

### Next week –24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Flower Rota** Easter preparation

**Cleaning Rota** John

**JAM** Ruth & Kim

**Coffee** Brenda & Ian

### Services Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

#### **10.00am Morning Prayer**

Leading: Ross Terranova

Reading: Julien Myles

Matthew 6: 1-8 & 16-18

Praying: Giles Williams

Preaching: Chris Williams

#### **6.30pm Evening Prayer**

Leading: Carol Wellbelove

Reading: Kathy Mitchell

Luke 22: 39-46

Praying: Pauline Grimes

Preaching: Ross Terranova

Church Office: Jane Beldham

Thursday from 9am – 3pm

Tel: 01732 873798

Email: [dittonchurch@btconnect.com](mailto:dittonchurch@btconnect.com)

Christian Resource Library open during school term time.

\*

Rector: Ross Terranova

Tel: 01732 842027

Email: [ross.terranova@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ross.terranova@hotmail.co.uk)

\*

Safeguarding Officer: Ruth Campbell

[Safeguard.stpetes@gmail.com](mailto:Safeguard.stpetes@gmail.com)

\*

Website: [dittonchurch.org.uk](http://dittonchurch.org.uk)

Facebook: St Peter's Church, Ditton

### Prayer Themes for the Week

As we wrestle with Jesus' teaching 'Love your enemies' let's pray that he will help us love ours. Pray that Christian communities who are being persecuted may be given the strength they need to love - when it is so hard.

Give thanks for our JAM club (Jesus and Me). Pray that our young people will continue to grow in their love and knowledge of Jesus.

Pray for Graham Ward Headteacher of Ditton Junior School and the staff as they approach the end of another term.

Pray for good rest for them over Easter. Pray for the Easter service in Church on the 26th that something of the great joy of the Easter message will be left with both staff and pupils.

#### The Collect

We beseech thee, Almighty God,  
mercifully to look upon thy people;  
that by thy great goodness they may be governed and  
preserved evermore, both in body and soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

#### Mission Prayer Tearfund

Please pray for the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and Israel and ask that there will be an end to this war.

Pray for those who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes and ask that they will be provided with everything they need. May there be peace and hope throughout the world.

### Thought for the Week

*But I tell you:  
Love your enemies and pray for those  
who persecute you.*

Matthew 5 v 44

# St. Peter's Church



## Welcome

*'We are here to demonstrate God's love for  
all as shown in Jesus to people where we  
live and work.'*

### Services Today 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

#### **10.00 am Holy Communion**

Leading: Giles Williams

Reading: Ian Smith

Matthew 5: 43-48 page 970

Romans 12: 17-21 page 1139

Praying: Brenda Smith

Preaching: Ross Terranova

#### **6.30pm Evening Prayer**

Leading: Chris Williams

Reading: John Paul

Matthew 17: 1-9 page 984

Praying: Giles Williams

Preaching: Stephen Kemp

### Welcome to Our Services Today

**This morning** we are back in the *Sermon on the Mount* and our theme is 'Radical Love over Hate'. Like last Sunday morning we come face to face with some of the most challenging teaching of the whole of the ministry of Jesus.

It was to be love that was to characterise the life of the follower of Jesus and the life of the Christian community.

Not only was there to be love shared sacrificially amongst that community but that love was to be expressed even to enemies. As Jesus puts it 'If you greet only your brothers, what **are you doing more than others?**'

We are living at a time and in a culture where there are worrying signs of an increasing inability to listen to those with whom we disagree - and to vilify those with whom we disagree. We hear much in the media of hate speech - and of the trashing of people online. Those who follow Jesus must resist at all costs the temptation to follow suit. Easter is a time when we remember the one who died for his enemies - *that is you and me!* Paul writing to the Romans says '**For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!**'

**This evening**, we continue with our series on Mountains in the Bible - we are looking at Mount Tabor - and the *Transfiguration of Jesus* from Matthew 17.

### **Lent Course**

It has been very encouraging to see good numbers each Monday in the Church Centre lounge. Each session from the course '**The Nail**' is a stand-alone one so it is not too late to join - you will be warmly welcomed.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Thank you**

Thank you to everyone who helped with last year's Ride and Stride. A letter of thanks is on display on the noticeboard. This year it will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> September!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Food Bank**

Thank you for your food bank donations. These will be delivered to the Pilsden Community.

The next date for collection will be Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Baby food, nappies, toiletries are welcome as well as food products.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Diary for w/c 17<sup>th</sup> March at St Peter's Church**

#### **Mon**

7.30pm - **Lent Course** – Church Centre

#### **Mon-Thurs**

9.00am-3.30pm - **Pre School** – Church Centre

#### **Wed**

9.30am - 11.00am - **Crafty Coffee** - Golding Room

9.00am - **Junior School Assembly** – School

### **Easter invitation cards**

We have a good number of Easter service invitation cards available. Please take some with you today to hand to friends/neighbours/colleagues to encourage them along to the Easter Day services.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Maundy Thursday**

On Maundy Thursday (March 28th) as part of our preparation for Easter we will be meeting for supper together - bread and soup followed by an informal service of Holy Communion. If you would like to come, please let Jane in the Church office know

**BY THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH.**

Email: dittonchurch@btconnect.com

(There is no charge for this evening)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Church Office**

The Church Office will be closed for two weeks from Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Church Away Day**

The Church Away day will be on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May** at St Benedict's Centre in West Malling. Nick Williams will be our guest speaker. Nick was our curate here in Ditton, so we look forward to being with him once again. The grounds of St Benedict's are very peaceful and there will be time for chatting, enjoying the surroundings and worship.

All welcome! Please keep a note of the date.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Church AGM**

Our AGM will be on **Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> from around 11.30 - after coffee!** This is a key meeting in the life of the Church, and we hope that you will be there as we reflect on the past year and look forward to the challenges ahead. It is a good opportunity to encourage each other - your presence is important!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Eco Church**

The Diocese of Rochester is encouraging us to go on an environmental journey and become an Eco Church. Free supporting resources are available, equipping us to express care for God's world and work towards a gold, silver or bronze award. We are looking for someone to lead on this project. Could this be your calling? You can find out more at

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/ourfaithinaction/caringforgodscreation/eco-church>. Please speak to Ruth Campbell if you are interested.



### **Easter Services**

**Maundy Thursday Supper & Holy Communion**  
28<sup>th</sup> March

7pm in the Church Centre

**Good Friday Meditation Service**  
29<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm

**Easter Day**  
31<sup>st</sup> March  
10am Service of Holy Communion  
and  
6.30pm Easter Praise