



# South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

## 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

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

As I write this we are looking forward to welcoming the first groups of children to church for Easter visits. 90 children from year one will gather at St Martin's to think about the joy of Palm Sunday and the shock of the arrest and trial. Amongst other activities, they will be given a single seed (sunflower rather than wheat) and encouraged to think about how small and dead it looks, but it carries within it the promise of a new and glorious life – a tall, beautiful sunflower, which will carry maybe hundreds of new seeds. They will be given the seed to take home and maybe plant – it may stand more chance of getting home than the little chocolate eggs that they will also take with them.

This analogy, of a seed that does not look alive, but needs to be buried so that it can grow and live echoes Jesus' words in Sunday's Gospel reading. It's the first in a set of contradictions in the passage where our expectations are overturned. The hour of Jesus' glory has come – but glory is not going to look as we or the world would expect it to. Then our understanding of life itself is overturned "those who love their life must lose it, those who hate (*perhaps 'reject' is a closer word*) their life will keep it for eternity." Even the reasonable reaction of those who do not want to see Jesus' death is overturned – this is exactly why he's here. God has sent him to reveal God's glorious life, which is far greater than anything that the world can offer.

As he overturns our expectations Jesus makes us think carefully about those things that we have valued, that we and the wider world see as good, desirable and important. He casts a new light too on those things that we and the wider world see as bad and undesirable. He promises that God is at work through all these things, overturning pain and grief and desolation.

The knowledge that God is at work, even in the most difficult and isolated times of our lives, that we are not abandoned, that God can bring goodness and beauty, even from the hardest experiences is a huge overturning of our expectations. It is important though to remember that saying that God works through the tragedies and hardships of our lives is not the same as saying that God wants us to suffer, or has caused our sufferings for this reason.

These are huge and complex theological thoughts and may be beyond the scope of our conversation with year one this afternoon – we'll probably stick to the sunflower seeds – but the promise that Jesus came to overturn our expectations and the world's priorities is at the core of the story of Holy Week. As we prepare for Palm Sunday next week, what are the priorities and aspirations that we need to overturn?

With every blessing, Anne  
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## **Holy Week and Easter Services at St. Martin's and St. Peter's**

### **Palm Sunday Procession**

24<sup>th</sup> March, starting from the Scout Hut on Blackmarston Road at 9am

Come and join us as we begin Holy Week

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

11:15am Palm Sunday Service at St Peter's Bullinghope

### **Holy Week Compline at Tesco, Belmont.**

25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm.

Join us for our special Lenten evening prayer in the Cafe at Tesco, or via the live stream on our Facebook page.

### **Commemoration of the Last Supper**

Maundy Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm in St. Martin's Church

### **Good Friday Family Workshop**

29<sup>th</sup> March 11:00am at St Martin's

Join us to explore the story of Holy Week through crafts and activities as we prepare for the All Age Service which follows at noon

### **Service of the Last Hours of Christ**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March in St. Martin's Church

12 noon All Age Service

1:00pm Reflection

2:00pm Last Hour

### **Dawn Vigil Service**

Easter Day, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 6am at St. Martin's

### **Easter Eucharist at St. Martin's and St. Peter's**

9.30am at St. Martin's

11.15am at St. Peter's Bullinghope

## **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 – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **BINGO - Thursday 21st March at 6pm in The Hereford Academy**

#### **Everyone welcome**

Hereford Academy Prom Committee are holding a fundraising Bingo. Our goal is raise money to keep Prom ticket prices as low as possible to ensure that everyone can participate.

At the end of March, Christine will be retiring from the Team Office after over 20 years as our administrator. She has seen many clergy and parishes come and go in that time, and her gifts of administration and knowledge of the patch, as well as her experience in financial management have helped her make a notable contribution to the mission and ministry of the team.

We will be formally thanking Christine at an afternoon tea at 3pm on Saturday 23rd March and everyone is very welcome to join us.

### **Lent Group – Caring for Creation**

**Every Thursday at 11am in St. Martin's Church - All welcome.**

### **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!

## **For Our Prayers**

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

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

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

Robert..	Ronald.	Leslie.	Margaret.	Peter	Jean	Joy	Michael
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***Anglican Communion:*** The Church in Wales.

***Hereford:*** The Kington & Weobley Deanery.

***Porvoo:*** England: Sheffield; Greenland (a diocese of the Church of Denmark)

***South Wye:*** Please pray for those who are homeless or vulnerably housed in our Benefice

### ***The Wider View:***

Three million or more people in Tanzania live with a disability; as in many developing countries, they are vulnerable, may lack education and find it hard to make a living. Pray for projects and initiatives, often church-based, that help train and prepare people with disabilities.

