



St Nick's, Allestree & St Paul's, Quarndon

April 2025

By the time you are reading this we will be well into the season of Lent. As I write I have the liturgy of Ash Wednesday before me. I always find this a profound and moving service, for it signals a turning point in the Christian year. The first part of the church's year began in Advent, and we celebrated the incarnation of Jesus, the 'Word become flesh' who shared our human condition, and we anticipated his return. Now, as we enter Lent, we look towards Holy Week, the cross and resurrection of Jesus. In doing this we will be joining with Christians all over the world, and that has been done for two thousand years.

The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us "in the name of the church, to the observance of a Holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word" - all very counter-cultural.



It's an invitation for us to draw near to Jesus and to take seriously the gospel call to repent, with the assurance of God's forgiveness that we see proclaimed in the gospel.

Every year as we approach Lent, I start to think about what I might abstain from and, having a scroll through Facebook (something incidentally I have given up for Lent on many occasions!), I came across a post which said,

“This Lent keep the chocolate and give up bigotry, judgement, legalism, and hatred in all forms.”

It was a bit harsh, to say the least, but it did get me thinking that it can be easier not to eat a bar of chocolate than seek to be disciplined about what we think or say. What would Lent look like if each time I had a critical thought or was about to say a critical word (let's be real we all do it) I repented and instead said words of encouragement or blessing or even chose not to say anything at all!



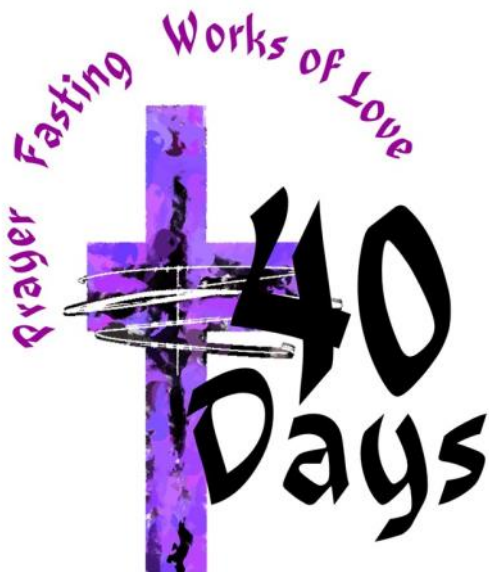
I'm not saying giving up chocolate is wrong, and fasting is a discipline that we are not so good at in the West, but maybe it would be a beneficial alternative to take seriously the liturgy of Ash Wednesday:-

“Carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel and so grow in faith and devotion to our Lord.”

What does that repentance look like? And how might we grow in faith and devotion to Jesus?

The scriptures talk about daily being transformed into the likeness of Christ and I pray that however we travel through the days of Lent, and it isn't too late to start, we will draw near to Jesus. As we prepare for Holy Week we can continue to be transformed by the abundant love and grace of God and in doing so be vessels that pour out that love and grace to others.

By Reverend Sarah Watson.



April 2025

Bishop Malcolm writes...



The message of Holy Week and Easter is that God's love for us in Jesus is Good News - the best news anyone could ever get. How are we doing at making this obvious to everyone, as it has become obvious to us?

One way we do it is simply to be present in each and every local community across Derbyshire. The way we are with our neighbours, the way we are as a church, and the way we are with each other, are all supposed to express the love of God in Christ – and very often they do! Where there is a community full of life and love and hospitality, people will experience 'good news' simply by walking through the door and being made welcome. Others will simply see the church tower, and be prompted to pray.

But how else do we share the wonders of the life in Christ we have been blessed with?

Another way is by making sure our churches are always places where people who are coming with questions about life and faith can find help in their search. Local churches either do it alone or they can team up to ensure there's always something going on locally geared towards helping people make a start with Jesus. This can be one of the many courses available, or simply a fun evening in church or café or pub where any question is taken seriously, and where new disciples and others can explore the scriptures honestly, making the connections with everyday life.

I do enjoy my ministry a lot – but the best thing I get to do as a bishop is to do confirmations. Hearing the stories of people's search for God – and sometimes of how God has surprised them without their previously having been interested – this is an extraordinary privilege. It encourages the whole church when they tell their story. I thank God for the many churches where an annual confirmation course has once again become routine -something we lost perhaps during Covid, but now have the opportunity to revive.

