



South Wye Team Ministry

Newsletter

24th March 2024

Palm Sunday



Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

Palm Sunday this week, and then Holy Week and Easter. In the Church of England we are moving into the most dramatic period of the Church year. By that I don't mean that the story is dramatic – although it clearly is – but rather that this is the most *dramatized*, the most *acted out* season. Christmas has the Nativity Play of course, but that's mostly for small children and often reserved for special children's services and concerts. In Holy Week the drama takes over the liturgy.

Over the next eight days, during regular Anglican services in regular Anglican churches, regular Anglicans will wave palms and shout hosanna, we will shout '**crucify him!**', we may have our feet washed and drowsily try to stay awake as we watch with our Lord late into the night, we will come to the foot of the cross and walk away silent and grieving, and we will gather at dawn by firelight and hear the amazing news of the resurrection. Not as part of a Passion Play – although it is wonderful that Hereford Cathedral have renewed this tradition with the Hereford Passion this year – but as part of our worship. Not as an audience watching others re-enact these moments to teach us, but as participants. We are in the crowd, we excitedly welcome the Messiah with Hosannahs but we also turn and condemn him when Pilate offers a chance to reprieve him. We are among the disciples, submitting perhaps unwillingly to having our feet washed. We are among the women on Easter morning, slightly bewildered but overjoyed at the empty tomb.

Every week, the Eucharist offers us a chance to share in the last supper, to enter into the reality of that event, but this week raises the intensity of that sharing. The way that the drama of these experiences is built into our worship through Holy Week is intentional, to help us to understand in a way that reading the story might not allow, the reality and the impact of these events. The world was changed, and lives were changed – including our lives.

It's a busy week in lots of ways and it might not be possible for you to join all of the services and events, either online or onsite. But if you do have a chance to join in with the crowd at some point – check out Good Friday and Easter day programmes on the TV for example – I hope that it helps to find a way to enter into the reality of those events, and to remember and to learn afresh how the truth of Easter changes lives – changes our lives.

With every blessing,

Anne

07864938898

rector@stmartinshereford.org.uk

Family and Community News

Holy Week Events and Services

Palm Sunday 24th March

9:00am Palm Sunday Procession starts at the Scout Hut

9:30am Palm Sunday Eucharist at St Martin's

11:15am Palm Sunday Eucharist at St Peter's

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

8:00pm Compline at Tesco's Belmont (also on Facebook)

Maundy Thursday 28th March at St Martin's

6:00pm Commemoration of the Last Supper with foot-washing and stripping the altars followed by Watch until midnight

Good Friday 29th March at St Martin's

11:00am Good Friday Workshop

A chance to explore the events of Holy Week and Easter together through crafts and activities and to prepare for the service which follows at noon

3 Hours

12:00noon All Age Good Friday Service – an interactive service for all ages

1:00pm An hour of meditation and reflection on the passion

2:00pm The Last Hour – a reflection on the passion in music and pictures

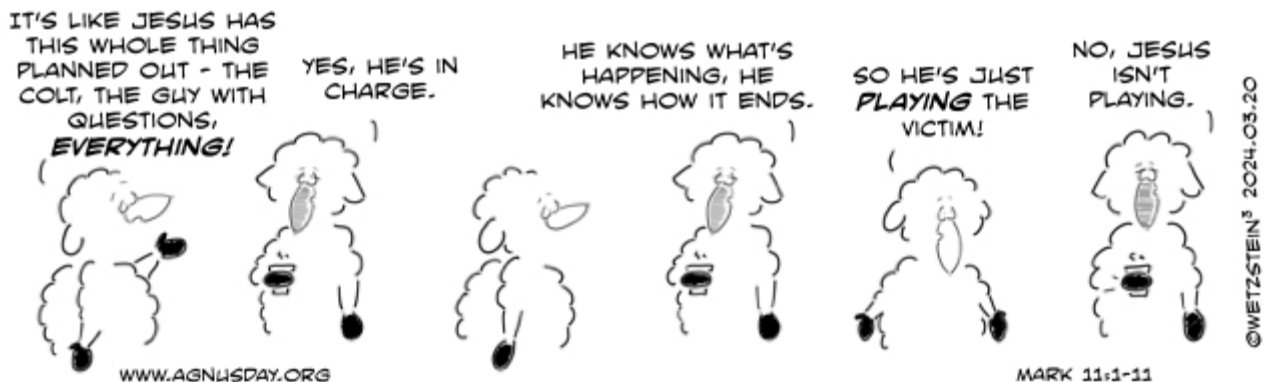
Easter Sunday 31st March

6:00am Dawn Vigil Service at St Martin's – an exciting service to greet the Easter Dawn and the Resurrection with a bonfire, vigil readings, bells and hymns. Followed by breakfast in the Narthex.

