



*The Grouped Parishes of
Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion*
**St Philip & St James' Church
& St Thomas' Church**



EASTER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Part of the Lenten Display on the
Altar/Communion Table.

This time, last year, I wrote about how we had had two select vestry meetings via Zoom and that I would look at other ways that we could use Zoom for the couple of months that we would be in lockdown! How naive! We are now so familiar with so many things happen via Zoom: select vestry meetings, Christian Meditation on a Tuesday afternoon, the Wednesday morning Midweek Prayer and Chat, the Midweek Lenten Reflection, etc., etc.

Worship has continued via our webcam. It was lovely to have people in church for three weeks in December and especially on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, but we really missed being able to sing together. Since Christmas, our services have been online only. I am indebted to all who contribute to the online services and make them possible: Graham Hayes who does the IT and webcam each Sunday at 10.30 and records the Sausage(less!) Service once a month, all of which are 'broadcast' on our parishes' Youtube page; his dad Mike Hayes is his chief assistant and he, and my husband, Alan Rowden, do the scripture readings on alternate Sundays, so that we are not increasing the number of households in the church; Charles Pearson, our organist, who is so talented and so obliging.

His musical talent adds so much to our services and his playing of the organ for our Midweek Musical Treats is so appreciated by those who listen and view them on our website, parishes' Youtube page or Facebook pages. The Midweek Musical Treats would not happen without the time, skill and effort of Mike Lee, who films and records them, adding in other appropriate footage. At the time of writing this, we have posted 68 Midweek Musical Treats. All of this has been going on with strict observance and adherence to the COVID-19 restrictions. When we were under easier restrictions last summer, we were able to include footage from a greater variety of places, including St Thomas' Church, but that has not been possible under the current level of restrictions.

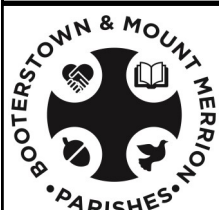
Both churches were beautifully decorated for Christmas and thank you to all those who were involved in that and who put up the Christmas trees. St Philip and St James' Church has continued to be beautifully decorated throughout this lockdown, and many who tune-in to the services have commented upon it. Traditionally, we do not have flowers in our churches for Advent and Lent, as they are seasons of penitence, and it also gives our flower arrangers a break. Denise Richards and Viola Brady offered to do a Lenten display in St Philip and St James' Church, and it is evocative, atmospheric, poignant and beautiful. It is such a pity that only the five of us who are there each week, and Mike Lee who is there once a month get to see it. Hence, I am including lots of photos of the displays in this newsletter so that you can see them too. Vi Wilson, has once again, created a beautiful Easter floral cross for St Thomas' Church, and it will be up on the porch gate, to let passersby know that Easter still happens, and that we, as a Christian community, still celebrate Easter, even though we cannot gather physically in our churches.

We hope too that its beauty and bright colours will lift the spirits of all who see it.

Last year, we celebrated Easter, looking forward to a newness of life and restoration after what we thought would be a couple of months of restrictions and devastation. This year, we are having to dig deeper to be an Easter people, to be a people of hope, to look forward to a new era, and to be part of that hope by our actions and our words, to lift ourselves and others. May God give us strength and perseverance.

Happy Easter to you all.

Gillian



Rector: The Reverend Canon Gillian Wharton

Tel: 01-2887118 or 087-2300767

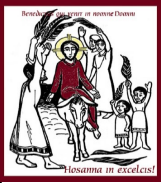
Email: booterstown@dublin.anglican.org

www.booterstownchurch.ie

www.mountmerrionchurch.ie

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkwQ9cDGC_RM0QNYtJBOM6A

HOLY WEEK and EASTER



Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, there will be a service, live-streamed from St Philip and St James' Church at 20.00 hours; the service on Maundy Thursday will be a Holy Communion Service as we celebrate The Last Supper. On Good Friday, there will be a service, live-streamed from St Philip and St James' Church at 14.00.