More and more we are hearing of newcomers, especially young people, just turning up at church wanting to see what goes on and to find out more. They don't necessarily want to be smothered – but they are glad when there is clear information about what is going on and how they can engage if they want to.

It is worth thinking of also that most searching and enquiring today happens online. My guess is that some of those who are just randomly turning up at church have begun their search out there. There are a range of great online resources out there to help people become disciples of Jesus – for younger people #thewayuk on Instagram or Youtube or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/thewayuk/> is a great place to start.

Or there is the Christian Enquiry Agency - <https://www.christianity.org.uk/site-map>

And there is helpful material on the Church of England website too: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe>

This April we keep company with Jesus on his road to Good Friday and to Easter while the guns of war still sound, and in a world where human failure and sin are all too evident. So many lives are broken and hurting. There are many and various factors at play: with ever deepening poverty and rising inequality, with the global rise in political extremism, and with today's preference for social media silo talk rather than open, honest conversation. Meanwhile the climate emergency only gets more urgent. It would be easy to give in, and give up hope. We must not.

And yet, even in these perilous times, Sunday by Sunday, many are finding real hope in Jesus, the crucified and risen one. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are still **good news** to those who encounter him alive and present today. In Him there is a new creation – a whole new world.

Let's find ways old and new to pass this on.

The Rt Revd Malcolm Macnaughton
Bishop of Repton

Extra Worship opportunities

Fancy a mid-week communion service? Or an early evening service?

St Edmunds, Allestree have a Communion service 10am every Wednesday.

The Evening Service (Evensong) at 6 pm on a Sunday alternates between St Edmunds and St Matthews, Darley Abbey, and always follows the Book of Common Prayer.

This months 6pm services are:

6th April	St Matt's: Evensong, led by Rachael Brooks
13th April	St Ed's: Choral Evensong, led by the Choir
20th April	St Ed's: Joint Choral Evensong, led by Clive Lemmon
27th April	St Ed's: Evensong, led by Clive Lemmon

Additional Services: 4th & 11th April, Compline
9pm@ St Ed's



<https://www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk/diary>—for more information on upcoming services.



SERVICES ACROSS FOUR CHURCHES DURING

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday 13th April

*10am St Edmund's, St Matthew's, St Nicholas' and St Paul's
6pm St Edmund's Choral Evensong*

Holy Monday 14th April

7pm Evening Prayer Zoom

Holy Tuesday 15th April

7pm St Paul's, Evening Prayer

Holy Wednesday 16th April

*10am St Edmund's Holy Communion,
7pm Evening Prayer Zoom*

Maundy Thursday 17th April

*7.30pm St Edmund's Choral Communion
(Stripping of the Altar)*

Good Friday 18th April

*2pm St Edmund's Hour at the Cross,
3pm St Paul's All Age Service,
7pm St Nicholas' Reflective,
7.30pm St Matthew's Choral Evening Devotions*

Easter Sunday 20th April

*10am Easter Sunday Services at all Churches.
All Age services at St Matthew's, St Nicholas & St Paul's*

Zoom Meeting - Meeting ID: 872 2946 0900 Passcode: a41SDt

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87229460900?pwd=0eMio4LFV0CvtbHal88G0FTTdOJEar.1>

COOP support

Coop Allestree have selected St Nicks Community Cafe as one of their community groups which their members can select to raise money for as they shop. If you are a member of Coop (Park Farm) please select St Nicks as your chosen group to support as every supporter helps. It only takes a moment if you have the app and are a member.

If you would like to become a new member of the Coop and help raise funds for St Nicks please be aware it costs £1 to join.

Please note, it is the Coop at Park Farm (Blue) not the other Coop's in Allestree (Yellow).

St Nicks Community café progress

A few photos to show the progress being made.



NB: We have even had some new toilet seats!





ST PAUL'S QUARNDON



**ST NICK'S
ALLESTREE**

**JOINING
TOGETHER
IN
PRAYER**



**ST EDMUND'S
ALLESTREE**



**ST MATTHEW'S
DARLEY ABBEY**

JOINT COMMUNITY PRAYER

Launch of our Joint Community Prayer

As you will know over the last year we have been working together across our four parishes, seeking where we can support one another in our ministry and mission whilst valuing our distinctiveness as individual parishes. We now have an exciting opportunity to work together to pray for each street and home across the parishes.

