



PARISH NEWSLETTER



The Parish Church of
St John the Evangelist
Palmers Green

March Edition

Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,



Brother, sister let me serve you.

Before the pandemic we enjoyed a reasonably varied repertoire of hymnody at St John's. One of the hymns we sung was "Brother sister let me serve you". This hymn, written by Richard Gillard, speaks powerfully about the nature of Christian servant hood, pastoral care, loving support and the ultimate hope of heaven. For me, the phrase, 'let me serve you', brings to mind the example of Jesus in washing his disciple's feet. (John 13: 1-17)

You may remember that when Jesus was here on earth, he had a certain amount of trouble from a group called the Pharisees. It's easy to see them as the villains, but on the whole they were good people, whose main desire was to please God. Nothing much wrong with that, you might think.

Their trouble, however, was that they believed that the only way to please God was to keep all the rules he had made. To make sure that nothing was forgotten, they amplified the rules or even made-up ones of their own. The result was that they judged people not by their characters or their evident virtues, but by whether or not they kept to these rules.

They were scrupulous in tithing, in giving a tenth part of anything they owned to God's work. They even tithed the herbs that grew in their gardens. Jesus told them, "You tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others."

What was worse, they concentrated on the details so much that they couldn't even see that God had come among them. When Jesus started his work, they checked him out, and were horrified with what they found. 'This can't be the Messiah, they said. He works on the Sabbath!' (Never mind that the 'work' consisted of healing people who were in great need of healing.) In the end, they demanded his death. They showed God great respect in wanting to follow his will (as expressed by his laws), but because they lacked compassion and the ability to take the longer view, they could not recognise the love of God, and the work that was an expression of that love.

We're now in the time of Lent, a time when Christians and people seeking Christ take stock of their spiritual lives. It might be helpful for all of us to take a good look at our lifestyles, our judgements of others and lack of mercy and make sure that we aren't concentrating so much on things that won't last that we ignore the things that will, especially God's love and compassion for all people.

Here we see the distinctive themes of humility and service that reveal true servant hood. Christians are called to emulate these qualities. It is a case of, do as I do, rather than, do as I say. Servant hood and humility are difficult and demanding qualities to foster. This is something we can only begin to work towards by God's grace. A final word from Thomas A Kempis (The imitation of Christ) 'Do not regard yourself as better than others, or God may deem you worse, as He knows what is in each person.'

As we journey through Lent, I pray you encounter the love in Christ,

Rev Julie

CHURCH IS REOPENING

As the local infection rates are falling and many have now received their vaccine, in line with the governments guidelines we as a PCC have decided to open the Church for Holy Communion on Easter Day (4th April) at 10am.

There is no obligation to attend on a Sunday until you feel ready, therefore attending church for private prayer on Maundy Thursday between 10am to 12noon or on Good Friday between 1pm to 3pm may be a period of grace and strength for you as you prepare to come out of lockdown.

We continue to have a high standard of Covid-secure measures creating as safe an environment as possible.

Again, I thank you for your support and to the volunteers who serve the parish through The Ark, stewarding, pastoral care, leading worship and sanitizing and cleaning the Church. Without your help our journey through the pandemic would have been very different.

With love in Christ,

Rev Julie



What do you expect from March?

More often than not, quotes about the month of March mention some aspect of nature. Some discuss wind and rain, others mention blooming flowers and budding trees, and a few ponder blue skies and white clouds. If only nature would arrange them in the right order and dispense them in appropriate amounts to create pleasant, comfortable days! But March can also be unpredictable.

Some expect to have hope of warmer days dashed by swift changes in the weather. Others predict boredom, while others hope to feel joyful. Others expect the trees to bloom, the birds to sing, and the earth to wake up and put on its beautiful face. What do you expect from March?

It's the time of year when everything in nature is changing and promising new life and new hope. After the long, dark, winter months, spring is literally a breath of fresh air. And as the days get longer, the nights get shorter, and it starts to feel warmer, nature responds in a big way.

March's birth flower is the daffodil. It's all too appropriate that cheerful yellow flowers represent the first month of spring. By March, the worst of the winter would be over. The snow would thaw, the rivers begin to run and the world would wake into itself again.

March is the first month of Spring which begins between March 19th – 21st. Each year March and June end on the same day of the week. It is the time of year when animals start to wake up from hibernation.



