

Wey Valley Circuit Prayer Diary April 2026

Part I 'Holy Week'

This month's prayer themes are based on Holy Week and Easter, Mark the Evangelist, and the Easter Bank Holiday.

Bible references are from the NRSVA unless otherwise stated. Hymns are from Singing the Faith (StF) Hymns and Psalms (HP) The Methodist Hymn Book (MHB) Song Book of the Salvation Army (SBSA) Prayers from Methodist Prayer Handbook (MPB) Methodist Worship Book (MWB). Other sources are as noted.

☐ **Wednesday April 1st** As we approach the reality of Holy Week take some time to reflect on these words and pictures. **The start of the 'Mission'** – *Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. A voice came from heaven; "You are my beloved Son and with you I am well pleased."* (From Mark 1:9-11)



From the Chichester Triptych 'Heart on Fire' by permission of the painter (Prof Anne Grebby)

Thursday April 2nd Holy Week - Maundy Thursday: *Jesus kneels at the feet of his friends, Silently washes their feet, master who acts as a slave to them – Jesu, Jesu fill me with your love, show me how to serve the neighbours I have from you. Kneel at the feet of your friends, silently washing their feet, this is the way we should live with you'* (from John 13:3-15 and 249 StF adapted).

Jesus said - Come, my table is a meeting place, Here I'm waiting ready for you, come and share, you are invited, come beloved I chose you. Come, my table is a feeding place, bread, my body broken for you, wine, my blood poured out to save you, given eternally for you.

Come, my table is a touching place, hands to greet you span time and space, see my arms stretched out in welcome, this for you a holy place. Come and meet me in this moment, taste and see this gift of my grace, here, the feast spread out before you, come my child, and take your place. Amen (Clare Stainsby StF 581).

Friday 3rd Good Friday:

"O the love that drew salvations plan! O the grace that brought it down to me, O the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary! Mercy there was great, and grace was free; pardon there was multiplied to me; There my burdened soul finds liberty at Calvary! (William Reed Newell – SBSA 405 amended)

Was it for me, the nails, the spear, the mocking jeer? That rugged cross between earth and sky – was it for me Christ came to die. He loved me so! He loved me so! Dark Calvary Christ chose to know. 'Twas all because he loved me so. (Rosina Coull SBSA 134 v1).

Saturday 4th Holy Saturday - The cost of the Cross

A reflection – Others you saved, yourself you cannot save, you were the shepherd, dying for your sheep. No one can take it, but your life you gave.

Others you saved, yourself you did not save, though hosts of angels awaited your command. You'll march to victory through an open grave, fling wide life's portals with your mighty hand.

Others you saved, yourself you did not save; Lonely, forsaken, my sin bearer you, Love to the utmost for my soul you gave. Lord, by that love I can bind myself to you.

(General Albert Orsborn – Salvation Army - SBSA 130 v 2,3,4 amended)

Personal note: many years ago, my Mum, a deeply committed Christian and Salvationist told me that General Orsborne was the best 'Holiness' preacher she has ever heard, and in the following years I have had that confirmed by other Salvationists.

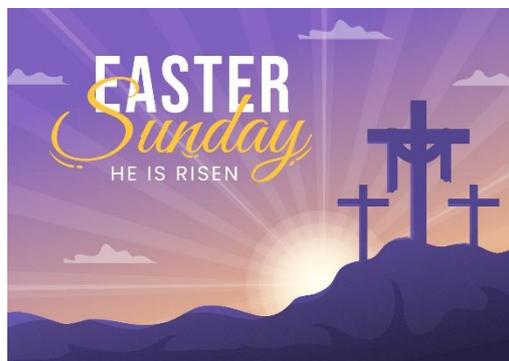
Sunday 5th Easter Sunday – Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Was it for me that opened tomb, dispelling fear, and death and gloom? So vast a truth proclaims to me that I through you, Jesus, can victor be.

Yes, all for me – the cross, the grave, a risen Lord with power to save!

My joyful heart is filled with praise as songs of happiness I raise.

For you loved me so! You loved me so! Dark Calvary you chose to know. To vanquish sin and death and woe; 'Twas all because you loved me so. (Ibid SBSA 134)



MS Office image

Monday 6th (Bank Holiday) A time to stop and think, as Jesus often did with the disciples.

A time of reflection to enjoy the beauty of creation, perhaps a longer sleep and more time to focus on prayer, or time spent with friends and family.

As an act of reflection and in silent prayer, explore these verses by Thomas Herbert O'Driscoll from StF 13...

Tuesday 7th Think of a God in majestic divinity, seeding the heavens with numberless stars, forming our dust and our dreams of infinity, God of my life and the judge of our wars.

Wednesday 8th Think of a Child who was cradled so tenderly, think of a childhood by Galilee's lake; think of a cross and a Saviour who wondrously suffered and died for my sake.

Thursday 9th Think of a Spirit who daily addressing you, lives in our science, nature, and arts; moving through all of creation and blessing you, guiding your mind and engaging your heart.

Friday 10th Think of this God who in glory and mystery chooses to lie in a human womb, enters the prison and pain of your history, and rises triumphant and opens the tomb

Saturday 11th Pray for the Ministry and Mission of Street Angels in Guildford, Woking, and elsewhere that you know off - that the Hope, Light and Love with the power of the Holy Spirit will enable them to meet the needs of the hungry, thirsty, lonely and distressed as the Lord required. (Matthew 25:14:31-46)

Part II Prayer Diary will continue from Sunday 12th April 2026.