

**The Abbey Shop is closed.**

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**The Digby Memorial Church Hall is closed.**

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**Please note that all events associated with the Abbey have been cancelled until further notice.**

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## **THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED**

During the current situation, the Parish Secretary may be contacted on 01935 812452 Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday and Friday

between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

Please note she does not work on a Wednesday.

Her email address is:

parishsecretary@sherborneabbey.com

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## **THE COLLEGE OF CLERGY**

**Team Rector of Sherborne with Castleton and St Paul's, Lillington and Longburton & Surrogate**

The Reverend Canon Eric Woods, DL

The Vicarage, Abbey Close, Sherborne,

Dorset. DT9 3LQ. Tel: 01935 812452

**Team Vicar & Chaplain of St Paul's Church**

The Reverend Jono Tregale

St Paul's Vicarage, 8 Kings Road, Sherborne,

Dorset. DT9 4HU. Tel: 01935 815820

**Team Vicar & Chaplain of St Mary Magdalene, Castleton**

The Reverend Jane Crow

Jubilee Cottage, Lower Kingsbury, Milborne Port,

Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 5ED. Tel: 01963 251527

**Team Vicar & Chaplain of St James the Great, Longburton**

The Reverend Lesley McCreadie

5 Kings Close, Longburton, Sherborne,

Dorset. DT9 5PW. Tel: 01963 210548

**Associate Priest & Chaplain of St Martin of Tours, Lillington**

The Reverend Hugh Bonsey

67 Acreman Street, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 3PH

Tel: 01935 812749

**Associate Priest**

The Reverend Ron Martin

*Head of Chaplaincy and Bereavement Services at Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester*

Tel work: 01305 255198

Tel home: 01935 815334

**Associate Priest and Chaplain of the Gryphon School**

The Reverend Diane Tregale

St Paul's Vicarage, 8 Kings Road, Sherborne,

Dorset. DT9 4HU. Tel: 01935 815820

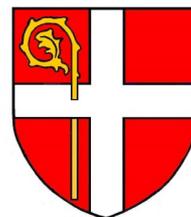
**Assistant Curate**

The Reverend Guntars Reboks

69 Granville Way, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 4AT

Tel: 07925 158436

SHERBORNE ABBEY with CASTLETON,  
SAINT PAUL'S, LILLINGTON  
and LONGBURTON



*Founded by St Aldhelm AD 705*

*To know God and to make Him known  
in wonder, love and praise*

**Sunday**

**5 April 2020**

***PALM SUNDAY***



## **THE RECTOR WRITES**

1. I suppose the first **Palm Sunday** must have seemed like a Bank Holiday to the crowds in Jerusalem. It was *Yom Rishon* or 'first day' – the first day of the new week on which lambs were selected for the Passover. The chosen lambs would be set apart from all others for four days until they were slain at the blast of the *Shofar* at 3.00 pm on the afternoon before Passover began. The symbolism begins to fall into place – does it not?

In other years, the Palm Sunday *Pewsheets* has always been full of details of the many services to be held throughout the Benefice, from the Palm Sunday Procession down Cheap Street to the marking of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday in so many and different ways. And then of course the great burst of joy, beginning on Easter Eve, and continuing on Easter Day in all our flower-bedecked churches, to celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord.

But this is no normal year. We have to follow Jesus through this Holy Week from the confines of our homes. Please make good use of your Bible. For example, read today the Gospel for the Liturgy of the Palms in Matthew 21.1-11. Then, during the week, the Gospel of the Passion in Matthew 26.14 to 27-end. From Maundy Thursday to Holy Saturday, John 18 & 19. Then, on Easter Day itself, either (or both) John 20.1-18 and Matthew 28.1-10. And then read Acts 10.34-43.

2. Last week's recording of the Passion Sunday Eucharist has brought messages of appreciation from as far afield as Canada and Norway. It was filmed by The Reverend Guntars Reboks, standing in a freezing wind outside my dining room window. Back at home he skilfully wove-in music recorded by the Abbey Choir, and numerous photographs of the Abbey. Each member of the Choir, whether chorister or adult, had recorded his and her own part with a guide track put together by our Director of Music, Jamie Henderson, who then mixed all the recordings into a whole using Logic software. The organ was not our own Abbey organ but was instead a virtual organ — a recorded copy, in fact, of that in Hereford Cathedral.

You can find the recording by following the link on the home page of our website: [www.sherborneabbey.com](http://www.sherborneabbey.com) My thanks to Guntars, Jamie and also Chris Hamon and Duncan Withers for all their hard work on this project.

At the time of writing we are hoping to do the same for today, Palm Sunday, and again for Easter Day. I am also hoping to record a short meditation for each day of Holy Week, from Monday to Saturday. If this works, the links will again be on the website. However, Guntars is currently self-isolating, so I am relying on my "techie" colleagues to find a solution.

Meanwhile, here is the Collect for today:

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the Cross:  
grant that we may follow the example  
of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

With my blessing and love, as always

Eric

## NOTICES

**Jonathan Rodd**, one of the Abbey Churchwardens, writes: Eric's last Sunday on duty is Easter Day, 12 April. The Bishop of Salisbury has agreed that Eric can then have a Sabbatical - he has not had one in 42 years of ordained ministry - before officially retiring on 30 June. Therefore, the Vacancy (or Interregnum) will officially begin on 1 July.

The process of discerning and appointing a new Incumbent will then commence. As is commonplace in the Church of England, the Interregnum is expected to be a long one, and consequently, we may not have a new Rector in post until well into 2021. Both the Bishop of Sherborne and the Archdeacon agree that the process of appointing Eric's successor should not be rushed. Eric has been the Rector of Sherborne for 27 years and it is important to consider our vision as a Parish for the next 10 or 20 years as this will inform the job description and person specification.

The Interregnum is a time for the Parish to seek God's leading and guidance for the next chapter of its life of worship and witness. It should also be a time of growth when new talents emerge, as well as a time of reflection. During this period, the Parish Profile (a document sent to prospective candidates) will be written. The post will then be advertised before short-listing and interviewing take place. It may be a further three months before the new Rector is instituted and inducted, as s/he will have to serve a period of notice in his/her current Parish.

During this time of change and transition, the role of all the lay officers will be very important. We are confident that the next Incumbent will find a united team working effectively together when s/he arrives.

Meanwhile, gifts for a Presentation to Eric (which, sadly, will now have to be made privately) may be put in the post to 3, Abbey Close, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 3LQ, or put through the Parish Office letterbox. Cheques should be made payable to *Sherborne Abbey*. Please address your envelope to the Honorary Treasurer, Bernard Brown.



**Sherborne Viral Kindness**  
**We Can Help!**

We have a network of volunteers covering Sherborne and the surrounding villages. We can help with **shopping, delivering food, collecting prescriptions, walking dogs and more.**

If you are in isolation and need help with something - please contact us.

We can also connect you to a FREE book and DVD delivery service.

Contact us via Facebook @sherborneviralkindness or call us on 07884 115 987. All our services are completely **FREE**.

The poster features a background of colorful hands (green, pink, blue, orange) with white hearts on them, symbolizing kindness and support.