**This year Mothering Sunday falls on
Sunday 14th March**

Did You Know?

- Mother's Day is the biggest flower buying day of the year in the UK. Flower sales go up 70% which is more than Valentine's Day!
- Mother's Day dates back to Ancient Greece when Greeks used to hold an annual Spring festival dedicated to the maternal Goddess Rhea, mother of the Gods.
- In the UK & Ireland, Mothering Sunday is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent. That is why the date varies every year.
- Mother's Day is one of the most popular days for eating out
- Carnations are the flowers typically associated with Mother's Day.

In the UK around 30,000,000 cards are sent on Mother's Day

- Traditionally the food most associated with Mothering Sunday is Simnel cake. It is a fruit cake with a layer of almond paste covering the top and the middle. The cake is decorated with 11 balls of marzipan to represent the eleven disciples minus Judas.
- Mother's Day is celebrated in 46 countries around the world, but is celebrated at different times of the year.

Mother's Day Posies

As Church will still be closed on Mother's Day, we are looking for volunteers to help make or distribute Mother's Day posies on Saturday 13th March. If you can help with either please contact the Parish Office on SJPGoffice@gmail.com

National Day of Reflection 2021

On 23 March 2021, it'll be one year since the first UK lockdown. Since then, millions of people have been bereaved, both as a result of Covid-19 and due to other causes. The restrictions we've all been living under have meant that many people have had to grieve without the comfort of having friends and family around them.

Marie Curie, a charity which supports people around the event of a terminal diagnosis, has organised a National Day of Reflection to acknowledge grief and loss over the last year. The national Church of England is one of several organisations supporting it.

There will be a minute's silence at 12 noon on 23 March to create a moment that shows support for the millions of people who've been bereaved. We at St Johns will be honouring the minutes silence as well as lighting as many candles as we can during the evening to honour the many souls who have died from Covid-19.





This year Palm Sunday falls at the end of the month. Palm Sunday is one of the most important days in the Christian calendar after Christmas and Easter. It marks the beginning of Holy Week, the week of events leading up to Jesus' death. In the simplest of terms, Palm Sunday is an occasion for reflection on the final week of Jesus' life. It is a time for Christians to prepare their hearts for the agony of His Passion and the joy of His Resurrection.

Palm Sunday is the sixth Sunday and final day of Lent. The Christian holiday is all about peace and salvation. The day is observed to mark the occasion when Jesus rode on a donkey and entered Jerusalem. It is called Palm Sunday because people in Jerusalem threw palm leaves on the floor to greet Jesus. We go to Church to pay respects to Jesus and reflect on the sacrifices he is said to have made.

After celebrating Palm Sunday, palm leaves are blessed and then collected and burned into ash. The ash of the palm leaves is used in the following year's Ash Wednesday celebration. People also distribute crosses made out of palm leaves. This is done because the palm leaves are considered as a symbol of goodness and victory. The liturgical colour of the day is red.

The reason why Jesus rode a donkey is that in those times, it was common for kings or important people to arrive by a procession riding on a donkey. The donkey is a symbol of peace so riding on it showed the person had peaceful intentions. It is the Sunday before Easter begins and Holy Week, also known as Passion Week.

Holy Week Bags

As Church will still be closed during the lead up to Easter, we are preparing Holy Week bags which will be delivered on Palm Sunday from 11.30am. If you are able to help deliver some of them please email the Parish Office SJPGoffice@gmail.com



Don't Forget to put your clocks forward by 1 hour on the night of Saturday 27th March!

THANK YOU TO THE DECORATORS OF THE SMALL HALL

A big thank you goes to Simon & Fiona for volunteering to paint our small church hall over Half Term week. Simon is a painter & decorator by trade who had stopped working to move house out of London. He very generously gave up a few of his packing up days to paint the hall for us.

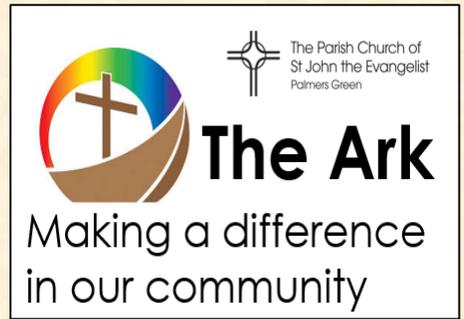
Before...



