



**Lent
Holy Week
Easter
2008
at
St. James,
Hampton Hill**



Introduction to Lent

Lent originally began as a season of preparation for adults being baptised at Easter, and also as a time for those separated from the Church due to sin to prepare to be welcomed back into the Church's fellowship.

It begins now on Ash Wednesday. Ash is an ancient sign of penitence. It reminds us of our mortality and need of God's grace. The sign of the cross is made with it at the eucharist on this day.

Various things happen in churches during Lent. At worship, music is especially restrained. The 'Glory to God in the highest' (the *Gloria*) is not sung and neither is the word 'alleluia.' There are no flowers in church. The priest's vestments and the covering on the high altar and pulpit are simple purple. Along with many churches, St. James will offer a Lent course together with extra services and a Quiet Day. These are opportunities to reflect, ponder, take stock. The characteristic features of Lent are self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study and preparation.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent used to be called 'Refreshment Sunday' - a break from the austerity of Lent. Now modern Mothering Sunday gives us a lighter moment in the midst of the restrained and serious feel of the season.

Ash Wednesday—February 6th

Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 7am

Parish Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 8pm

Sundays in Lent at 8am and 9.30am

Each Sunday we will look at a particular prayer to give us food for thought and prayer in Lent

February 10th, Lent 1: 'Teach me to give...'

A prayer of Ignatius Loyola

February 17th, Lent 2: 'No hands but ours'

A prayer of Teresa of Avila

February 24th, Lent 3: 'Thanksgiving for all things'

A prayer of Thomas Cranmer

March 2nd, Lent, 4, Mothering Sunday: 'Jesus, Mother'

A prayer of Anselm

March 9th, Lent 5: 'Praise from all creation'

A prayer of Francis of Assisi

Sundays in Lent at 8pm

Compline (Night Prayer) will be said on these dates at 8pm

February 10th

February 17th

February 24th

March 2nd

March 9th

A Course for Lent: 'Exploring Prayer'

Mondays in church at 7.30pm

February 11th: 'What is prayer?'

February 18th: 'Praying with words'

February 25th: 'Praying with silence'

March 3rd: 'Praying with music'

March 10th: 'Prayer and me'

***Thursdays at 2pm at 4 Byron Close, Hampton
courtesy of Jean Wilson
(020 8941 2949 if you wish to come)***

February 14th: 'What is prayer?'

February 21st: 'Praying with words'

February 28th: 'Praying with silence'

March 13th: 'Praying with music'

Quiet Day for Lent

'Lord Jesus, think on me...Seeking Christ in Lent'

Saturday February 16th from 10am-4pm at St. Michael's Convent, Ham Common

A Quiet Day gives the opportunity to take time for thought and reflection

There will be addresses, a eucharist, and space for silence together with thoughts as to how to use the times of quiet

If you would like to go or simply to talk about whether a quiet day might be for you, please contact Peter Vannozzi directly on 020 8979 2069 or vicar@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

There is no set charge, but donations on the day will be welcome

If you can provide transport for anyone else, please tell Peter

Lent Appeal 2008

The Bishop of London urges us to support the appeal from our link dioceses in Africa. The goal is to finance the building and equipping of a school in each of our link dioceses – Angola, Lebombo (Southern Mozambique) and Niassa (Northern Mozambique). A simple school with three classrooms and an administration block costs about £25,000. Listen out in church for details of how to contribute.

Introduction to Holy Week

Holy Week takes the Christian on Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through to the empty tomb of Easter Day. Special services are held during this week.

Palm Sunday: the eucharist begins with a procession of palms acclaiming Christ as king and with the reading of an account of Jesus' suffering and death, laying out the sequence of events of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday: there is a rich series of themes—humility and Christian service expressed by Christ's washing of the disciples' feet which the priest enacts during the service; the institution of the eucharist; the agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethesemane before his arrest. This year at St. James's we will remember his time in the garden with the church remaining open for an hour after the end of the service for a watch of prayer. The sanctuary will be stripped at the end of the service as we recall Christ's desolation.

Good Friday: there are many ways within the Christian tradition to keep this day. At St. James's there will be a service in the morning with children especially in mind. In the afternoon there will be a simple service centred on the reading of the account of the passion, the bringing of a plain cross into the bare church, and holy communion will be given from bread and wine remaining from the service the night before. It is a widespread custom not to celebrate the eucharist on Good Friday. Nonetheless there is the option of receiving holy communion

Holy Saturday: there is no special liturgy for the day-time on this day. Rather, it moves to the Easter Liturgy which can be celebrated at midnight, or dawn on Easter Day or, as at St. James's, on Saturday evening.

At this liturgy, rich symbolism is used as the worshipper celebrates Christ's 'Passover' from death to life.

In the service we move from darkness to light as the Easter Candle is prepared, lit, and then brought into a darkened church. In the semi-darkness we move from the old to the new, reading from the Old Testament, and then hear the Gospel of the resurrection in the now fully lit church. We recall passing from death to life in baptism as we renew our baptismal vows. This year for the first time at St. James's the service will move into the first eucharist of Easter. The eucharist is above all the celebration of the resurrection. Easter has begun, and we proclaim that Christ has risen.

Easter Day: all the resources of the Church are used to celebrate Christ's resurrection—music, flowers, bells, colour—and Easter hymns use the word 'alleluia' with great frequency. It is not a word found at all during Lent. The Renewal of Baptismal vows will also be part of the Parish Communion and the Easter Candle will burn at all celebrations of the eucharist until Pentecost fifty days later. The candle is our principal symbol of the resurrection during the Easter season.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday March 16th: *Palm Sunday*

Holy Communion at 8am

Procession of Palms and Parish Communion at 9.30am

Compline at 8pm

Monday March 17th: *Monday in Holy Week*

Compline with Holy Communion at 8pm

Tuesday March 18th: *Tuesday in Holy Week*

Holy Communion at 9.30am

Compline at 8pm

Wednesday March 19th: *Wednesday in Holy Week*

Holy Communion at 7am

Compline at 8pm

Thursday March 20th: *Maundy Thursday*

Liturgy of Maundy Thursday at 8pm

followed by Watch of Prayer for one hour

Friday March 21st: *Good Friday*

All-age Service at 10.30am followed by hot cross buns

Liturgy of Good Friday at 2pm

Saturday March 22nd: *Holy Saturday*

Easter Liturgy at 8pm

Sunday March 23rd: *Easter Day*

Holy Communion at 8am

Parish Communion at 9.30am