

The Bells of St. Helen's

Lent Volume 3 No. 2 – March 2021

Welcome to this edition of the Bells for Holy Week and Easter

What's Inside for Info & Events

- Grounds Cleanup Saturday March 27
- Holy Week and Easter Services
- Easter Message
- Forthcoming Events

Flowers and Grounds

We begin from the ground up....



Spring Cleanup for the Church Grounds

Saturday, March 27th from 10am to 12noon

All hands on deck are requested for our annual spring time clean up of our grounds next Saturday. In just two hours we will rake through all the grass, cleanup debris from the grounds and flower beds around the church, cemetery, play area etc. The more people coming out to help, the quicker the work is accomplished.

The grounds and flower beds have been split up in such a way that we will be able to work in a socially distanced manner. This means:

- 1/ Bring your masks and someone from your bubble to work alongside you.
- 2/ Bring work gloves, rakes & small garden tools.
- 4/ Wear work clothes you don't mind getting dirty.
- 5/ Please bring your own beverages and snacks.

The clean up is being coordinated by Jane Denton. It would be preferable that people let us know they are coming to work. Please leave a phone message at the office at 604-581-4800 or send an email to churchoffice@shawbiz.ca Let us know who you are, who is coming with you, and how long you can stay. The work will go ahead rain or shine. But, in case the weather is really bad, look at our Facebook page early on Saturday morning.

The Flower Beds – As many of you will know there are a number of flower beds around the church grounds. Individual people and small teams have often taken care of a flower bed as their own project and as a part of their ministry. There are approximately 8 areas to work at in this way. A few already have volunteers to take care of them but there are a number that really do need TLC over the course of the spring, summer, and autumn. Would you like to be able to get your hands dirty taking care of a small area? Perhaps you and your family or a couple of friends would like to take on a flower bed as a reason to get together and enjoy the creativity of a bit of gardening. You may want to rotate the care of a flower bed with others. If you would like to take on one of the flower beds or simply to find out more, please be in touch with Jane Denton through the church office at 604-581-4800 or email the office at churchoffice@shawbiz.ca.



Flowers for the Altar



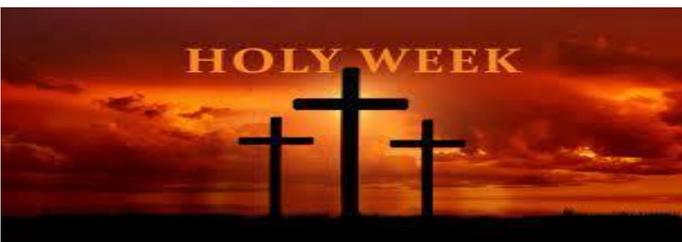
Every Sunday we have flowers placed on the altar for the glory of God. They are a beautiful sign of God's creative handiwork in creation and are a symbol of God's creativity in our lives. In the flowers we see beauty and

are reminded of the beauty of life, our own life and of our life together in community.

The flowers are placed as a gift by many different people, most often in memory of a loved one who has died. They are also placed as a thanksgiving for an event, an anniversary, a special birthday, retirement, graduation, celebration of baptism, confirmation, or the many other events for which we give thanks to God.

We try to have flowers dedicated for each Sunday of the year. At this point in time there are many open Sundays for such dedications. If you would like to dedicate the flowers for any particular Sunday, please contact Heather Herd. If you do not have her phone number or email, please leave a message at the church office phone 604-581-4800 or email the office at churchoffice@shawbiz.ca There is an expected donation to dedicate the flowers. As a guideline for your donation, we usually spend up to \$40 a Sunday. You are free to give more but please do not let your financial circumstances be a hindrance. We are more than happy to place dedications for a special time of remembrance or celebration in your life or that of your family. Any cheques should be made out to St. Helen's Anglican Church and 'flowers' written in the memo field.

If you would like to contribute to the costs of the flowers for Easter, please be in touch right away

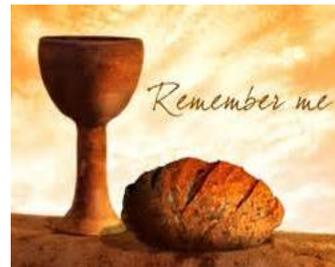


Are you ready to follow Jesus and journey through Holy Week?

- The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
- His Teaching in Jerusalem
- The Last Supper (Passover Meal)
- Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane
- The Arrest, Trial, and Crucifixion
- The Glorious Resurrection



Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 28th. There will be services livestreamed every day to help us walk along and reflect on this final week of Jesus with his disciples and followers before he was arrested.