9:30am Easter Eucharist at St Martin's

11:15am Easter Eucharist at St Peter's

You are very welcome to join us for any of these services.



Family and Community News

Services at Belmont Community Centre

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion – 12th April, 26th April

Toastie and Warm at St Martin's

On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space.

From 1pm there is a Bible Study group, all welcome.

From 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes.

Everyone is welcome to come along to any – or all – parts of the afternoon.

Catching up with friends – or making new ones!

Young at Heart - First Thursday of each month – Lunch at the Wye Inn (contact the office so that we can book the table)

Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

Making Room is a new initiative based at St Martin's which, whilst it will not offer any formal professional mental health treatment, will offer a safe space to express any worries you may have. *Making Room* is intended for people of working age, and is about making room to have safe discussions about our mental wellness, making room to support one another, making room for mindfulness and to start or share any hobbies and interests and making room to offer hope. If you are interested in joining us please contact us and we can discuss plans further. If you wish to volunteer equally please do get in touch. Rev'd Lauren Bell curate@stmartinshereford.org.uk 07429 862444

Tue, 11 Jun 2024 19:00 - 21:00 Spiritual Question Time @St Peter's

Get ready for a mind-expanding, soul-searching gathering where we'll dive deep into life's big questions at Spiritual Question Time! Join us for an enlightening evening of deep conversations and soul-searching! At Spiritual Question Time, we'll explore life's big mysteries and discuss various spiritual topics. This in-person event at St Peter's Church, Hereford. It's a great opportunity to bring your burning questions and an open mind to hear Bishop Richard and Dean Sarah answer your questions on the hot topics of faith affecting Christians today. Prepare to be inspired, and challenged, and leave with a renewed sense of wonder about life and our place within creation. Don't miss out on this thought-provoking event!

For our Prayers

Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:

Gill	James	Joan	Paul	Sheila	Ann W	Brenda B	Barry
Sue	Brooke	Christina	Betty	Mandy	Hazel	Gholam	Hugo

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Ronald..	Leslie..	Margaret..	Peter.	Jean.	Val.	Joy.
Michael.	Alan	Adam	Michelle			

Prayer Diaries

Open Doors

Sunday 24 March – Oman - Most Christians in Oman are migrant workers. Recently, non-Omani Christians encouraged Omani believers to meet and they formed a church, but the leader has since been forced to leave the country. Pray for these believers, that they don't lose heart

Thursday 28 March – Maundy Thursday Around Easter, raids on secret house churches increase in countries like China and Iran. Pray for all those spying on Christian gatherings this year, that they will not report them to the authorities and instead will come to know Christ.

Friday 29 March – Good Friday "Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing'" (Luke 23:34). Please pray for Christians who have suffered unjustly and cruelly and are struggling to forgive their persecutors, that they can leave their burdens at the foot of the cross and encounter Jesus' peace.

Saturday 30 March – Nigeria - Over Christmas, Islamic militants killed more than 160 Christians in Plateau State in over 30 attacks. Magdalene's young daughter was killed in one of the attacks – this will be the first Easter without her. Please pray that God will comfort Magdalene and her family and renew their hope in Jesus' resurrection

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday The Church of the Province of West Africa

Monday 25 March The Diocese of Cyangugu – Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Tuesday 26 March The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East

Wednesday 27 March The Diocese of Daejeon – The Anglican Church of Korea

Thursday 28 March Maundy Thursday The Diocese of North Dakota – The Episcopal Church

Friday 29 March Good Friday The Diocese of South Dakota – The Episcopal Church

Saturday 30 March Holy Saturday The Diocese of Dallas – The Episcopal Church

Christian Aid

24 March - Pray for children and young people who are getting creative for climate justice.

25 March - Pray for an end to slavery across the world.

26 March - Pray for Christian Aid's charity gifts programme as we approach Easter.

27 March - Pray for churches beginning to prepare for Christian Aid Week.

28 March - As Jesus calls us to serve and cherish one another, pray for the recognition of each person's human dignity.

29 March - Good Friday Pray that we will find ways to show and share God's love for

30 March - Holy Saturday Pray for those who wait for justice.

Collect for Palm Sunday

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 24th March

South Wye Services Through the Week:

8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page (Lenten Compline from Tesco, Belmont, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week)

Sunday 24th

9am Palm Sunday Procession from the Scout Hut, Blackmarston Road
9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's
11.15am Morning Prayer at St. Peter's

Maundy Thursday

10am Said Communion in St. Martin's Lady Chapel
6pm Commemoration of the Last Supper with foot washing and stripping of the altars at St. Martin's

Good Friday

11am Messy Church Workshop
12noon Service of the Last Hours

The 9.30am service will be streamed on St. Martin's Facebook page and will be available on the St. Martin's and the St. Peter's Facebook pages and the St. Martin's YouTube channel later in the day.

