

St. John's Methodist Church in Potters Bar

A Pastoral Letter for Holy Week and Easter 2026

Dear Members and Friends at St John's Methodist Church,

Holy Week and Easter are almost upon us, and as we prepare our hearts, I felt led to write this pastoral letter to encourage you to enter fully into this holy season. Many of you have already begun your Lenten journey, from Ash Wednesday through our weekly Lent Study. It has been a blessing to walk this path together, and I am deeply grateful for the faithfulness I see among you.

Now we stand at the threshold of the most important week in the Christian year. This is our opportunity to draw closer to Christ to witness His humility, to share in His suffering, and to be renewed by His victory over death. I warmly invite you to deepen that journey by joining us for the services and reflections we have planned. Whether in person or online, there is a place for everyone, and I believe these gatherings will be spiritually uplifting for us all.

Here is our schedule for the week ahead:

- **Sunday, 29th March – Palm Sunday**
 - **10:30am:** Our morning service, led by Jenet Jebb, will focus on the meaning of Palm Sunday and Jesus's journey. Together we'll reflect on how that journey speaks to our own lives today.
 - **7:00pm:** An evening *Palm Praise* service, led by the Rev'd Alan Combes with our Music and Worship Group. Come ready to lift your voice in joyful worship!
- **Thursday, 2nd April – Maundy Thursday**
 - **7:00pm:** A reflective service centred on the humility of Jesus, including the act of foot washing and the Holy Communion. It will be a tender time to draw close to Christ's example of servant-hearted love.
- **Friday, 3rd April – Good Friday**
 - **10:15am:** We will gather at St John's to take up the cross and join in the *Walk of Witness*. We will leave the church at 10:20am to meet with our friends from Our Lady & St Vincent's and KCM at the corner of Darkes Lane and Mutton Lane (opposite the Healthy Corner) at 10:30am. Together we will walk through Darkes Lane and the Walk, where St Mary's will join us, continuing to the War

Memorial for a short service led by local lay and ordained leaders. Please join us if you are able, it is a powerful witness to our community.

- **7:00pm:** For those unable to join the walk in the morning, as well as for others who may not be able to attend in person, I have prepared a short, meditative online service titled “**1 Cross + 3 Nails = 4 Given.**” This 45-minute Zoom reflection offers a quiet space to contemplate the depth of Christ’s love. The link is below; you are most welcome to join from home.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95866544337?pwd=N0j07cBwbSxljZVVGUTcqzos1IN5To.1>

Meeting ID: 958 6654 4337 Passcode: 860739

- **Saturday, 4th April – Holy Saturday**

- **9:00am – 9:45am:** Our usual Saturday morning prayers will take place a peaceful pause as we wait in hopeful silence.

- **Sunday, 5th April – Easter Sunday**

- **6:00am:** A beautiful Sunrise Service with Holy Communion at the Walled Garden in Shenley. This is always a moving way to greet the risen Lord as dawn breaks. Afterwards, we’ll share an Easter Breakfast together at a nearby restaurant (please note that breakfast is self-pay). It will be a wonderful time of fellowship.
- **10:30am:** An *Easter Family Holy Communion* service, which I will be leading. Let us fill the church with joy as we celebrate the Resurrection together as a church family!

As you prepare for this Holy Week, I encourage you to continue praying for one another and for our world. We live in times that can feel uncertain, as if standing at a crossroads. Yet in Christ we find not only strength and comfort but the surest hope: that love is stronger than death, and new life awaits beyond every cross.

May this week be a deeply fulfilling and blessed time for you and your households. Let us journey together with open hearts, knowing that the One who walked the way of suffering walks with us still—and on Easter morning, we will rise to greet Him with joy.

With every blessing,

Revd David Jebb Minister of St John’s Methodist Church