Maundy Thursday, April 1st, is a significant day when Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples and washed their feet as we

remember the institution of the Last Supper and the new commandment to love one another as Jesus loves us. We express our love for one another as we serve one another symbolized by the washing of feet.



Good Friday, April 2nd is the day we will particularly focus on the passion of Jesus, his crucifixion, and burial.

Easter Day, April 4th is the glorious day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. We see the cross in the new light that bursts from the open tomb. Here, in a period of just one week, we cover all that our faith is about.



An Easter Message from the Rector



There will be many messages found in the story of Easter, the Day of Resurrection. There is no challenge in finding a message, but there is a huge challenge for us as we come face to face with

Jesus for our own life, and the life of the world we live in, in our own time.



Our faith is a journey of coming to know the deep, deep love of God, for all of humanity. It is a journey that can open the eyes and ears, the heart, and the soul of each person to the living God.

Our God walks with us, lifts us, forgives, heals us and restores us. Our God infuses us with the Holy Spirit to live free from all that imprisons us. Too often we are entrapped and shackled with burdens that keep us from walking in this world with the fullness of joy. In the resurrection we dance and sing glorious songs of praise. The journey Jesus made to the cross releases us from oppression, injustice and all that would hold us back. There are no



distinctions between people which means racism has no place amongst us. There is equality of gender.

There is no class of people, one over another. As God's children, we are all inheritors of the kingdom and non are excluded. A kingdom where the first will be last and the last will be first. This really is revolutionary thinking; and this revolution has been going on for two thousand years. It is revolutionary thinking that can change lives and change the world. This must be fought anew in each, and every generation. The ways of the world often follow the course of least resistance. This makes it all too easy for those who want control and power for themselves.

The message of the cross and the message of the resurrection is about putting us in right relationship with God and with one another. We too often forget about each other.

Racism has been with us for millennia. It has always been contemporary and still is. What does Easter say about our relationships with all God's children.

Injustice too has always been with us. What do we do in our faith to stand against injustice.



The sign says No Justice, No Peace. We can remind ourselves, by changing the words to

'Know Justice, Know Peace' which could be a step in the direction of 'Live Justly, Live Peaceably'. Having experienced the risen Lord, the disciples wondered, 'What do we do now?' In his conversations with them after his resurrection, Jesus told them to preach the good news. With those of us who do celebrate Easter then, there is no standing around wondering. Like the hymn says, 'How Clear is Our Vocation Lord.' There are all kinds of ways, great and small, to live out our vocation. The message of the cross is about reconciliation. The message of the resurrection is that with God, all things are possible, including reconciliation, justice, and peace. When we imagine these things the world needs, do we imagine our own hand in helping it all come about?

I am thankful for all the many things where I see the people of St. Helen's involved. It is a testament to our faith and humanity, our compassion, and our answer to the call upon our lives because of what the Lord has done for us. We do not have to look very hard to do what we must do in our own time that is a testament to both the cross and the resurrection.

Blessings for the Easter season,
Father Steve



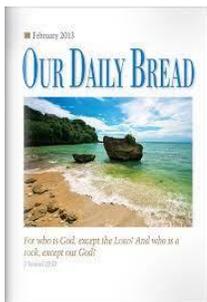
One Year On! It is hard to believe that we have been in the situation of this pandemic for more than a year now. It means that we will have to spend

another Easter without in-person gatherings. If there are any, they will be extremely small and will follow the regulations that are set out by the Dept. of Health and the diocese. We will ensure social distancing, the wearing of masks and appropriate sanitization. At the time of putting 'The Bells' together, we still have not had any information about whether churches may be allowed to enjoy in-person gatherings even in a limited way. Even if we are permitted, we expect very few of us will have a level of confidence that will allow ourselves to gather. St. Helen's will continue in the way we have been meeting this last year and livestream our services with just 2 or 3 extra people to help do all that we need to do for our services. So, we must continue to be patient knowing that we will soon arrive at that place we so desire to be.

Throughout this year we have missed one another but we have kept in touch and have kept hope that it would all soon be over. Thank you to all those who



have been making contact with others in the congregation. In the midst of it all we have kept hope alive. So dear friends as it is painted on the rock, 'Never Lose Hope'. On Christ the Solid Rock We Stand – our hope and our salvation.



Our Daily Bread **Devotionals**

There are about 10 current copies of 'Our Daily Bread' at the church office. Those who would like to have a copy of this devotional should contact the office. They are

here on a first come, first served. If you wish, a copy of the booklet can be dropped at you home.