The parishes' Youtube page is:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkwQ9cDGC_RMoQNYtJBOM6A

That evening, at 20.00, there will be an Ecumenical Prayers at the Cross, via Zoom, and we will be joined by our neighbours from St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and the Church of the Assumption for that. The Zoom link for the Ecumenical Service at 20.00 hours on Good Friday evening at is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82212660721?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82212660721?pwd=djJ2dEMweXNhN1V5T1pHZm9NbXNzUT09)
[pwd=djJ2dEMweXNhN1V5T1pHZm9NbXNzUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82212660721?pwd=djJ2dEMweXNhN1V5T1pHZm9NbXNzUT09)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION



St Philip and St James' Parish has been running its Christian Meditation group since 2012. This has continued on Zoom since early 2020, at the start of the Coronavirus Pandemic. We meet on Zoom at 3.30pm for a short, prepared talk from WCCM (The

World Community for Christian Meditation) on a CD, followed by 20 minutes meditation. We have found that continuing meditation on Zoom adds structure to our day, and our week, and helps us to keep up our meditation practice. It is especially helpful for those who live alone and perhaps feel more isolated during these challenging times. People are happy to see familiar faces each week and we always have time for a

chat! Those who are not familiar or confident using Zoom or computers can also participate. They receive a reminder by text message, Whatsapp message or a phone call in advance, and are supported with their meditation practice. We are all looking forward to meeting in person again when it is permitted and safe to do so. However, Zoom has added a new dimension to the practise of meditation. It is appreciated by those who may not be part of a group, have no group near them, or those who may not be able to attend for other reasons. Everyone is welcome to join. For more information, please contact Irene at

irene.reid1052@gmail.com or 087-2755423

Discover more: www.christianmeditation.ie www.wccm.org

HEALER PRAYER GROUP

and

MIDWEEK PRAYER and CHAT

The Healer Prayer Group has not been able to meet for the past year, but at the Midweek Prayer and Chat on a Wednesday, everyone on the Healer Prayer List is prayed for and the list is updated. All are welcome to the Midweek Prayer and Chat, regardless of whether you have ever been to the Midweek Holy Communion Service in St Thomas' Church, when we are allowed in church; or whether you have ever been to the Healer Prayer Group. The members of the Healer Prayer Group are continuing to pray for everyone on the Healer Prayer List. If you, or someone you know, would like to be prayed for, please contact the Rector. We only use first names on the Healer Prayer List. If you would like an up-to-date copy of the Healer Prayer List, please contact the Rector.



The Zoom link for the Midweek Prayer and Chat at 10.30 on a Wednesday is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82865214531?pwd=Z0hoeVNFWXI1TVZMVVI2a3h5d3Z3Zz09>

REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

Toby Charles Sutton, the younger son of Laoise Coady and Andrew Sutton and brother of Billy, was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church on Sunday 20th December 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Toby's baptism could not take place within the context of 'normal' Sunday Service as we usually do. Hence, it took place privately later on that Sunday, with just the family present. Toby's godparents are Stephanie Hegarty, Jordan Sutton and Dáire Coady. We wish Toby every blessing on his journey of faith.

Unfortunately, other baptisms which had been planned, have had to be postponed. We look forward to welcoming them into the worldwide family of the church, when restrictions allow.

In Memoriam

Emma McManus (née Ledbetter) grew up, as a teenager, on Cross Avenue, in the shadow of St Philip and St James' Church. For the past number of years, she lived in London with her husband John and their three young daughters, but worshipped with her family in St Philip and St James' Church when 'back home'. Her sudden death at such a young age has been a devastating shock to her family and friends. Please keep her parents Peter and Paula Ledbetter; her siblings Juliet, Katie and Nick, and their families; her husband John and their children Milly, Lauren and Annie in your prayers.

John James (Jimmy) Harris was the father of our former curate, the Rev. Suzanne Harris. Many of you will have known Jimmy from his banter and chat, at coffee mornings in Suzanne's and Richie's house and in The Rectory, or at the Summer Fete in St Thomas' or at the Autumn Fair in St Philip and St James'. He loved a social gathering and loved a chat. He had a word for everyone and would support every stall, regardless of whether he wanted their particular produce or not! He was particularly well-known in the lunch or tea rooms of the respective gatherings where he would take up residence at a table, enjoy the culinary delights and chat to everyone as they went past! Please keep Suzanne, her husband Richard Meates, their children Andrew and Jessica; Suzanne's sisters: Jennifer, Linda, Gail and Rachel and their families, and Jimmy's last surviving sibling, Willie Harris, and all the extended family in your prayers.