Starting at Pentecost 2025 we invite you to join with us in this prayer initiative which will last approximately two years. Each week both in our individual prayer life and in our intercessions together on a Sunday we will pray for different streets across the parishes with each area and home being prayed for several times.

As a result of the PCC away day in the summer one of the things that many felt called to was a deeper sense of prayer across the parishes. This is an amazing opportunity for us to come together and play our part as the body of Christ in our area, lifting up our neighbours in prayer. We hope this initiative will not only serve to bring us closer together in praying for one another, but we would see God's love and transforming power at work in our communities.

So let's come together in unity and faith to pray for God's blessing upon the homes, streets and people of our parishes, with faith and expectation of what God will do.

Rev Sarah Watson & Rev Rachael Brooks

St Nick's
St Paul's
St Edmund's
St Matthew's

Churches moving forward together in Prayer

WHY?

Because God shows the vastness of His love for us through Christ, we want to respond in love.

HOW?

Pray for everyone living in our parishes.
Introduce God's love to them.

WHAT DOES THIS INVOLVE?

- * Daily prayer using the Prayer Calendar
- * During 2 years, delivering 3 cards to every household, telling of God's love.
- * Dividing our parishes into 64 areas.

WHY 64 areas?

For card deliveries to be manageable – the average area has 128 households.

HOW many households are there?

There are 8202 households:

St Nick's	2705 households
St Paul's	992 households
St Edmund's	3148 households
St Matthew's	1357 households

HOW are the parishes divided?

St Nick's parish	21 Areas
St Paul's parish	8 Areas
St Edmund's parish	25 Areas
St Matthew's parish	10 Areas

WHAT will the cards tell people?

1st Card: We are praying for them and God loves them beyond measure.

2nd Card: Referring to 1 Corinthians 13, show how God loves them.

3rd Card: With testimonies, show how God's love changes lives.

HOW will the cards be delivered?

Mainly by people from each parish who volunteer to be part of a delivery team.

Some cards will be posted (eg. households in areas 21 and 54 are not accessible; also many households in Quarndon Village are difficult to reach).

WHAT is the timetable?

There will be 6 periods of 18 weeks:

12.05.25 – 14.09.25 PRAYERS

15.09.25 – 18.01.26 PRAYERS

19.01.26 – 24.05.26 PRAYERS & DELIVERIES (1st Card)

25.05.26 – 27.09.26 PRAYERS

28.09.26 – 31.01.27 PRAYERS & DELIVERIES (2nd Card)

01.02.27 – 13.06.27 PRAYERS

Followed by Prayers of Thanksgiving, DELIVERIES (3rd Card)

HAVE you any ideas or suggestions?

Feedback is very important.

Please make your thoughts, ideas or suggestions known to your Minister. Everyone plays a vital part in bringing God's love to our communities.



Prayer Initiative 2025



Four Churches joined in prayer





Springtime Malt Whisky Tasting



In aid of the Scouts Hall Fund

- *Saturday 12th April 2025*
- *7:30pm*
- *in Darley Abbey Scouts Hall*

The Hill, off New Road, Darley Abbey, Derby, DE22 1DT

Tickets available from

63rdderbyscouts.tickets@gmail.com

or text 07925- 633877

Tasting ticket £20 each

Driver's ticket £12 each

Tasting ticket includes 5 Malts: Lowland, Campbeltown, Speyside, Highland & Island.

Driver's tickets include *Soft or hot drinks*

All: *Mineral water and cheese & biscuits & a taste of haggis*

Tickets must be purchased in advance & shown at the door (over 18s only)

Whisky Bottle Image source - https://www.freeimageslive.co.uk/files/images009/whiskey_glass_preview.jpg

A Scheming Mind

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported St Nicks at the recent Murder mystery Charity night with Rod Repton. A fabulously entertaining night, great company, lovely nibbles and an amazing host. The event raised a grand total of £675.93.

A special thank you to Rod for hosting the event and to Clare and the team for the refreshments.

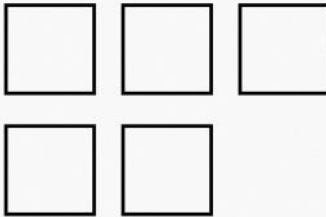
God bless them for all their help.

