



# South Wye Benefice Newsletter

## Palm Sunday

29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

*Please welcome Rev. Jackie Nevill, who is leading the service at St. Martin's this week.*

### South Wye Services and Events week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> March

<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Joint Holy Communion at St. Martin's with St. Peter's
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	1pm	*Bible Study in St. Martin's Hall
	2pm	*Tuesday Coffee in St. Martin's Hall
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	5pm	Maundy Thursday Passover Meal
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	2pm	Service of the Last Hour- St. Martin's

*\*Please note that Bible Study and Tuesday Coffee will be in the hall this week.*

### For our Prayers

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

Brenda Baylis	Maureen Gerard	Jean D	Kieran
Pam KW	Duncan KW	Pat D	James

**Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:**

Cecil..	Phyllis.	Ann R	Alan Joy
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*If you would like a loved one added to this list, please contact me via the office.*

### Services for Holy Week and Easter Day

**Palm Sunday-** 29<sup>th</sup> March- Joint service with St. Peter's, at St. Martin's at 9.30am

**Maundy Thursday-** 2<sup>nd</sup> April- Passover Meal in St. Martin's Hall- time TBC. Please sign up on the sheet in St. Martin's Church

**Good Friday-** 3<sup>rd</sup> April- Service of the Last Hour at 2pm in St. Martin's Church- all welcome

**Easter Day-** 5<sup>th</sup> April- Holy Communion for Easter Day, 10am at St. Martin's and 11.15am at St. Peter's.

*Please note there will be no Sunday school on 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> of April*

## **Bonus Ball Scheme**

The next payment for the bonus ball scheme is due at the beginning of April, for the period April to September 2026. If you do not pay by standing order, could you please pay your £26 for each ball you have to the office by cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to St Martin with St Francis Roof Account. Alternatively, you can pay directly to the account, sort code 30-80-55, account number 42121368. There are numbers available if you wish to increase your chances of winning and to raise more money for the church. Please contact the office or myself.

Many thanks for your support, Sue Cockroft

### **Collect for Palm Sunday.**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Readings for Palm Sunday**

#### **Isaiah 50: 4-9a**

#### ***The Servant's Humiliation and Vindication***

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me

the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backwards.

<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
8 he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
9 It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?  
All of them will wear out like a garment;  
the moth will eat them up.

### **Psalm 31: 9-16**

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.

### **Philippians 2: 5-11**

5 Let the same mind be in you that was<sup>[a]</sup> in Christ Jesus,  
6 who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
7 but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Matthew 27: 11-54**

### ***Pilate Questions Jesus***

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

### ***Barabbas or Jesus?***

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

### ***Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified***

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

## ***The Soldiers Mock Jesus***

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' <sup>30</sup> They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

## ***The Crucifixion of Jesus***

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

<sup>38</sup> Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son.'" <sup>44</sup> The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

## ***The Death of Jesus***

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' <sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'