Interment of Ashes

The ashes of **Loveday Victoria June Quinn (née Poynton)** who died on Tuesday 1st December 2020, were interred in St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance on Wednesday 3rd February 2021. Please keep her husband Noel, and their children Simon and Rachel, her siblings Joan, Audrey, Rosemary and Douglas, and the wider Quinn and Poynton families in your thoughts and prayers.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to:

Uta Raab and her family on the death of her father, Robert, in Germany. Please keep her and her family, and her mum Krista, and her sister Giti, in your prayers.

Cedric, Nicola, Katie, Andrew and Jack Heather on the death of Cedric's nephew Cathal, in Australia.

Please keep them; Cathal's wife Vanessa and their young daughters Deirdre and Brianna; Cathal's parents Nigel and Teresa; his siblings Gráinne and Emmet; and his grandmother Rene Heather, in your prayers.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

Our Easter General Vestries will take place via Zoom, and have been scheduled as follows:

Mount Merrion Easter General Vestry on Monday 12th April 2021

**Boosterstown and Carysfort Easter General Vestry on
Thursday 22nd April 2021**

The relevant Zoom details will be available on the Sunday Service Sheet on the Sunday before the respective Easter General Vestry meeting, and will also be available on the website.



THE REV. SUZANNE HARRIS



The Rev. Suzanne Harris, who was the part-time Non-Stipendiary Curate here from 2009-2020, has been appointed by the Archbishop to look after the parishes of Castlemacadam (Avoca) with Ballinatone (Ballinaclash) and Aughrim. The previous rector, the Rev. Canon George Butler retired in June 2018.

As you know, Suzanne left us in January 2020 to undertake a course of study to move from the non-stipendiary ministry to the stipendiary ministry.

Suzanne will be doing her new role in a part-time capacity until the end of the academic year, as she is still the Chaplain in Newpark, School. However, she has announced that she will be retiring from Newpark School at the end of this academic year, and at that stage, Suzanne will become the Priest-in-Charge of those parishes, working full-time in stipendiary ministry.

It is anticipated that the parishes will go through the process of appointing a rector in a few years, and therefore, Suzanne will have the possibility of becoming the Rector at that stage, should she and the parishes wish that.

We are delighted for her and we know how blessed Castlemacadam, Ballinatone and Aughrim are to have her looking after them. I was speaking to a parishioner of Castlemacadam recently and they said "We cannot believe that we have got someone the calibre of the Rev. Suzanne Harris. It has been worth the wait to get her!"

We wish her every blessing on this new chapter of her ministry.

THE REV. ROSS STYLES

Congratulations and best wishes to the Rev. Ross Styles who was instituted as the Incumbent of Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy with Calary on Friday 12th February 2021. The service was live-streamed from Newcastle Church. Usually, at an Institution, there is a large congregation present to welcome the new rector and to pledge their support, but, of course, with the COVID-19 restrictions, there was no congregation apart from the churchwardens. Despite this, Ross and his family have been warmly welcomed by the parishioners.

Ross, his wife Fiona and their children Ben and Ava, were members of these parishes until his Ordination to the Diaconate in 2015. He then served his internship in Greystones Parish, and in 2017, he was ordained to the Priesthood and served as Curate in Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes. Ben and Ava are pupils in Booterstown National School and are remaining in the school until the summer, as it would be very hard to move to a new school in the middle or home-schooling and remote learning. Again, we have had the privilege of experiencing the talents and skills of Ross, and know how blessed Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy and Calary are to have him as their Rector. We will miss Ben and Ava, Fiona and Ross as part of our school community but wish them every happiness and blessing in this new chapter in their lives.



THE REV. ARTHUR BARRETT

The Rev. Arthur Barrett (who was Rector of Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion from 2000 to 2004) was instituted as the Incumbent of Arklow, Inch and Kilbride on Friday 15th January 2021. Again, the parishioners, apart from the churchwardens who were allowed in the church, had to watch the Institution online. Arthur was Rector of Riverstick and Boyle (County Sligo and County Roscommon) 2004-2008, and Rector of Rossorry (Enniskillen) 2008-2014, before moving to Donegal where he was the Dean of Raphoe as well as being the Rector of Raphoe, Raymochy and Clonleigh.