Diocese of Hereford

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.
Diocese Freephone Prayerline: Dial 0800 304 7052 to hear a prayer.

Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday;

BBC H&W	8am	Sunday Worship.
Radio 4	8.10am	Sunday Worship- Gareth Malone's 'Passion'
BBC 1	1.15pm	Songs of Praise- Holy Week

Prayer for the day:

The Church of England website has audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

Prayer for the Nation

The Archbishops continue to invite all to call on God in Prayer. We invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Find more details at [churchengland.org/resources/prayer-nation](https://www.churchengland.org/resources/prayer-nation)

Readings for Palm Sunday

Psalm 31: 9-18

⁹ Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.
¹⁰ For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.
¹¹ I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbours,
an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.
¹² I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.
¹³ For I hear the whispering of many - terror all around!
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.
¹⁴ But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, 'You are my God.'
¹⁵ My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.
¹⁷ Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD, for I call on you;
let the wicked be put to shame; let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.
¹⁸ Let the lying lips be stilled that speak insolently against the righteous with pride and contempt.

Mark 11:1-11

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

¹¹ When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,
'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!

¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Bible Study

Bible notes

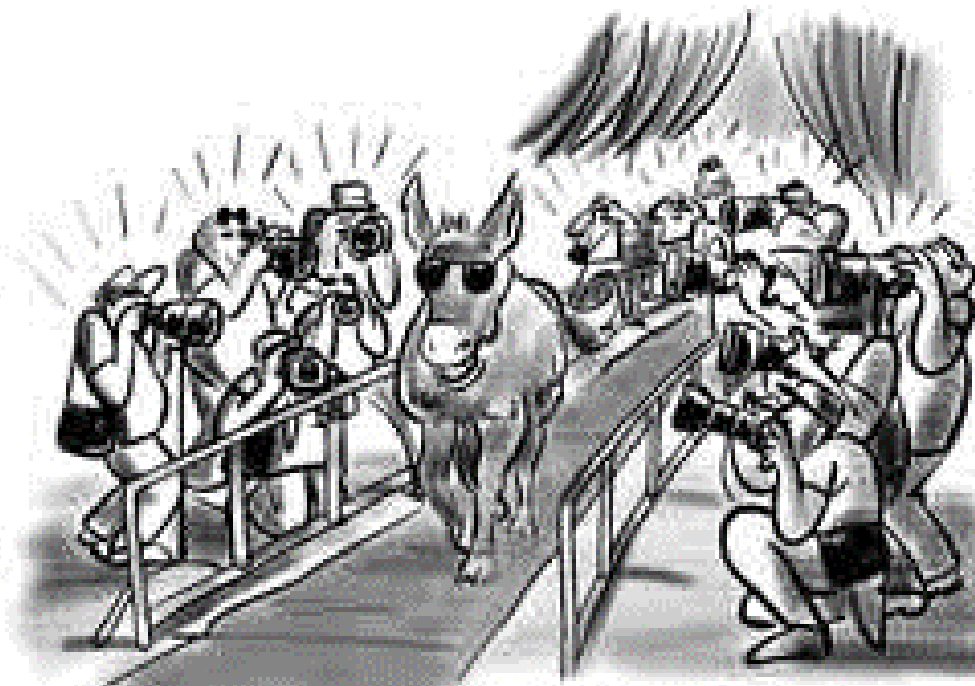
In their waiting for the fulfilment of the new covenant, and their anticipation of a new leader from God who will set them free in the way they experienced freedom at the Exodus, God's people have particular ideas about their expected Messiah. Mark writes for a Jewish audience who will be aware of the weight of expectation; he doesn't explain this but sets out clearly the kind of Messiah he perceives Jesus to be:

- An animal that is designated to be ridden by a king should not be ridden by anyone else, hence the note that the colt has never been ridden. A military leader would ride a horse, but Jesus rides a colt, a young donkey, as spoken of by Zephaniah, demonstrating that his leadership will not be overthrowing the ruling forces with an army.
- The spreading of cloaks on the ground was the way in which the people would declare their new king and their allegiance to him and, by inference, a vote of no confidence in the existing ruler.
- The waving of palm branches was used in the celebration of victory, and to honour royalty.
- The shouting of 'hosanna' – 'save!' – was an expression of both deliverance and praise. The verse from Psalm 118 reinforces this.

