

# Littlehampton United Church

Easter  
Newsletter



Keeping  
our church  
together

Dear Friends,

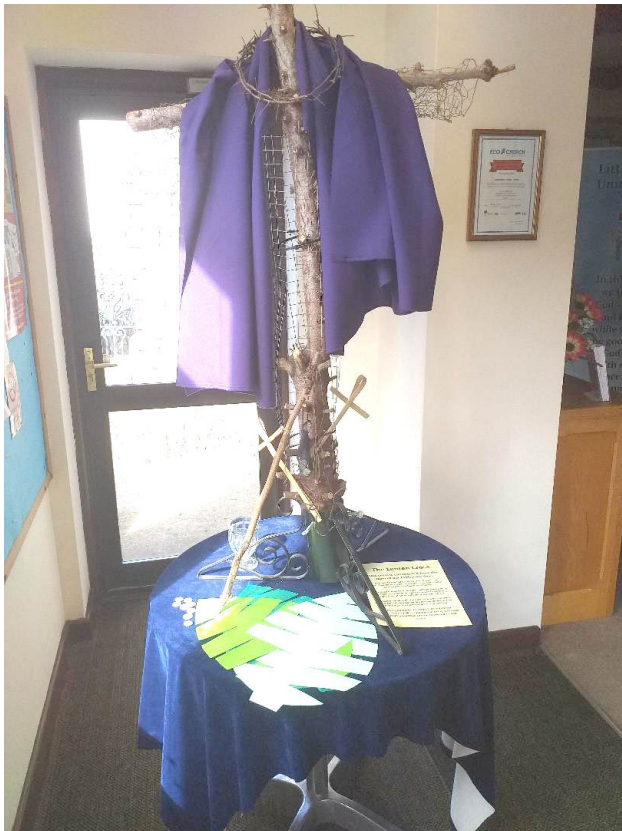
Palm Sunday traditionally marks the start of our Easter preparations. Our worship is usually up-beat as we read the words of the psalm “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” and we celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As I write this, on Palm Sunday, I am sorry that I will not be sharing this with you in church. But, as soon as Palm Sunday is over, in no time at all, everything has changed and our minds focus on the Last Supper, Jesus’ arrest, trial and crucifixion. Once again, it is not all over yet. On Easter Sunday we rise with the words “Christ is arisen” and shout the response “He is risen indeed”.

At a time such as we now find ourselves, Easter is the ultimate example of hope. No matter how dark is the darkness, the light has come into the world and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5)

Meanwhile, the good news from Zimbabwe is shown in the picture alongside. I hope you can see the darker patch on the ground where water has begun to come out of the bore hole and started to spread across the ground.

The next piece of good news is that Naison is now home—although he has to stay in isolation for 14 days..





## The Lenten Cross— all the symbols have been added.

Early on Easter Sunday morning the cross will be stripped down to the bare wood and flowers added to symbolise new life in Christ.



A statement that the tomb of Jesus is empty. A notice on the inside of a door to a typical 1st century Jewish tomb. The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem is a good example of how the Jewish burial system worked. Inside the “cave” is a stone shelf on which the body, wrapped with spices and herbs to aid decomposition, is laid. After one year the remaining skeleton is removed and placed in a stone box . This is usually kept in an ossuary. The Garden Tomb is adjacent to the rock formation that looks a bit like a skull. In the 19th century, looking out from his hotel, General Gordon speculated that this might be “The place known as the skull”. It became known as “Gordon’s Calvary”.

Tens of thousands of people visit this site every year, not to see where Jesus is buried but because He is NOT there. I visited Jerusalem in 2009 and this peaceful garden with it’s simple statement of our faith remain in my memory more than most of the grand memorials,

If you have pictures , information or memories you would like to share, please send them and I will try and include them in future Mini-Newsletters.

## **Easter Services**

Thanks to technology, many of us will be able to join in worship over the Easter weekend:

Naison is hoping to use "Zoom" to share a communion service at 6.30pm on Maundy Thursday. To join this you will need to download the Zoom App and then ask Naison to invite you to join. (phone or email him in plenty of time)

Other local churches will be recording and broadcasting services via U-tube. There should be a list of these in the Littlehampton Gazette on Thursday.

Alternatively google All Saints Wick or Littlehampton Baptist Church and I am sure you will find something.

## **News of our Church Family**

I understand that Jane Allan is now home, having broken a hip in a fall, and is walking with the aid of a frame.

Jean Parker's operation was a complete success and her surgeon has informed her that no further treatment will be required. Jean is recovering at home and sends her thanks for all the cards and messages of support she has received.

On a sad note, many of you will remember one of local preachers, Audrey Gray, who has led our worship and spoken at Wednesday Fellowship. Audrey died suddenly, at home, probably suffering a severe stroke or heart attack. Audrey was an incredibly active person, particularly concerned with the plight of Palestinian Christians, she was involved with several charitable organisations and still travelled widely in her quest to photograph the remoter regions of the world.

This newsletter was written and edited by Chris Azzaro, who can be contacted on 01903 718070 or by email: [christopher.azzaro@sky.com](mailto:christopher.azzaro@sky.com)

There is also information about our church on the website

[Littlehamptonunitedchurch.org.uk](http://Littlehamptonunitedchurch.org.uk)