

Dear Friend

I am hoping this week to encourage you to try something different! Although I had attended Maundy Thursday services and Good Friday services, it wasn't until I was training for ordination that I attended a full week of services culminating in Easter morning.

And, although it was exhausting, it was an incredible experience. One that took me much closer to the journey that Jesus Christ made – one that made it easier to understand the sacrifice, and what that example of obedience meant to my faith something I spoke about a little yesterday. Services of reflection, studies of the Stations of the Cross, candlelit meditative Taize services, musical delights, these were all on offer and they take us through what must have been the deeply emotional highs and lows of the week for Christ.

This week, St Matthew's offers a full week of services for you to sample, and details are available everywhere for you to find. If you haven't tried this before, do try and make the time to come and experience at least one. Your ministry team put in a huge amount of work this week, not only to reflect the seriousness of the events we commemorate but also to make the journey open and available to you and I know we would love to see some new faces trying out some different styles of worship (and indeed hear your reflections afterwards). If you have children, try bringing them to one of the services – it may just spark some interesting conversations at home!

But more than all that, this is Holy Week, the week when we can quietly reflect on the events that led up to that cruel crucifixion. Having celebrated Christ's arrival in Jerusalem on Sunday, we move very quickly to seeing that cross in the distance and the inevitable events that took Christ there. However you experience this week, my prayer is that it takes you closer to Christ and keeps you stronger in faith.

Blessings, Linda