Many parishioners will remember Arthur and Brigid and their twin sons Charlie and Nathan (who are now in their twenties!) and Lucy who was born shortly after they arrived here in 2000. We welcome Arthur back to the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and wish him, Brigid and Lucy every happiness and blessing in Arklow.

BISHOP-ELECT OF CLOGHER



When the Rev. Arthur Barret moved from Rossorry in Enniskillen to Raphoe in County Donegal in 2014, he was succeeded by the Rev. Canon Dr Ian Ellis. Ian was elected Bishop of Clogher by the Episcopal Electoral College for the Diocese of Clogher, which met online, on 9th November 2020. He succeeds the Most Revd John McDowell who took office as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland at his translation on Tuesday, 28th April 2020.

Canon Ellis is married to Heather and they have three grown-up children.

Canon Ellis is well-known for his subsequent role as Secretary to the Church's Board of Education (Northern Ireland) where he served for 13 years, bringing together his experience as a school-teacher and his time in parochial ministry. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Ian's consecration/ordination as a bishop has been deferred a number of times. It is now hoped that he will be consecrated in May 2021.



GENERAL SYNOD

This year, the General Synod was due to meet in Armagh City Hotel on Thursday 13th May, Friday 14th May and Saturday 15th May 2021. Booking a venue for General Synod normally takes place three years in advance, and therefore, changing plans also requires advance notice. Hence, in November 2020, the Standing Committee of the Church of Ireland decided to postpone the 2021 General Synod in the hope of having a face-to-face General Synod and postponed the General Synod to Thursday 30th September, Friday 1st October and Saturday 2nd October 2021. However, it is now apparent that the General Synod will not take place physically, but will take place virtually, via Zoom, on those dates.

The Rector has been a member of General Synod for a number of years and Stephanie Morris who is a member of Booterstown and Carysfort Select Vestry, was elected to General Synod in 2017 and re-elected in 2020, and Quentin Teggin and Gordon Richards are now also on General Synod, having been elected at the triennial elections in 2020.

LENTEN CHALLENGE



or...



Gillian and a number of other parishioners who are doing various challenges have done forty days so far, and have raised, to date, €9,830 which is amazing! Thank you!

For Gillian, the challenge is to walk at least 5km a day, others are doing the same, shorter or longer distances and one family is planning to complete 500km over Lent whether walking, running, scooting or cycling!

*Wednesday 17th February – Saturday 3rd April 2021
in aid of:*

Protestant Aid

The Irish Cancer Society

Parish Funds

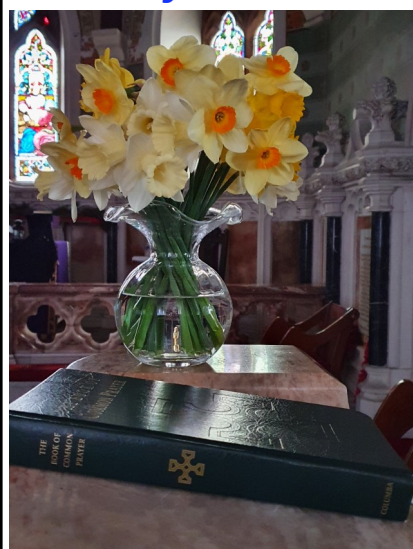
You can help by sponsoring or donating, and the money raised will be divided equally between the three charities. Donations may be made by online banking to

Boooterstown and Mount Merrion Account

IBAN: IE92ULSB 985330 00606072 BIC: ULSBIE2D

or a cheque payable to *Boooterstown and Mount Merrion Account*

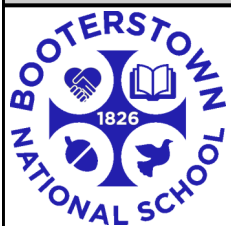
or via the GoFundMe page <https://gofund.me/996d06a6>



Our Daffodil Service was on Sunday 28 March 2021, during which we prayed for all those affected by cancer, either themselves or through a loved one. As we were not able to have our Daffodil Coffee Morning and Bring-and-Buy last year and this year, we are delighted to be able to fundraise for the Irish Cancer Society through our Lenten Challenge. These beautiful daffodils were on the Prayer Desk and the Pulpit for the Daffodil service.



BOOTERSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL



We were delighted to welcome the junior half of our school back to school on the 1st March 2021 following remote learning since the beginning of January 2021. The senior classes joined us on 15th March 2021 and our school is full of life and laughter again!

The children were so diligent during remote learning, they joined



in all our zooms and particularly loved music classes on Fridays. We held weekly assemblies with Canon Wharton which was a lovely way to stay connected.

We also enjoyed virtual tours to Epic Museum and Airfield, it's amazing what we can do with Zoom!



Since our return to school we have had great fun playing on our newly installed Trim Trail— breaktime has never been so active!

We also celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite book characters.

We are all wearing yellow on Friday 26th March 2021 to fundraise for the Irish Cancer Society's annual Daffodil Day fundraiser, which is a cause very dear to our hearts in BNS.

Happy Easter to all!

Rachel Fraser
Principal



ST THOMAS' CHURCH SUMMER FÊTE

**Unfortunately, due to COVID-19
restrictions, we have to cancel the
SUMMER FÊTE again this year.**



BANK DETAILS

Both select vestries wish to record their thanks to those who, in difficult times, have been very generous in their giving to the parishes and have adapted their method of giving due to COVID-19—all very much appreciated. A number of people have requested the bank details of the respective parishes in order to set up their parish giving via online banking. The information is below.

St Philip and St James' Church

Honorary Treasurer: Quentin Tegg (qtegg@gmail.com)
IBAN: IE51 BOFI 9010 2887 8916 34 BIC: BOFIE2D
ACCOUNT NAME: PARISH OF ST PHILIP & ST JAMES

St Thomas' Church

Honorary Treasurer: Ian Mullen (ianwmullen23@gmail.com)
IBAN: IE22 AIBK 9335 7015 2550 13 BIC: AIBKIE2D
ACCOUNT NAME: ST THOMAS' CHURCH



Hopefully, we will be able to go ahead with the **Autumn Fair**

in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre and in the church
grounds on

Saturday 16th October 2021

Put the date in your diary!

You will be hearing more about this during the summer, assuming that the restrictions for Covid-19 will allow us to go ahead!

RAFFLE PRIZES

But we need prizes for the raffle at this stage, so that we can apply for a permit from the Garda Síochána.





**ALICE
LEAHY
TRUST**

THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST

THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST continues to do extraordinary work in difficult circumstances.

In our two parishes, we have an ongoing working relationship with **THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST**. It is a non-political, non-denominational voluntary body which provides medical and related services for people who are homeless, operating out of a premises provided at a nominal rent by the Iveagh Trust. Up to 50 people (mostly men) call each morning, the majority of whom are sleeping out (aged 18-85 years).

TRUST is urgently in need the following items:

MEN'S CLOTHING .

Jeans, Track-suit bottoms, Jumpers, Water-Proof Jackets, Strong, Sturdy Shoes

THEY ALSO NEED ...

Cup-a-soups, Mini-bars (chocolate, etc.), toiletries

Whilst our churches are closed please leave any items at the back of **St Philip and St James' Church on the second Sunday of the month at 11.30-12.00 (after the live-streamed service)**—these will then be taken into the **Alice Leahy Trust**.

Parishioners have been very generous over the years and it is very much appreciated. But we would ask you to think carefully about the items that you donate; these items must be appropriate and suitable for people who are living on the streets. High-heel shoes, cocktail dresses, bikinis, etc. are all items that have been left at the back of our churches and these are **NOT** suitable.

Thank you to Sheila Chamberlain from St Thomas' and Viola Brady and Denise Richards from St Philip and St James' who sort the items and to Viola Brady who liaises with the **Alice Leahy Trust** and takes the items into them.

Please continue to help—your generosity is much appreciated—but please ensure that you give suitable and appropriate items, as listed above.

Thank you!

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

The Parishes' Panel is the Rector, Jill Lacey and Damian Phelan.