A Bit of Maintenance – Are you handy with a hammer or other tools. There is always something that needs attention at the church and the hall. If you are able to help, please contact Roy Francis through the church office phone or email address.



Palm Sunday – March 28th at 10:00am
Procession of the Palms (*as, and if we are able*)
Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
Livestream on our Facebook page.

Monday to Thursday
Morning Prayer livestreamed at 9:30am
Evening Prayer livestreamed at 7:00pm
(Except Thursday Evening)

Maundy Thursday Evening (April 1st)
Institution of the Last Supper at 7:00pm
Livestreamed on Facebook

Good Friday (April 2nd)
The Stations of the Cross at 10:00am
Tenebrae Service 12noon
Both Livestreamed on Facebook

Easter Day (April 4th)
Eucharist to Celebrate the Resurrection at 10:00am
Livestreamed on Facebook

Easter Communion

You have likely noted that the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and on Easter day itself. The diocese has suggested a way to make provision for people to be able to receive communion at these times and, in fact, on any other Sunday. On each of these occasions, after the celebrating of the Eucharist, the consecrated bread wafers will be set aside and packaged for people to drive to the church to pick up the bread to take home and so have a share in the receiving of Holy Communion.

We will need those who wish to pick up the bread wafers to register by sending an email to the church office (or leave a phone message) to say that you will be coming by to pick up the bread. You will need to tell us how many people in your household will want to receive a communion wafer and it will

be packaged with enough wafers so each person will be able to partake. Prayers to pray as you receive the sacrament will be included. The way of receiving communion will be similar to how those who receive the reserved sacrament, when they are at home with an illness or those who are shut in. This is a simple innovation so that those who wish to receive may do so. So please do make contact to the office by phone or email if you would like to receive communion on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Day or all three. The arrival time at the church will be communicated later.

Forthcoming Events

It's hard to plan for events in the near future but we are looking at the possibility of:

1/Having a Drive Though/Pick Up Strawberry Tea.

2/Consideration is being given to a socially distanced yard sale.

3/ We will **not** be having a Tri-Parish Picnic service this June, but we are looking at having a Tri-Parish zoom gathering with each parish contributing music along with a few reflections about how people have coped or not coped with the isolation and challenges of the pandemic.

4/Diocesan Synod takes place in late May and be conducted on Zoom. We are fortunate to have such technologies to call upon when we are unable to get together.

Financial Stewardship

Financial Offerings – Thank you to everyone who continue to keep up with your financial contributions. We are trying to hold our own during the pandemic and your generosity is very welcome.

Special Easter Offering

The wardens and the treasurer are putting out this request that everyone make a special Easter offering



this year. Although we have cut our budget down as much as we can, it still takes consistent funding to keep ourselves going. Easter is a great opportunity to make this special contribution and

perhaps get caught up on what you are planning to give this year.

Offering Envelopes – The offering envelopes are all out. You can mail your envelope to the church or, arrangements can also be made to pick up your offering from your home, whether you use the envelope system or not.

Automatic Donations - If you prefer, you can give on a monthly basis by using the Preauthorized Donation system (PAD) set up through the diocese. More information about this is available from our People's Warden, Roy Francis, or our Treasurer, Maren Mathew. Contact through the office phone and email.

Donations by Interac e-Transfer You can also make your donation from your home computer from your bank account by e-transfer. Many of us use e-transfers for all kinds of payments and money transfers. It is simply a few clicks and your donation will find its way to our Vancity Credit Union account. You will of course get credited for your donation for income tax purposes.

Thank You - We want to say thank the Diocesan Council for passing a motion on March 17th, that the assessment for the first months of the year have been waived. Bishop John informed us of this just this past Friday. This will certainly help St. Helen's as well as many other parishes.

Parish Contacts

Street Address:

10787 - 128th Street, Surrey, BC V3T 3A2

Parish Office phone: 604-581-4800

(please leave a message)

Rector: The Rev. Stephen Laskey

Rector's Email: stvelaskey@outlook.com

Rector's Mobile: 604-219-2731

Wardens: Lynn Turner, Roy Francis

(contact through the office phone or email)

Parish Office email: churchoffice@shawbiz.ca

Please remember there is more information and updates on our parish website each and every week: www.sthelensurrey.ca

and our parish Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/sainthelensurrey

*Blessings to you and your family as we
approach Holy Week and look to our
Easter Celebrations*