Jesus appears in control of this event; he has made the necessary plans and makes this public entry into Jerusalem with the minimum of fuss and in a non-threatening manner. He looks at the Temple, and then leaves without event or challenge. It is the response of the people that raises the stakes here, and this gives us some sense of the volatile situation in Jerusalem ahead of the imminent celebration of the Passover, the ultimate freedom festival recalling the exodus from Egypt.

Reflection *Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.* What would you do if the king was coming to your local town? How would you prepare? Where would you roll out the red carpet? What would you do to ensure his security, to manage the crowds, to facilitate a welcome? Jesus didn't engage with any of these things. His entrance was planned to be both low-key and make a statement; his welcome was spontaneous. Where would you have been in this?

Questions for reflection *You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week's Bible passage.*



- What point do you think the cartoonist is making here?
- What different kind of king might Jesus have been?
- What kind of welcome might Jesus get in today's world?

Sudoku (Easier!)

2	3		4		1		5	
	8				7			
7				5		3		8
1			6			4		
5				2				7
	5	2						6
	1		3			5		
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6								
	4		9					
	8		3					9
	3				9		6	
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	5		7	8				
1							4	6

3	4	8	2	1	5	7	6	9
2	7	5	6	9	3	4	8	1
6	9	1	8	7	2	5	3	4
7	3	9	4	2	8	6	1	5
1	6	2	5	9	8	7	3	4
5	8	4	3	7	6	9	2	1
8	2	3	6	5	1	4	7	9
4	1	6	7	3	2	5	8	9
9	5	7	8	4	6	3	1	2

1	2	8	5	9	3	7	4	6
3	5	4	7	8	6	1	9	2
9	7	6	4	1	2	5	3	8
7	6	2	1	4	8	9	5	3
8	9	5	6	3	7	2	1	4
4	3	1	2	5	9	8	6	7
5	8	7	3	6	1	4	2	9
2	4	3	9	7	5	6	8	1
6	1	9	8	2	4	3	7	5

Trickier!

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	9					3		
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	5		2					

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		2					7	
	1			4	3			
			6				2	1

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5	7	3	8	1	2	6	9	4
1	6	2	7	5	3	4	8	9
4	9	8	2	3	6	7	1	5
3	8	5	4	1	2	6	7	9
7	2	6	9	3	5	4	8	1
9	1	4	7	8	5	3	2	6

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7	1	9	2	4	3	8	5	6
3	6	2	5	1	8	9	7	4
6	9	1	3	8	5	2	4	7
5	4	8	1	7	2	6	3	9
2	7	3	9	6	4	5	1	8
1	8	5	4	3	9	7	6	2
4	2	7	8	5	6	1	9	3
9	3	6	7	2	1	4	8	5

Wordsearch based on Psalm 31: 9-18

U	D	P	E	D	X	Y	Y	D	S	Y	V	V	X	Y
Y	A	S	E	D	H	W	D	T	E	R	R	O	R	Y
E	E	H	Z	G	I	A	Q	O	I	B	M	J	K	Y
A	R	I	O	R	T	R	W	F	B	Y	M	W	T	S
R	D	N	M	I	N	K	P	A	I	S	O	M	D	P
S	J	E	J	E	A	L	H	E	Y	R	P	O	C	E
H	B	S	S	F	V	A	H	C	R	N	S	I	V	N
T	B	X	X	N	R	H	D	O	L	S	T	E	L	T
O	W	Q	V	L	E	I	S	O	M	Z	E	I	Y	P
W	A	S	T	E	S	F	V	I	J	F	Z	S	L	E
M	Q	B	U	T	A	E	J	M	I	U	M	C	Q	M
Y	G	E	R	C	X	J	Q	L	E	C	S	H	O	I
S	O	E	E	N	P	Z	N	B	R	O	K	E	N	N
G	S	P	E	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	M	L	D
S	U	O	I	C	A	R	G	L	U	O	S	E	M	Z

GRACIOUS
SCHEME
YEARS
GRIEF
PRIDE

LIFE
EYES
SHINES
DREAD
BODY

TERROR
SORROW
AWAY
LIPS
BROKEN

DISTRESS
FACE
STRENGTH
SOUL
LOVE

SPENT
WASTES
SERVANT
MIND