

## ***From The Vicar***

As I write, there is the news of the murder of two of our soldiers outside a regimental barracks in County Antrim in Northern Ireland. This follows on the attempted murder of kidnap of the Sri Lankan Cricket team in Lahore in Pakistan, resulting in the deaths of six policemen; and also that dreadful act of terrorism in Mumbai in India, in which so many civilians died.

There is the innocence of the victims on one hand, and then there is the depravity of the terrorists on the other. And the pointlessness of the acts themselves – for who would suppose for one moment that such terrorist acts would ever advance the causes of those who commit them? I find a natural anger in me that wants to condemn those who do such things, and to think that God does too.

But a deep truth, a hard truth, which we will celebrate on Good Friday and Easter is that Jesus Christ came for *both* the innocent and the depraved. The Mission of God, which finds its supreme expression in the death and resurrection of the Lord, is that God calls saint and sinner alike back into union with him, through the forgiveness of sins that flows from the cross of Jesus. At the last moment of his life, Jesus cries from the cross, ‘It is finished!’ Not a cry of despair to mark his death, but a cry of triumph to mark the culmination of the Mission of God – that through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, forgiveness is proclaimed throughout the world for all those who *repent* and believe in him.

Potentially, ‘all those who believe in him’ means *everyone* – the innocent and the depraved alike. That is why Jesus taught in the scriptures that we should pray for our enemies, and do good to those who persecute us. Especially to pray for their repentance, their turning back to God. It is a hard teaching, and when feelings are running high, may well be very hard to do. But if God was in Jesus Christ reconciling the world to himself, so we, in imitation of Him, must strive in the mission of reconciliation now, by praying for the repentance of those whose hard and embittered hearts are presently turned against God.

I invite everyone to explore this mystery with us at All Saints this Holy Week and Easter.

Blessings,

***Stephen***

## Calendar for March

Early Birds meets at 9.30 a.m. on Sundays during term –time, except for the first Sunday of the month. Occasionally a breakfast at 9 a.m. replaces the usual service. Details from Glynys Forsyth 882522.

**Tots Time** – every Wednesday at 9.45 a.m.

**Holy Communion every Thursday** at 10.30 a.m. followed by coffee in the Parish Hall.

**Parish Prayers:** last Thursday of the month at 4.00 p.m.

**Morning Prayers:** Wednesdays and Fridays at 8.15 a.m.

Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> April	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	10.30 a.m. Family Service with Baptisms 6.30 p.m. Communion in the Chapel ( <i>said</i> )
Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Eucharist
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	
Friday, 10 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 a.m. Mattins
<i>Good Friday</i>	12.00 noon Ecumenical Walk of Witness 2.00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy
Sunday, 12 <sup>th</sup> April	6.15 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at White House Farm ( <i>Proclamation of the Resurrection and Blessing the Easter Candle</i> )
<i>Easter Day</i>	
	8.00 Holy Communion (Common Worship) 9.30 Early Birds 10.30 Holy Eucharist (Common Worship)
Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> April	8.00 Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>Low Sunday</i>	9.30 Early Birds 10.30 Morning Prayer 4.00 p.m. Evensong
Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> April	8.00 Holy Communion (Common Worship)
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	9.30 Early Birds 10.30 Holy Eucharist (Common Worship)

