

Messy Church - Thank you to all those who donated or promised lego or duplo. There is a planning meeting for the April Messy Church on Sunday 12 April at 5:00 pm in St John's.

Joint DCC Meeting and Evening Prayer at 6:00 pm in St John's on 19 April. Refreshments to follow.

Confirmation Class - The next confirmation class will be on Sunday 26 April at 3pm in St Luke's.

Benefice Noticeboard - If you would like to include something in the notes please send it to linsaycoolhouse@hotmail.com. Please try to keep contributions brief as space is often very limited.

Youth Team Initiatives - We will focus on the following priorities in the coming months:

Battle of the Bands - this will be a music event for young people from year 9 upwards taking place on a Saturday 4 July - application forms will be available after Easter;

Youth Club - We are launching the youth club on the week beginning 1 June beginning with two nights a week but hoping to move to three in September. We have much of the resources in place yet we need a team of adult helpers who will help oversee the activities each evening. There is an information page and sign up sheet at the back of our churches.

Soul Survivor August 2015 - Soul Survivor is a 5 day event for Christian Youth Groups and teenage Christians (aged 12+) in Shepton Mallet. It has a festival atmosphere with lots of activities, camping and worship that is designed for young people. Application forms are available at the back of the Church. For more info: soulsurvivor.com and on our website.

May Half Term Sports - Sign up sheet and information at the back of the church for a proposed sports/activities club for children to take place during the May half term. It is hoped to be as low cost as possible to allow families struggling financially to participate. However, could you give us a day (or more) during this week? Please help us.

Electoral Roll - If you haven't already done so please fill in an electoral form (available at the back of the Church). Please note, the old Electoral Roll will no longer be valid and everyone needs to enrol on the new one to vote at the Easter Vestry

Easter Vestry - The Annual Easter Vestry is on Wednesday 29 April at 7:30 pm in St Luke's Church. All are welcome.

St Catherine's Notes:

The Cross of Christ - This evening at 6:00 pm in St Catherine's. A celebration of the passion and death of Jesus in word and music.

Hall Bookings - To book the Hall please contact Angharad Elias 07989 747026 hall.stcatherines@gmail.com

St John's Notes:

For booking the Church or Vestry please contact the clergy.

St Luke's Notes:

Hall Bookings - To book the Hall please contact Jackie or Haydn Page on 029 2091 3808 haydnpage@hotmail.co.uk

Women's Group - On the afternoon of Thurs May 7 a trip to the Mansion House for a tour and a very special tea has been arranged. All are welcome. Names to Jeanie asap.

Recently Departed: Henrietta Rawlinson, Gillian Ann O'Neill

This Week in the Benefice: (Diocesan Prayer / Anglican Prayer Cycle / Events and Services)

Sun 29 RB Llantwit Major: Huw Butler (R); Jerusalem;

Mon 30 Pendoylan w Welsh St Donats, Edwin Counsell (V); Multan, Pakistan;

Tues 31 Peterston-super-Ely w St Brides-super-Ely, Martin Davies (PinC); Mumbai;

Wed 01 St Michael's College, Dr Mark Clavier, Acting Principal, the staff and those in training; Mumias, Kenya;

Thur 02 Maundy Thursday - Pontyclun and Talygarn, Sue Rees (V); Mundri, Sudan;

Fri 03 Good Friday - St Nicholas w Bonvilston & St George Super Ely, Martin Davies (PinC); Musinga, Burundi;

Sat 04 Holy Saturday - Archdeaconry of Morgannwg, Ven. Christopher Smith; Mytikiyina, Myanmar;

Sun 05 Easter Sunday - Dowlais and Penyardren, Joyce Harman (R); Nagpur;

Isaiah 50. 4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalm 31. 9-16, [17, 18]

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away. I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbours, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. For I hear the whispering of many – terror all around! – as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD, for I call on you; let the wicked be put to shame; let them go dumbfounded to Sheol. Let the lying lips be stilled that speak insolently against the righteous with pride and contempt.

Philippians 2. 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Mark 15. 1-39,

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ He answered him, ‘You say so.’ Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, ‘Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.’ But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, ‘Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?’ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for

them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.