...After



1st Anniversary of The Ark



Happy 1st anniversary to the seed that was planted to grow The Ark. We have now been running for a year which actually began by cooking and delivering cakes to care homes and carers at home. The Ark is now afloat offering many resources to the local community and beyond. Thank you to all the generosity of our local community, parishioners and local organisations, such as 'The Felix Project', our mother Church 'Christ Church', St Monica's, 'Twelve Apostles Church', Co-op Supermarket, Derwent Road, etc for their donations. Without your support we would not be able to run The Ark and help all the people we currently do. We hope that you are able to continue to support us.



If anyone is able to help do a regular collection from the stores below please email the office at SJPGoffice@gmail.com

Pickups are as follows:

Co-op collections preferred at the end of the day so fresh items can be included.

Co-op Palmers Green

Tuesday/Thursday/Sunday

Waitrose, Enfield Town

Wednesdays 6.45pm-7.30pm

Sundays 4.15pm-5pm

Co-op Bush Hill Park

Tuesday/Thursday/Sunday

Tesco, Southbury Road

Fridays 8.30pm - 9.30pm

Co-op Friern Barnet

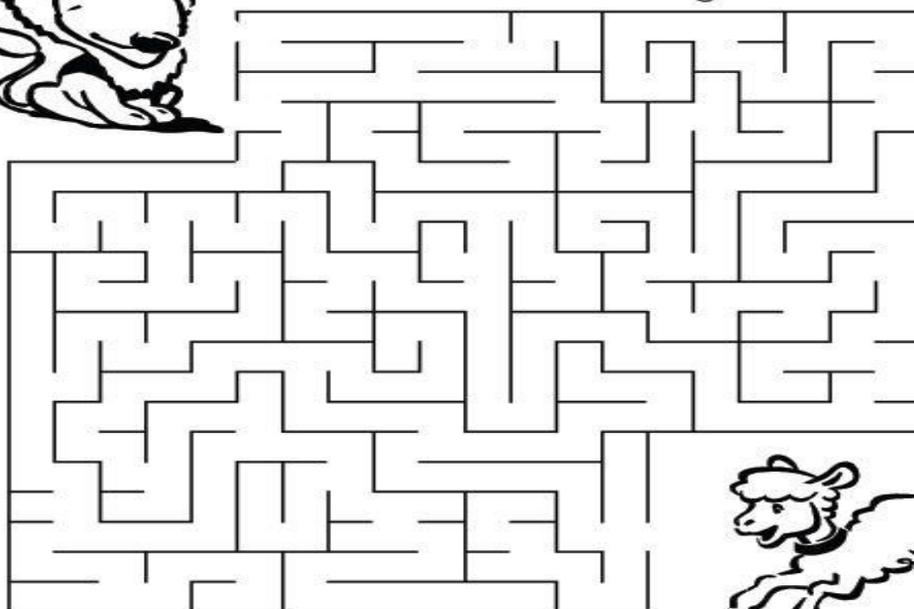
Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

Kid's Page

MARCH



comes in like a lion



goes out like a lamb

Get more free printable activities for kids of all ages at www.printables4kids.com.

