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**Re: arrangements for Holy Week**

Dear friends,

I really hope this letter finds you well and safe. I am writing to explain how we are planning to commemorate the events of Holy Week in what are unprecedented circumstances for all of us. In these times when the church building is closed, and we are rightly being told to 'stay at home', nevertheless we are finding ways to join in prayer and worship together through such things as 'Thought for the Day' and the Sunday services being broadcast from our website. It's poignant to note that, as in the early days of our faith, public gatherings of Christians outside the home are forbidden.

So, the fact that Holy Week is very nearly upon us means that we will need to mark those profoundly significant events of the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ in new ways. In this letter I want to outline what those are so that as many of us as possible are able to 'join in' from our own homes. If you know of someone who will not receive this letter by email, please do share the information it contains over the phone or in other ways!

**Palm Sunday:**

9am service being 'live streamed' from the church website ([www.baystonhillchurch.org](http://www.baystonhillchurch.org)) and available as normal after the live broadcast. A mixture of songs, prayers and a Palm Sunday sermon from me! Don't forget your Palm Cross as we'll be using it during our time together!

10.30 All Age service: Sit cosy in your favourite chair and get your bacon butties ready for our All Age service this Sunday at 10.30am. Join us as we enjoy Palm Sunday digitally together with storytelling, singing, talks, prayers and fun. Watch the service on the Christ Church website or on Facebook. Don't forget to have your palm leaf ready from the Church Connections magazine as we praise the Lord together. Hope you can join us.

**Maundy Thursday:** Going live at 5pm on the church website and available as normal afterwards: A service of reflection, meditation and teaching as we remember the last meal of Jesus. Join us with your own bread and wine as we come together as a virtual community to remember the Last Supper using words of an Agape meal approved by Bishop Michael.

**Good Friday:**

Stations of the Cross family trail: Rachael and Jeanette are planning a Good Friday family friendly trail around the village – as part of your daily exercise! A map will be available to show a route of where to find all 14 stations. The idea is to show us Jesus' journey to the cross whilst helping us to reflect on what Jesus went through and how we can relate to it in our lives.

An hour at the cross: 2-3pm Debbie and I will lead a pre-recorded hour of reflections on the Cross – a mixture of music, Bible readings, reflections and prayers. This will be available via the church website.

**Easter Sunday:**

At 5.15 am (!) Bishop Michael is inviting all of us to join him in a daybreak service to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus – light a candle at home and join in a simple celebration of Holy Communion – all to be 'live streamed' Listen out for further details!

9am service to celebrate Easter Sunday: join Peter and Debbie via the website as we rejoice that Christ is risen!

In addition:

- There is a really helpful daily reflections leaflet that is attached to this email called '**Holy Week at Home**' which you can use each day next week for your own devotions.
- Thought for the Day will carry on next week also.
- Jeanette will be sending out resources and activities for children for Holy Week too!

This comes with my prayers for you all and keep *raising your hallelujah!*

Rev Peter Hubbard