At Passiontide give thanks for Jesus as both perfect priest and worthy sacrifice; pray for our preparations for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, especially for events that witness to the world around.

The feast day of Joseph of Nazareth (Tuesday) is by tradition a day to pray for the world of work. Pray for those whose work is tedious or poorly rewarded, and give thanks for the skill of artisan workers.

In English Tourism Week, pray for all involved in the local tourism and hospitality industry.

This week also celebrates Neurodiversity - pray for all who have felt rejected or excluded because of e.g. autism or ADHD.

The Vernal Equinox on Wednesday begins the calendar Spring. It is also the International Day of Happiness, supporting a movement towards a happier, more inclusive, and resilient world.

Thursday is the International Day of Forests. Pray for all working to conserve these vulnerable but vital habitats, at risk in many places

## **Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> March**

### **South Wye Services Through the Week:**

8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page (Lenten Compline every Wednesday during Lent)

### **Sunday**

9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's

11.15am Holy Communion at St. Peter's

### **Thursday**

10am Said Communion in St. Martin's Lady Chapel

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.

### **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- The Light of the Gospels

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- St. Patrick's Day

### **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 [churchfengland.org/resources/prayer-nation](http://churchfengland.org/resources/prayer-nation)

## **Collect for 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Readings for 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

### Jeremiah 31: 31-34

<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### Psalms 51: 1-13

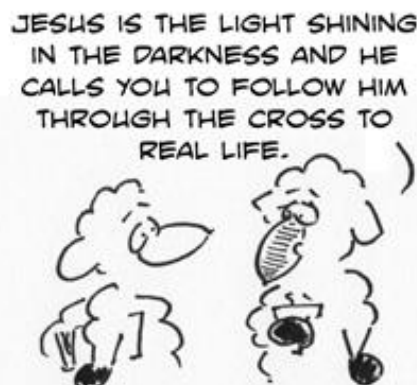
<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.  
<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.  
<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
<sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement.  
<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
<sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.  
<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.  
<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

### Hebrews 5: 5-10

<sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,  
'You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you';  
<sup>6</sup> as he says also in another place,  
'You are a priest for ever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.'  
<sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup> and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup> having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

## John 12: 20-33

<sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. <sup>27</sup> 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' <sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.



## Bible Study

### Bible notes

Following their time in the wilderness, the people of God settle into the 'promised land'. Their success at living as God's people is mixed, with periods of faithfulness to God and periods when they go astray. Through the prophets God calls them to return to living their covenant relationship with God.

Close to 500 years after being set free from slavery, the land splits into two kingdoms, a divided people. A couple of hundred years later, having persistently ignored the warnings to turn back to God, the northern kingdom is captured by Assyria, the ruling superpower of the time, and is no more. Little over 100 years on, the much smaller southern kingdom is also ignoring warnings to turn back to God from, among others, Jeremiah. Jeremiah pronounces God's judgement on the remaining people of God, which will lead to their capture and exile at the hands of Babylon, the current ruling superpower. However, Jeremiah's message is tinged with hope and promise. After the judgement and exile will come restoration. When God's people, in exile, turn back to God, God will make a new covenant with them.

This covenant, described in today's reading, will be characterised by a close relationship with God. It will not rely on a knowledge of God mediated to the people by a few, or passed on through the stories of God's past interactions with them. It will be a new covenant, a covenant for this people, the current and future people of God. At its heart is the promise that 'I will be their God, and they shall be my people' (v.33). Some 500 years later, despite a return to God and from exile, the promise has not been fully realised and some of the people of God look for this being fulfilled in Jesus.

### Reflection

When you buy a stick of rock at the seaside it's easily identifiable. Running through it is the name of the place to which it belongs: 'Blackpool', 'Hunstanton', 'Brighton'. Wherever you break the rock, however much or little you eat, at every point it has its identifying feature. In the new covenant, God says that God's law will be within people, written on their hearts – running through us like the name in a stick of rock. What do people see in us that identifies us as who – and whose – we are.

### Questions for reflection



- What ideas and beliefs are at the core of your being?
- What does God's promise 'I will be their God and they shall be my people', mean to you?
- How might having God's law written on your heart be freeing?



Sudoku (Easier!)

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

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

Trickier!

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

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

Wordsearch based on Hebrews 5: 5-10

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

GLORIFY  
PRIEST  
TODAY  
SUPPLICATIONS

EVER  
ORDER  
FLESH  
ANOTHER

LOUD  
TEARS  
DEATH  
PRAYERS

HIGH  
APPOINTED  
BEGOTTEN  
PERFECT

ACCORDING  
DAYS  
OFFERED  
PLACE

CRIES  
SAVE  
HEARD  
ETERNAL