A few photos from the event:





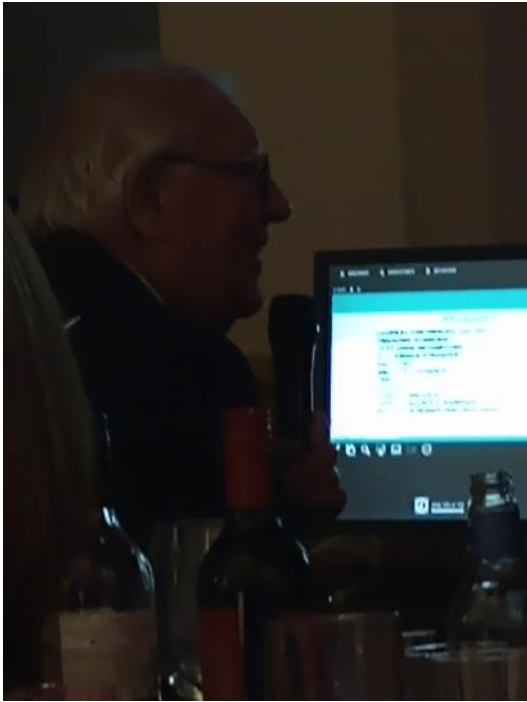
Fingerprints



Have a go at taking your own fingerprints - be warned your fingers will need a clean afterwards!







A Scheming mind sponsors

A BIG thank you to the nights sponsors.



A SCHEMING MIND SPONSORS
With Rod Repton

Rally motors
Repton Security
**Jaguar Fairs, Antiques
and Vintage Events**



<https://jaguarfairs.com/>

<https://www.reptonsecurityltd.co.uk/>

Rally Motors Blenheim Parade, Allestree
Derby DE22 2GP. Telephone: 01332 559901

Shoe Box appeal—Thank you

This letter is sent with grateful thanks from the Rotary Club of Derby on behalf of Teams4U, the shoebox charity. Your donation enabled us to send 3,104 shoeboxes with presents to Ukraine. This number is an exciting 10% increase over 2023. The Red Cross is our distribution agent in Ukraine who obtained from the front line troops the names and addresses of their children who then received an appropriate shoebox as a Christmas present.

Overall we sent three lorry loads to Ukraine from the UK packed with over 20,000 shoeboxes. How wonderful that your gifts could not only help the poor but also bring hope to those in a war torn country.

We sincerely hope that you will continue to support us this year and beyond.

Once again our sincere thanks.

John Worthy

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Derby and the Warehouse Team



School visits to St Nicks

On Monday 17th March we welcomed to St Nick's Church around 120 children from Portway Infants & Lawns Primary, along with their teachers and parent helpers, for a day filled with Easter-themed activities, providing an engaging and memorable introduction to the meaning of Easter.

The theme of the day was called 'The Journey to Easter' and included tons of fun. After welcoming them, they played an interactive game called, "Jesus is Coming," a creative twist on the classic "Captain's Coming," followed by a



retelling of the Easter story where the children read and acted it out. The children then dove into two exciting activities; decorating paper pebbles to symbolize the journey to Easter and crafting a beautiful collage and the children had a great opportunity to interview a vicar all about Easter so Rev Cathie and Rev Lee answered the many great questions they had, learning first hand about the role of the church during Easter and what it means for the vicars personally.

At the end of a great day, the children and teachers came together to dig into Easter, and each child received an Easter booklet from the Bible Society and an invitation to St Nick's upcoming Family Mother's Day service. It was a day full of joy, learning, and a deeper connection to the Easter message. It was an incredible opportunity to sharing the Gospel using the Easter story



with the kids, and we couldn't be more thrilled to welcome them to St Nick's.

On Monday 30th March at St Paul's, The Curzon school will also all be coming along to have their Easter assembly. So please do keep the children and their wider families across the parishes and schools in your prayers as they go home and share all they have learned and that it inspires families to join in and come along to all the different service over Easter and beyond.

Rachel Kennedy (Children's and Youth Lead)

Lent Series at St Nicks and St Pauls

During Lent, we are continuing with a short preaching series around topics of discipleship.

