even in these days of distancing and isolation there is

nothing to stop us bearing witness to our faith once again.

I remember as a child gathering with a large crowd on Winchester High Street and then marching slowly, singing loudly and attracting glances as we processed down towards the Cathedral, holding our Palm Crosses aloft.

It gave me a huge sense of esteem and belonging to join with Christians of all denominations and do something so defiantly counter-cultural.

The last weeks have been peppered with such acts of gentle witness. Rainbows of Hope in bedroom windows. Bells ringing out in gratitude on Thursday evenings. Candles lit in prayer on Sunday nights. There is a desire to connect from behind our closed doors.

So, dig out your old palm crosses, or collect one from outside church, and put it on your front door as a witness to our faith.”

Rev Jonny

Holy Week

We had great plans for Holy Week! Procession with a donkey; foot-washing and watch until midnight; an interactive Easter experience for children and families; an hour at the Cross; and a Dawn Vigil on Easter morning with the lighting of the Fire on Castle Green as the sun rose.

It all seems a world away from the reality of life today. So ... here's to next year!

Instead, what I hope to do this year is to send a short reflection and some prayers out to you each day from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday. A small way of reaching out and gathering us together in Spirit.

There will also be a number of online and broadcast resources available and I'll be sure to sign-post those as we journey together to Easter.



HOLY WEEK



Volunteering

We are hearing incredible stories of folk giving of their time, energy and ingenuity to help others. Never has the strength and generosity of the Island community been in greater show or greater need. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of any kind, or has a willingness to help, then let either the Rector or the Public Hall know.



11th Hour Wedding

Some very happy news amidst all the anxiety... On Thursday last week, with just 24hrs notice, it was a privilege to preside at the wedding of Hannah Paton and Aaron Penberthy. Fearing that their planned wedding in early April would be cancelled, they swiftly arranged for an impromptu ceremony outside their house in St Martin. We observed the necessary precautions, while neighbours and friends hung out of windows to share their joy.

Now they enjoy 'Lockdown' as husband and wife!

Your Generous Giving

On behalf of the church, can I please say a huge 'thank you' to those who have continued their giving, even in the absence of a collection plate. The ministry of the church will continue, come what may, but with your help we can ensure we will meet the costs ahead. Everyone's financial situations are changing as a result of this crisis, so please think carefully of your own needs before you decide whether and how to give.

For details on how to give, ring Thelma on 852709



To speak to Rev Jonny, please ring: 07797 939692 or email: smartinsrector@gmail.com