

Latest News

April 2011

Walks of Witness for Easter

People of all faiths and religious beliefs are being invited to join Solihull's 'Walks of Witness' next week to mark the beginning of Easter on Good Friday. Two separate walks have been organised; in Solihull town centre and Shirley.

The town centre walk will take place on Friday 22 April and will start from 11am outside St Alphege Church, Church Hill Road, The Square.

Those taking part will follow a route down the High Street to Mell Square, and will finish at around 12:15pm back at St Alphege.

Hymns, prayers and blessings will also take place along the way with an act of worship in Mell Square.

Refreshments will then be served with hot cross buns in the Oliver Bird Hall nearby.



This event will also feature a special marquee in Mell Square, from 10am to 2pm, where people can come and chat, sample refreshments and enjoy some traditional craft activities. Volunteers are also being invited to help out on the day - please contact Andrew Williams at arwilliams@dial.pipex.com.

The other walk is taking place on the same day in Shirley, and will start at 10:30am at the Roman Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Wayside. This will begin with prayers and a hymn before walking up the Stratford Road, stopping at St James' Church and Shirley Christian Fellowship for readings and prayers. This will finish at 12pm with a short address at the Baptist Church, followed by refreshments and hot cross buns.

Beryl Moppett, Solihull Faiths' Forum steering group member, said: "Although this internationally recognised day is a special occasion for Christians, we welcome people of all faiths to join us for the walks whatever their religious beliefs. Anyone can join the walks and stop off at any point along the way."

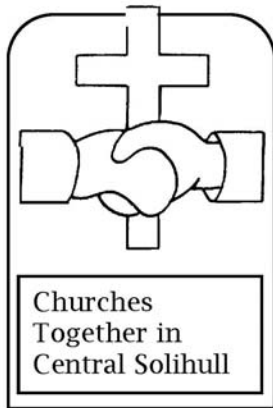
People are also encouraged to bring a Palm Cross to the walks if they can - a small cross traditionally made of palm leaves in remembrance of the palm leaves people waved and the cross on which Jesus died.

The walks have been organised by Shirley Churches Together and Central Solihull Churches Together, with support from the Solihull Partnership and Solihull Faiths' Forum.

Notes to Editor:

- Good Friday marks the beginning of Easter which commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death on the cross approximately 2,000 years ago. Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus which took place three days later.
- Solihull Faiths' Forum (SFF) has been set up to promote inter-faith working in Solihull, and has over 70 faith community members, representing a broad range of different faiths. It also appoints a Steering Group with representation from the Christian, Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, Baha'i and Jewish communities.

For media enquiries please contact Rav Jagdev, Partnership Marketing and Communications Officer, on 0121 704 8117 or rjagdev@solihull.gov.uk



Walk of Witness

**Good Friday
22nd April 2011**

Please join us from 11am outside St Alphege Church, The Square, Solihull.

Please bring a Palm Cross with you if you can.

The Walk of Witness follows a route down the High Street to Mell Square, and back to St Alphege. We encourage people to join our short acts of worship at each point. Please join us on the way if you cannot come to the start.

This is the main opportunity each year for an open act of worship from people in all the churches in Solihull, to give witness to our Lord.

The Walk of Witness should finish by 12.15pm outside St Alphege and will be followed by **Coffee and Hot Cross Buns in the Oliver Bird Hall** nearby in Church Hill Road, to which everyone is invited.

Gazebo in Mell Square

Again this year from 10am to 2pm we have a gazebo in Mell Square where people can browse, chat, and have opportunities to do craft activities, around the theme of Good Friday & Easter. **Can you help** for half an hour or an hour? If so, please contact Andrew Williams on arwilliams@dial.pipex.com. Thank you.