

Holy Cross, Topsham: Flower Arranging

Flower Arranging is a voluntary role and the flower arrangements in our church are much appreciated by the clergy, congregation and visitors.

Flower Arrangers provide flower arrangements throughout the year (except Lent and Advent). The flowers are intended to enhance the beauty of our church and its worship, thereby deepen the faith of the congregation and visitors. Flowers are chosen to match the liturgical seasons where possible, which serve to illustrate the rhythm of the church year. (*See below* for more information about 'Liturgical Seasons and Symbolic Objects of Catholicism'.)

Team leader and Flower Arrangers are members of Holy Cross Flower Arranging Team. They meet once a year to discuss their role and developments and agree their Team Leader who takes overall responsibility for this group.

Time Commitment as per the rota but usually at least one flower arranging duty per season. A pair of flower arrangers are responsible for flowers for a 2-week period. In addition, there is a meeting once a year organised at a convenient time for all to attend. This might happen during Lent when there are no flowers in the church.

Duties for Flower Arrangers

- Flower arranging normally takes place fortnightly on a Friday/Saturday although this may change in line with the demands of our church, the liturgical calendar and the needs of our flower arrangers. Weekly checks or more, are necessary by at least one of the rostered flower arrangers.
- Provide flowers on arranging day. Use claim form for flowers and return to church treasurer.
- Provide foliage on arranging day or take some from the church garden.
- Flowers arranged with a display either side of the tabernacle and one in front of the altar, on the floor in the middle of the altar gap area. In addition, one display or more in the Lady Chapel. *See images below.*
- Ensure that the water is topped up and flowers sprayed with water when the arrangement is complete.
- Maintain your arrangement over the two weeks it is in place, including 'dead heading' and possibly adding more flowers if necessary.
- Participate in a watering rota or let the Team Leader know if you can't water your flower arrangements. Flowers need watering more in summer than winter due to the temperature of the church.

- Provide your own tools for flower arranging although some are available in the box in the flower room cupboard. Use cloths or protective material to place flowers whilst arranging.
- Volunteers should notify the Team Leader if they are unable to attend for their volunteering session. Important to have mobile phone communications if necessary.
- Ensure that all areas of the church are left clean and tidy (including the flower room), all rubbish and compostable rubbish (green bin) is disposed of correctly and any spillages are mopped up.
- Dispose of all old, wet oasis in the black bin. We are trying to discontinue the use of oasis as its bad for the environment and is not recyclable. If you can manage without oasis, please do but if you need to continue using it - please keep the amount you use of oasis to a minimum.
- Flower Arrangers representing Holy Cross Church may wish to enter floral festivals and displays at local churches or other organisations. St Margaret's church holds a flower festival in July and St Nicholas's church holds a Christmas Tree festival in December. Holy Cross usually participates in these. Please consult your Team leader if you would like to enter these or other events on behalf of Holy Cross.
- Flower Arrangers should be familiar with the Holy Cross health and safety and safeguarding policies.

LITURGICAL SEASONS AND SYMBOLIC OBJECTS OF CATHOLICISM

Lent: During Lent from Ash Wednesday onwards until the Easter Vigil (or Easter Sunday at Holy Cross as we do not have the Vigil service) no flowers are allowed in church. For funerals/baptism during Lent the Paschal candle can have greenery only to decorate.

Easter Sunday: flowers should be yellow and white, and the church decorated to full potential, including the Paschal candle.

The Paschal Candle is lit for the entire season in the Catholic church for services from Easter, which is 50 days long until it is extinguished on Pentecost Sunday. During this period the Paschal Candle surround can be decorated with flowers and greenery which must not overlap the inscribed decoration of the cross and nails on the candle.

Baptisms and funerals: the Paschal candle is lit and it is optional that flowers appropriately decorate the Paschal candle surround. Contact may be necessary with family of deceased or the priest in charge of the funeral.

November, including Remembrance Sunday (Sunday nearest 11th November): flowers should be mainly red in colour. We have a poppy wreath in the storeroom and some poppy crosses for Remembrance Sunday.

Advent: is four weeks long, starting four Sundays before Christmas day. During this period there are no flowers and our Advent candle holder is placed in church. This can be decorated with greenery like a wreath. The candles represent the light of Christ and the hope he brings to the world.

Christmas Day: we can again have flowers in church, and this is a special occasion to decorate our church fully with a crib and light, therefore flowers in yellow and white adorn our church. Instead of one decorative floral display in front of the altar we place two smaller arrangements either side of the crib in front of the altar. Advent candle holder is still in place with greenery.

A decorated Christmas tree can be placed at the front of the church near the Paschal Candle. The tree and Advent candle are removed by the Sunday after Epiphany (6th January). The crib can stay in church until 2nd February at Candlemas.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF FLORAL DISPLAYS AT HOLY CROSS

Easter Flowers 2024 follow link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/CoasrfpNhgb9515Y7>

Photos of Flower Arrangements Below:



The Paschal Candle



The Advent Candle



Easter Flowers



Christmas Flowers



Lady Chapel Flowers – One arrangement is the minimum



Holy Cross at Easter 2024



Christmas Tree



Decorated windows at Easter



Decorated windows at Christmas



Flower Festival at St Margaret's Church July 2024