



ST MATTHEW & ST WILFRID  
SUNDERLAND  
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

# WEEKLY NEWS 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

## HOLY WEEK

### THIS WEEK

- Holy Week  
Rev'd Dave
- Gender Based Violence  
Rev'd Wim
- Contact Us

Do you have an article to add to our weekly news? A poem a picture or a few words of reflection, please send it to Dave



## HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is almost upon us and gives us an opportunity to walk with Christ on those final days as he journeyed to the cross before rising again three days later. It is a powerful time for all Christians and this year we will be providing daily opportunities in a COVID safe environment to walk this journey together.

On **Palm Sunday** we will meet at 10am for a Palm Sunday Communion Service at the Parish Church and a 5pm service of Evensong.

**Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday** in the Parish Church there will be a 9:30 Holy Communion followed by an opportunity for private prayer and reflection with an exhibition of images of the Stations of the Cross between 10am and 12Noon, and 3pm – 5pm. Each day will end with Evening Prayer at 5pm with a Holy Week reflection.

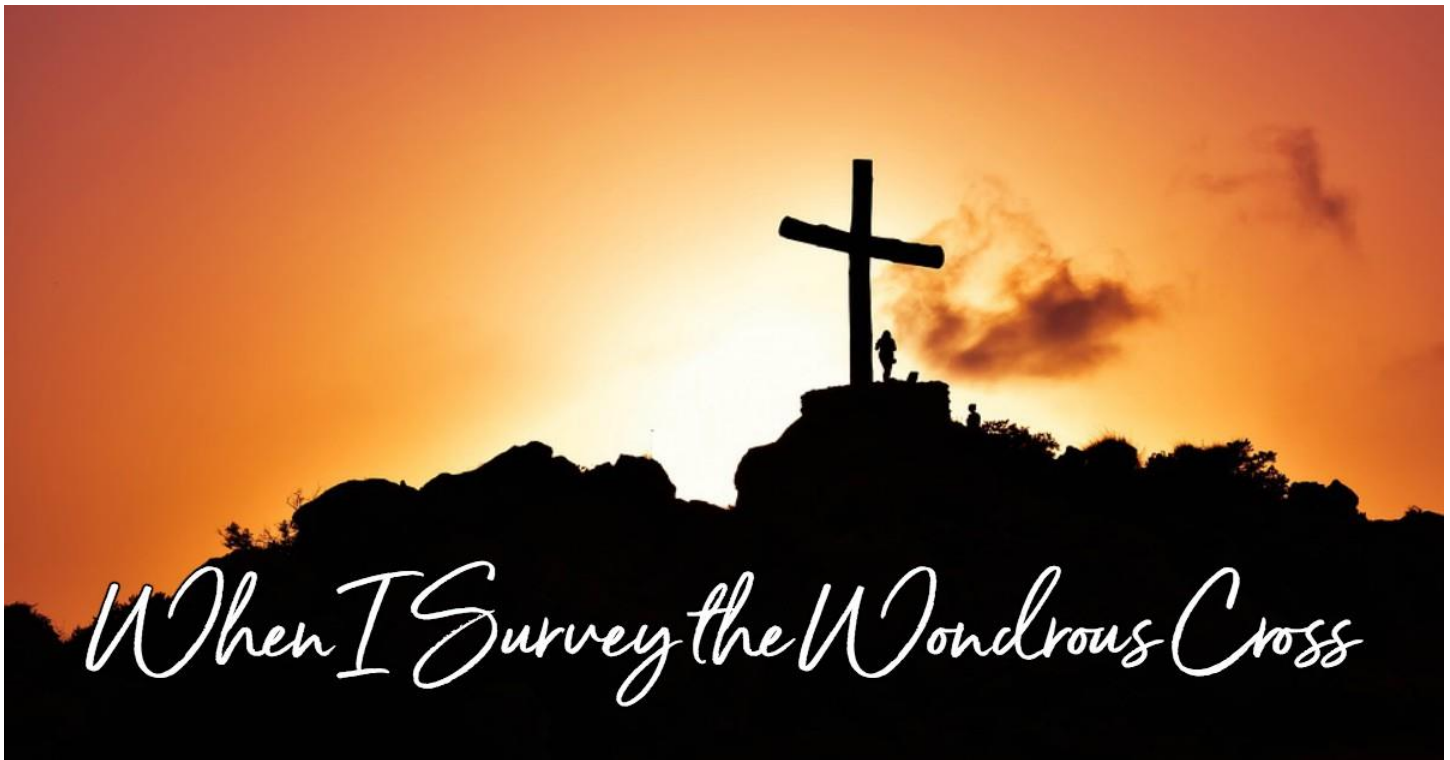
On **Maundy Thursday** we will join together for Holy Communion and the stripping of the sanctuary at 5pm. On **Good Friday**, the church will open from 10am to 12Noon for private prayer and reflection and there will be a service of The Stations of the Cross at 2pm.

**Saturday** Evening at 8pm we will start to look towards the resurrection with The Service of the Light and on **Easter Sunday** at 10am we will have our Easter Celebration Holy Communion with an Easter Evensong at 5pm.

Please do join us if you can, our Monday – Wednesday Evening Prayer, Thursday Communion and Easter Sunday Communion will be live streamed to our Facebook Page.

Rev'd Dave

## SURVEYING THE CROSS



On my walk today I saw for the first time this year a couple of lambs. I simply love the sight of them (well who doesn't?). On a beautiful sunny day like this one it gave me the joyful feeling that Spring has indeed arrived and that Easter is close. The image of the lamb in all its innocence and beauty is of course also linked to Jesus, the lamb of God, whose blood has been spilled for our salvation. At the moment I am reading 'A cross in the Heart of God', a new Lent book by Sam Wells, the vicar of St Martin in the Fields in London (from where we get the hymns we listen to at our Sunday services). He writes that the cross discloses the virulence, yet ultimate failure of evil and displays God's faithfulness, the offer of forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God, the overcoming of death and the gift of eternal life. It demonstrates in utter, unmistakeable and sacrificial terms that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

To grasp the true joy of Easter we first have to stand at the foot of his cross, using whatever means we can find to do so; reading a Lent book, or the #LiveLent booklet, listening to and singing hymns (unfortunately just at home), or simply meditating on the cross whenever it suits it. So let us 'survey the Wondrous Cross' (as the hymn puts it) at this final part of Lent.

**Rev'd Wim**

### CONTACT US

**The Rev'd David Tolhurst**  
Vicar

The Vicarage  
Silksworth Road  
Sunderland SR3 2AA  
0191 523 9932 [vicar@stmstw.org](mailto:vicar@stmstw.org)

**The Rev'd Wim Kuiper**  
Curate

07394 555152  
[wimkuiper.br@gmail.com](mailto:wimkuiper.br@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE**  
[stmstw.org](http://stmstw.org)

**FACEBOOK**  
[facebook.com/StMatthewSilksworth.org](https://facebook.com/StMatthewSilksworth.org)