In the Christmas edition of the Newsletter, we were looking for someone to replace Damian Phelan on the Parishes' Safeguarding Trust Panel, as Damian had moved house and was now living in Booterstown and Carysfort Parish and therefore was no longer in Mount Merrion Parish. As we have one panel for both of our parishes, we needed someone from Mount Merrion Parish for the panel, and we also had to have gender balance. Thank you very much to Garrett Miller who has agreed to serve on the Panel, and once he has been Garda vetted for the panel and has received Safeguarding Trust Panel training, then he can become an active member of the Panel. In the meantime, Damian is not off the hook! At present, we are updating our respective Assessments of Harm. Thank you to Jill, Damian, and in anticipation, to Garrett for serving our parishes in this way. It is much appreciated.



EMAIL! ... EMAIL! ...EMAIL!

Email is an efficient, economical and environmentally friendly way in which to communicate and get information out from the parishes to the parishioners. But, inevitably people tend to change their email addresses from time to time, and we also do not have email addresses for some parishioners who are on email. It would help us **ENORMOUSLY** if we were able to email you. It would cut down on paper and reduce our costs as well as making our communication more efficient. We do recognise that some people are not on email and we are happy to communicate with them via paper and/or phone. But if you do use email, please, email the parish office so that we can have our email address on our records and use it to communicate with you.

The Rector's email address: booterstown@dublin.anglican.org

KEEPING IN TOUCH



Phone calls and talking to each other is so important, and even for those who text or email, to hear a voice and have a conversation means so much more and is much more personal. Thank you to those parishioners who keep in touch with others by phone and especially those whose only means of having a chat is through the phone.

Thank you to too to those who have offered to do shopping, pharmacy pick-ups, etc.

Some people are doing it off their own initiative which is great, but we would like to increase the social interaction and the 'keeping in touch' amongst parishioners. If you would be happy to be a part of this, that you would be happy to phone and receive a phone call each week, please let Gillian know. Most people are very happy to be a part of it, and making a call and receiving a call each week brightens the day of the caller and the recipient. Some people have said that they would prefer not to do it and that is, of course, respected, but it would be great if we could build this up. Church is about community. Gathering for worship together is one aspect and a very important aspect of community, but being church, being a community, is more than that; it is about connection, compassion and care.

THANK YOU from THE REV. SUZANNE HARRIS

Suzanne asked me to include this note from her in the Newsletter. And I am 'under orders' to include it exactly as she sent it!!!



Gillian,

Please pass on my sincere thanks to all the parishioners of Booterstown and Mount Merrion who so kindly sent messages of sympathy on the death of my Dad. We really appreciated all the prayers, letters, cards, emails, telephone calls, text messages and condolences on RIP and the lovely flowers and goodies. It was so thoughtful of people to think of me and my sisters in our grief and a source of great comfort to receive such lovely messages about Dad and his many visits to parish services and events.

Most of all, we would like to thank you for visiting Dad, the night before his operation, in Blackrock Clinic. It means so much to us, that he had a reassuring chat with someone he knew so well and that you left him in God's great care.

With sincere and heartfelt thanks,

Suzanne XX

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Thank you to John Hudson and Gordon Richards who have done a huge amount of work on our parishes' respective Health and Safety Statements, Risk Assessments, Signage, Procedures, Policies, etc. This is an area where there is a large amount of paperwork required involving policies, procedures, etc. The respective Health and Safety Statement—we need one for each parish—will be on the parishes' website. Other documents will be available on the parishes' Google Drive and will be accessible on request. Each of us has a responsibility to behave in a way that does not endanger ourselves or others when on parish property or engaging in any parish activities.

When we return to gathering together for worship in our churches, we will need to carry out Fire Drills in each church and in each parish hall/centre, and will be requesting that people familiarise themselves with the requirements.

Lenten Displays in St Philip and St James' Church



The Lenten displays on the Prayer Desk and on the Pulpit, and on the Altar/Communion Table

with the sunlight streaming in. Bottom left is the shelf behind the Altar as it was for Lent, and then with the addition of palms and red for Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

Thank you to Viola Brady and Denise Richards.



Lenten Displays in St Philip and St James' Church



**The beautiful and evocative display
on the Altar/Communion Table for
Lent and Holy Week.**

Thank you to Denise Richards and Viola Brady.

