



St Mary's Chiddingfold Lent Holy Week & Easter

Lent Challenge

Lent is a time to reorient ourselves, clear our minds, recover from distractions and focus on the values of God's kingdom. This Lent we will be spending time with poetry to see how it might reorient us, help us to slow down and deepen our relationship with God.

For those who like a challenge, we encourage you to read a poem a day aloud every day between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day. Give yourself a chance to savour it by slowing down, re-reading and reading aloud. See where it plunges you into conversation with God.

You can select your own poems, sign up to receive a poem a day in your inbox (<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem-day>) or purchase Malcolm Guite's excellent collection *The Word in the Wilderness: A Poem a Day for Lent and Easter*.

Lent Pilgrimage

Join the Church Explorers for an excursion to Albury Parish and its four churches. There will be an introductory talk about the Saxon Church by a member of the Albury History Society, the chance to explore the parish and lunch at The Drummond Arms. The Explorers will set off at 10.30am. All welcome. Contact Ruth Goddard to confirm arrangements especially for lift sharing: ruthg17@gmx.co.uk

Lent Course

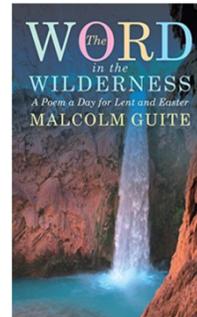
This Lent we will be dipping into Malcolm Guite's collection of classical and contemporary poetry, *Word in the Wilderness*. We will be discussing how God might be found in poetry through the spoken word, evocative musical settings and the visual arts. The course will run over four Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm at St Mary's Church - no preparation necessary. You are welcome to purchase your own copy of Guite's book but there is no need to bring a thing as all materials are provided.

13 March

20 March

27 March

3 April



All welcome – even those who have never read a poem in their lives!

Community Supper with Christine Allen

Director of CAFOD

(Catholic Agency for Overseas Development)

Monday, 15 April

7:00 for 7:30 pm

The Village Hall



You are invited to a free two course supper. Enjoy a relaxed evening meal and a glass of wine or a soft drink in good company.

Christine was Director of Policy and Public Affairs for Christian Aid from 2012 - 2019. As a senior leader and high-profile representative for the organisation, she lobbied and influenced political and private sector leaders on significant policy changes on tax justice and climate justice, led senior-level external relations for CEO and other departments, held leadership roles on global and UK bodies, as well as supporting Trusts, Foundations and Major Donors initiatives.

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday (14/04)

8 am Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer.

10 am Palm Sunday Procession and Choral Eucharist.

We gather in front of the church room to hear the Gospel of the Palms, raise them to be blessed and then process into the Church for a dramatic reading of the Passion which takes the place of the sermon.



Holy Wednesday (17/04)

7:30 pm Descent into darkness: a candle light Tenebrae service of music and readings.

Tenebrae (the Latin word for “darkness” or “shadows”) is the name given to this ancient Holy Week service for the senses. Its most conspicuous feature is the gradual extinguishing of candles in the church until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains. Towards the end of the service this candle is hidden, illustrating the apparent

victory of the forces of evil. At the very end, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the resurrection (Matthew 28:2), the hidden candle is restored to its place, and by its light all depart in silence.

Maundy Thursday (18/04)

6.30 pm Bring & Share Supper (church room).

8 pm A special celebration of the Eucharist to commemorate the Last Supper.

This dramatic service commemorates Jesus' institution of the Eucharist, his command to 'love one another as I have loved you' and his washing the disciples' feet. It concludes with the reading of Jesus' arrest and imprisonment the night before his trial and the symbolic stripping of the altar. A silent watch of prayer then takes place in the side chapel.

Good Friday (19/04)

10:30 am Walk of Witness beginning at St Teresa's and ending at St. Mary's.

11:30 am Hot cross buns (church room).

12 am Meditations on the Cross.

A short service of reflections and plainsong to help us contemplate the Passion of Christ by stopping and praying about his journey to the cross at the key points on the way. It grew out of the practice of walking the *Via Dolorosa* in Jerusalem, believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary on the day of his crucifixion.

Holy Saturday (20/04)

7:30 pm The Watch: Easter Vigil with renewal of baptism vows.

On this most holy night we begin the service outside in darkness. We will kindle a new fire, mark the new Easter candle and light it. That light is brought into the church to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. Having completed our observance of lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism by affirming our allegiance to Christ.

Easter Day (21/04)

8 am Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer.

10 am Choral Eucharist with 'All Stars' children's groups, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard.

On Easter Day we rejoice that Christ has risen with beautiful music and great hymns. And what Easter celebration would be complete without an Easter Egg Hunt?

Children, Young People and Families

This year we have designed a number of events and learning opportunities with the needs of families in mind, including a Lent Challenge especially for children, young people and those who care for them. For details see www.stmaryschurchchidd.org.uk