



The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

Passiontide 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Holy Week and Easter 2021

One year ago many were asking the question as to whether or not Easter had been cancelled. We were locked out of churches and just as the earliest Christians found themselves worshipping at home so it was that on Easter morning more than 100 computers or devices were watching our Easter service live on Facebook, probably equating to 200 live viewers from home. In the third lockdown we worshipped online once again. Thankfully we are back! It was such a joy to be worshipping in church on Sunday. We were even reported in the EDP!

A year on from the first lockdown, as we paused on Tuesday to reflect on the National Day of Reflection, we are beginning to emerge seeking the light and hope of the presence of Christ among us. We have never been deserted and throughout the wilderness of what has seemed like a long Lent we have known that Christ is with us and genuinely that things will get better.

Many have lost loved ones or are affected by this crisis in some other way and each and every one of them is in our prayers. Easter is always a time for acknowledging new life and new possibilities but that seems to be even more profoundly felt this year. Many organisations are speaking of 'Building Back Better' – and this seems true for us too. This year (and more) has been difficult but it has allowed us to deepen our relationship with God and to continue to form a community full of light and love. I hope that as restrictions are relaxed it will be possible to see as many of you as possible. Do come and look at our Easter Garden. Details of these and our many planned social events and services are contained in our notices.

With the letter I hope you will receive an extended Palm Sunday and Holy Week booklet (20 pages) and a palm cross – remembering that the crowds greeted Christ with palm branches but by the end of the week crucified him on the cross.

If you still feel safer to remain at home and worship then we are continuing to stream our services live on Facebook. If you haven't yet found us on Facebook it can be found at:

www.facebook.com/ThorpeStAndrewParishChurch

The Facebook services to our Parish Life website at www.parish-life.co.uk so please look there if it is easier for you.

I wanted also to thank you for the many donations that you are making for the benefit of the church as we try to rebuild our finances after this pandemic. Details of how you can help are contained in the notices. If you need any more information please do not hesitate to be in touch with me.

Please be assured that I am only a phone call away and if you need **anything**, please do be in touch. You are all in my prayers and I wish you all a holy and blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter when it comes.

With every blessing,



James Stewart
Rector – Thorpe St Andrew

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