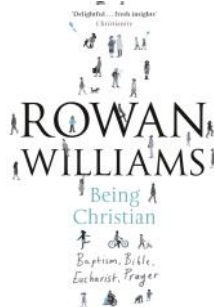
This month:

6 th April	Prayer	Colossians 4:2-6, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-28 Luke 11:1-13
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Rowan Williams book, Being Christian covers the key topics.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Being-Christian-Baptism-Eucharist-Prayer/dp/0281071713/ref=sr_1_1?nsdOptOutParam=true&s=books

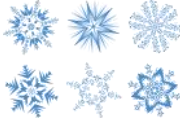
Rev Sarah Watson



Poem

God made you just the way he wanted and thank you for all you do to make our world a better place.

You're Special



In all the world there is nobody like you.

Since the beginning of time, there has never been another person like you.

Nobody has your smile, your eyes, your hands, your hair.

Nobody owns your handwriting, your voice.

Nobody can paint your brushstrokes.



Nobody has your taste for food or music or dance or art.

Nobody in the universe sees things as you do.

There is always someone who is better at one thing or another than you.

But nobody has your combination of talents and feelings.

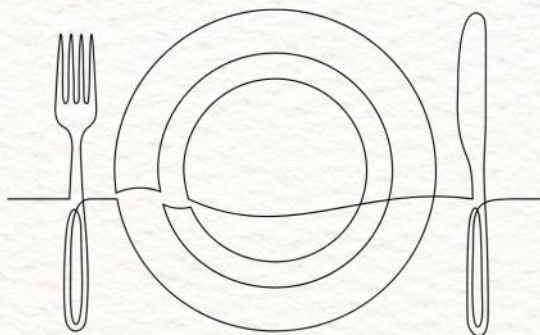
The need for you to imitate anybody else is absolutely unnecessary.

Please realise God made you for a special purpose.

You're special.

Poem for newsletter sent by Paul Wiggins, author unknown.

Let's do
LUNCH



Come along and join us for a lovely time of fellowship over a tasty meal at our local Ember Inn pub - The Markeaton. For more details contact Christine on 07729371373 or read our latest newsletter for the next date (usually 3rd Sunday of the month). Everyone is welcome

*St Nicks Church monthly Pub lunches
12 Noon @ The Markeaton*

VENUE FOR HIRE

St Nicks Church



We have a large hall available to hire for a single event or a regular class.. Ideal for birthday parties and concerts

For more details contact our church administrator:
stnicksalvestree@outlook.com
550431

For smaller groups we have rooms available for up to 40 people with access to small kitchens perfect for making refreshments.

Large car park on site

VENUE FOR HIRE

ST PAULS CHURCH

Village Hall

Ideal for Childrens
birthday parties, dance
classes, music
ensembles or local
community groups.
Car park on site .

CONTACT US

hallstpauls@outlook.com
or 07973702002



QUARNDON PRESCHOOL



Quarndon Pre-School

2 YEAR OLD FUNDING PLACES AVAILABLE

Have you checked to see if your child is eligible for 2 year old funding ?

We are now accepting applications, Please contact Dawn for more information.

Please note: Additional costs for extras such as consumables and non-funded hours are chargeable. Funded only sessions will have a set consumables charge applied



01332 556611 / 07708906743



quarndonpre-school@hotmail.co.uk

<https://quarndonpreschool.org/index>



Play n Praise

Would you like to help out at the very successful Play n Praise which is for preschoolers and their adults @ St Nicks on a Tuesday morning (term time only).

We are looking to set up a team of volunteers on a rota. You would not be required every week, but every 4-6 weeks.

If you would like to know more, why not pop along on a Tuesday 9.30-11am and meet the current team and families who attend? Coffee and cake available.



Online donations @ St Nicks

We have a QR code for online giving for those tech savvy people amongst us who feel more comfortable giving in this way.

Thank you.



Church Prayer @ St Nick's

Pre-church prayer takes place in the chapel from 9.30am to 9.45am on a Sunday morning. We pray for the service to follow and anything else the Holy Spirit prompts us to bring to our Father.

Church prayer will be held in the Chapel or on Zoom depending on the weather on:

23rd April 7.30pm

Contact Graham if you are interested in joining us in prayer.



St Nick's Prayer Circle

St Nick's have a prayer circle as part of their pastoral care set up. For those unfamiliar with the practice, it is simply a circle of people who are committed to phone along a chain when people request prayer, or a situation arises that needs communicating and praying for. You can rest assured that you are being covered in prayer when you approach someone who is on the contact list.