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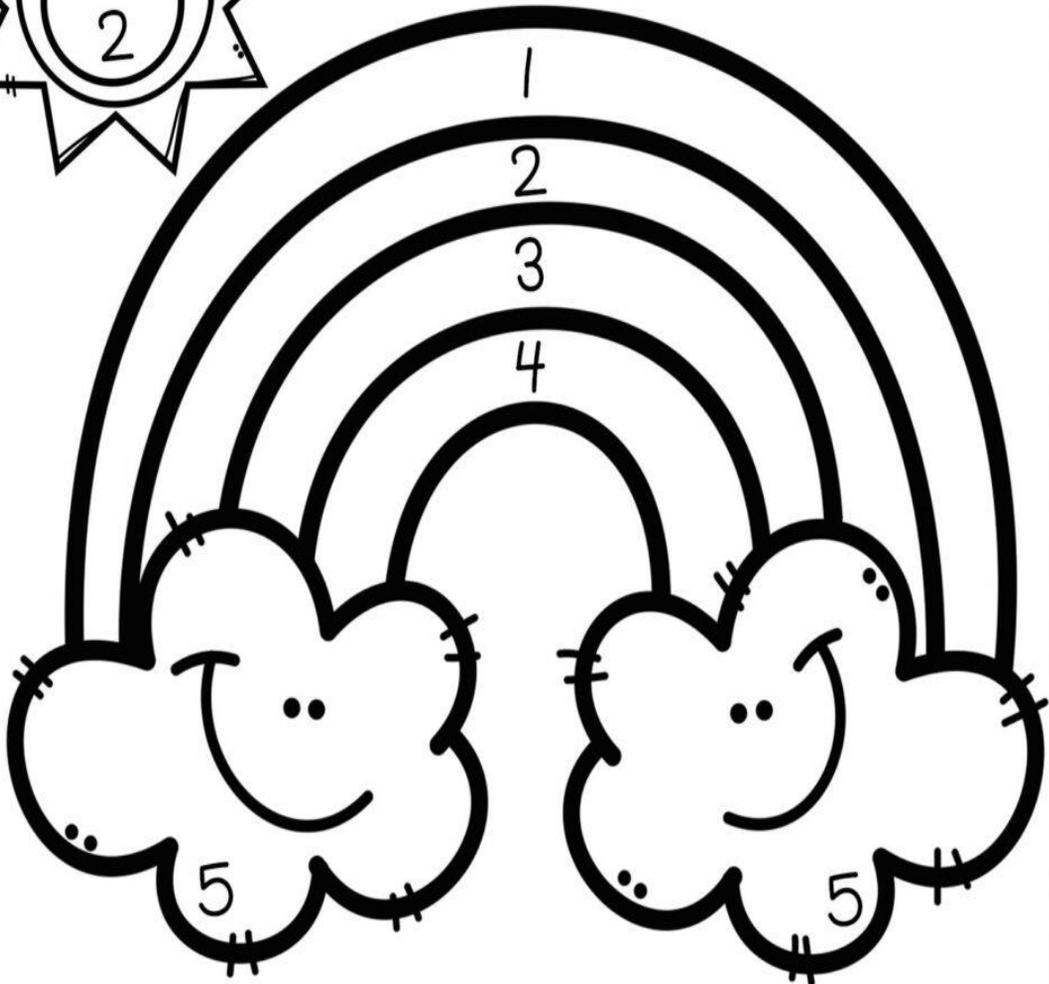
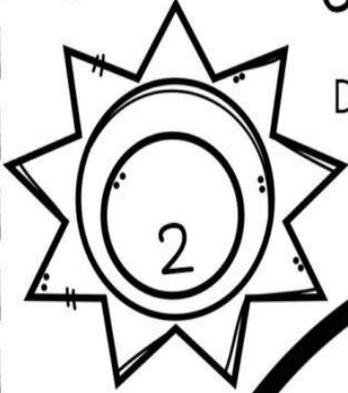
This puzzle is for personal use only and may not be sold or duplicated for sale.

Name _____

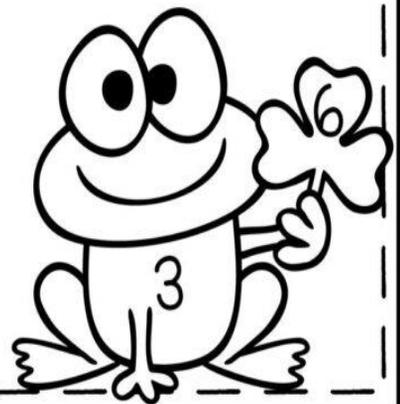
Color by Number

Rainbows

Directions: Use the code to color the picture.



- 1. Red
- 2. Yellow
- 3. Green
- 4. Blue
- 5. Grey
- 6. Purple



Information and Directory



Church will re-open on Easter Day for a 10am service.

We will be open for private prayer on:

Maundy Thursday 10am-12pm & Good Friday 1-3pm

Further details about regular services will be available in the next Newsletter.

Find and follow us on Social Media:



Facebook:
St-John-the-Evangelist-Palmers-Green



Twitter: @stjohnspalmersg

Directory and Contacts

The Vicar

Rev Julie Coleman

020 8886 9557

07702 749987 (emergencies only)

Rev.jcoleman@Hotmail.com

Parish Office

020 8886 0847

SJPGoffice@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Minister

Julia Holder

Lay Chaplains

Celia Brown

Shan Clark

Candidate in Discernment

Jonathan Esposito

For information regarding weddings, baptisms and funerals, please get in touch with Rev Julie Coleman. Thank you.

Please check our website for full details

www.stjohnspg.org