If you would like to be added to the prayer circle, please get in touch with the church office.

Pastoral Care Update.

Are you going through a difficult time at the moment and would like some emotional, spiritual or physical help? Then please let Clare Stacey know.

For various understandable reasons, many people find it difficult to reach out and ask for help but if you are aware of anyone who is struggling at the moment, please let us know. It could include for example, help with shopping, a home visit or merely a friendly chat on the phone. If we don't know, then it's difficult to help.

We are part of your church family and have been DBS checked and have completed the Diocesan Safe Guarding Training.



Prayer Requests:

Please pray for:-

- For those that are unwell and unable to get out at this time.
- Church vision and the plans for the church café.

Coffee & Chat @ St Nick's

A reminder that Coffee & Chat takes place every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, in the Church Room, 10:30am -12noon. All are welcome to join in and enjoy this lovely social, which is much appreciated after a time of not being able to gather.



St Nick's Pub Lunches

Join us after church for a pub lunch social once a month.
12 noon @ The Markeaton pub.

Future date:

April 13th, May 18th and June 8th.

*Please speak to Christine Penny for more info.
All are welcome!*



Knit & Natter @ St Nick's

Meetings are held in the Church Hall on the 1st, 3rd, and where there is a 5th Wednesday of the month, 2-3:30pm.

Membership fee £5 each quarter, then £1 per session.

Contact Sandra on 557114

Come and join us for tea, biscuits, and chat.

Please get in touch if you'd like to organise a Baptism at St Nick's or St Paul's, or would like to get married or celebrate a special anniversary with the renewal of wedding vows.

Polite notice to St Nick's congregation, hall hirers and visitors.

Please could everyone be mindful when parking on the roads surrounding St Nick's and be considerate to residents. In particular ensure we are not parking across driveways and allow residents space to reverse in and out of their drives.

Thank you all as always for your support and kindness.

Newsletter Information - Deadline!

Please be aware that the deadline for any news you'd like to be included in

Children's and Youth Leader: Rachel Kennedy

Email: stnicksCYL@outlook.com

Mobile : 07407797405

Office Email: stnicksallestree@outlook.com

Websites: www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Paul-Quarndon
www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Nicholas-Allestree.

www.stnicksallestree.uk

Office Hours: Monday 9.00-3.00 Tuesday 9.00-3.00 Wednesday 9.00-11.00 and Friday 9.00-3.00 Advanced Notice: I am on Annual leave 14th April till 22nd April.



Handy Contacts for both churches:

Church Office Emma Patterson **Contact:** 01332 550431.

St Nick's

Church Warden: Paul Taylor **Contact:** 01332 556020

Safeguarding Lead: Miriam Chappell **Contact:** psostnicks@outlook.com

Telephone: 07448607129

Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) Bruce Innis

St Paul's

Church Warden: Mike Annable **Contact:** wardenstpauls@outlook.com

Safeguarding Lead: Mary Pitt

Contact: psostpauls@outlook.com

or Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 01332 388678

Church Hall Bookings: Val Annable **Contact:** hallstpauls@outlook.com



Upcoming Services — April

Priest in Charge: Reverend Sarah Watson and Associate Priest
Reverend Rachael Brooks. Curate: Reverend Cathie Watson

Dates/Services	Readings
Sunday 6th April St Nicks: 10am Informal Worship St Pauls: 10am Informal Holy Communion	Lent Theme: Prayer Colossians 4:2-6 1 Thessalonians 5:16-28 Luke 11:1-13
Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday St Nicks: 10am Informal Communion St Pauls: 10am Communion	Luke 19:28-40 Philippians 2:5-11
Tuesday 15th April St Pauls: 7pm Evening Prayer	Psalm 55:13-24, Lamentations 3:40-51, Galatians 6:11-end
Friday 18th April - Good Friday St Nicks: 7pm Good Friday Service St Pauls: 3pm All Age Good Friday Service	Isaiah 52:13-end of 53 Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9 John 18:1-end of 19
Sunday 20th April - Easter Sunday St Nicks: 10am Holy Communion St Pauls: 10am Holy Communion	Acts 10:34-43 Isaiah 65:17-end Luke 24:1-12
Sunday 27th April St Nicks: 10am Bible Study 3pm Holy Communion St Pauls: 10am Morning Praise	Acts 5: 27-32 John 20:19-end

