



This week's news  
for St George's, Tuffley  
with St Margaret's, Whaddon  
3 -10 April 2020

## PALM SUNDAY and HOLY WEEK

Dearly loved worshipping family

I'm delighted we're able to worship at home together during his challenging period.

This Weekly News includes:

- ❖ Prayers
- ❖ Suggested hymns and songs
- ❖ Suggestions for activities through the week

See also attached:

- ❖ This week's readings with reflections
- ❖ a full Palm Praise service for all ages, prepared by Jonathan and friends from St Margaret's

Plus on YouTube:

- ❖ Video of a short Eucharist at St Margaret's [here](#)
- ❖ Video of a Communion at St George's [here](#)

These are all on our website. There are also paper copies (and DVDs of the communion services), plus Communion Liturgies, and Palm Crosses, available in the vicarage porch for anyone to collect. We hope everyone can access these; if you can't, just ask.

God bless us all as we remember this extraordinary week that changed the world.

Bruce

- ❖ **Stuck at home without support?**
- ❖ **Can't make ends meet?**
- ❖ **Just want to talk?**

Contact Gloucestershire Community Help Hub  
on 01452 583519

### Look out for our neighbours



And please be ready to lend them a hand – or just to chat over the phone. Also if the Community Help Hub asks us to support a member of the community, the vicar may ring you to see if you could deliver a food parcel or collect a prescription or other essential shopping, or just pick up the phone for a chat. We may be in isolation, but none of us need be isolated. Thanks in advance!

## Our prayer column

### PRAYER FOR TODAY

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.



### This week let us pray:

- **with thanks** for God's goodness and all God's blessings of comfort (including pets!), God's strength and His hope in these tough times...
- **with sorrow** for the times we've failed to listen and learn
- **with commitment** to live God's way
- **with faith** for
  - all working people now on 'furlough' or whose business is at risk
  - all who've lost their job or business
  - all vulnerable families at significant risk
  - our police
  - all working in hospital, care homes and nursing homes
  - all who are distraught, lonely, or scared

*Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen*

### A prayer for our NHS:

Gracious God,  
give courage, skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those making decisions  
and searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work  
many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We're all invited to join a round-the-clock prayer rota for  
GRH. See <https://www.stcatharine.org.uk>

**In memoriam:** Carol Johnson, Marion Lane RIP

**Anniversaries of death:** Sybil Parker, Mary Watters, Pauline Dee, Henry Barnes, Roy Hunter, Robert Townsend, Stan Davis, Irene Cole, Eddy Prior, Annie Judge, Les Parsons, Edna Taylor, Dulcie Bone, Pamela Hill, Mary Bulman, William Wilson, Madeline Baxter, Joshua Webb, Charles Speke, Emma Bassett.

**Birthdays & anniversaries:** David & Angela Kent celebrate a wedding anniversary on 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Hymn and Song suggestions for this week

### *Ride on ride on in majesty*

In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow your meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, your pow'r and reign.

### *O to see the dawn*

Of the darkest day,  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men,  
Torn and beaten, then  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

This, the power of the cross,  
Christ became sin for us  
Took the blame, bore the wrath  
We stand forgiven at the cross.  
*[Stuart Townend]*

### *When I survey the wondrous cross*

On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

*Were you there* when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

*Find these on the internet, or choose others, and sing along...*

## Weekly Giving Envelopes @ St George's end today.

We'll provide envelopes for the new giving year on request. However, in these interesting times you may find another method easier; for example, to pay by cheque for a number of weeks – we can arrange collection say monthly; or by internet banking, either one-off payments or by standing order. Most important: Don't worry about how to give. Just talk with David the treasurer on 302353. Thank you!

**Lent giving:** this year's project is to upgrade the Toilets at St George's (target £1000, by Easter). Contributions to treasurer please. Many thanks!



**Also:** as we're washing our hands more often, can we give to those people in other countries who have no proper sanitation – so they can also keep themselves safe? Look out for details of the new Tear Fund **TAP twinning project**...

## Next week - look out for:

- ❖ a special **Good Friday reflection** being prepared jointly by members from all congregations of the Church in Tuffley
- ❖ a pre-recorded **Easter Season Communion** service at St George's; plus
- ❖ a virtual Messy **Easter Special** for everyone
- ❖ and 'Soul Space' (just watch This Space)

## IDEAS! Special Things to do this week:

- ❖ **Pick up a Palm Cross** from the vicarage porch and display it at home; and take an extra one for a friend or neighbour who can't get out.
- ❖ **Wave your palm cross shouting "Hosanna to King Jesus"** outside your front door and see what happens!
- ❖ **Write a prayer**
- ❖ Make an '**Easter garden**' and send us a picture
- ❖ If you walk for exercise, imagine **Jesus on the Street**: what's he doing and saying?
- ❖ Take some more items for the **Foodbank** to vicarage porch
- ❖ Design, paint or draw, and display a **picture with a favourite text** e.g. "Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine..." (Isaiah 43)
- ❖ Explore the **Gloucester Diocese** website for special services, meditations and messages for this challenging period

## Understanding the Coronavirus

Still don't understand how this virus works? Have a look at Stuart's video on our website. Still have questions? Ask Stuart!

## Your turn...

We want to grow more and more participative as we develop our ways of being together as church at home. We need your help! Please post your ideas on our Church facebook page or on the Tuffley Pioneer page, or send them to Bruce. Let's get loads! Thanks in advance...

## CONTACTING US:

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The Administration office is not open until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic) and Grange (Baptist).

**We shout HOSANNA!**

You may like to light a candle as you begin your worship at home.



On Palm Sunday you may like to read either the full story; or just Jesus' procession into Jerusalem, unfolding the rest of the story on other days during Holy Week.

Read the story slowly...

Pause after each section... and ask yourself:

- How do I describe my feelings as I read?...
- How might I have reacted if I had been there?
- Is there a character I identify with? Why?

**Palm Sunday**

**Matthew 21 Jesus enters Jerusalem**

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.' <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.'

<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>'Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

*Prayer: Lord we gladly join with all heaven and earth shouting HOSANNA, SAVIOUR, KING! Amen*

**A thought from Bruce:**

*A beast of burden carried Jesus the King.  
The King carried the burden of all our sin on the cross.  
He calls us to share in carrying the burdens of the world today,  
in our prayers.  
Will we follow his call?*

**Matthew 26 Judas agrees to betray Jesus**

<sup>14</sup>Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and said, 'What will you give me if I betray him to you?' They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

**Jesus shares the Passover meal with his Disciples**

... <sup>20</sup>When it was evening, Jesus took his place with the twelve; <sup>21</sup>and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' <sup>22</sup>And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' <sup>23</sup>He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.' <sup>24</sup>The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' <sup>25</sup>Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

**Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper**

<sup>26</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' <sup>27</sup>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

<sup>30</sup>When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

*What do you think Jesus meant when he said;  
'this is my body' and 'this is my blood'?*

**Jesus foretells Peter's denial**

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,  
"I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."  
<sup>32</sup>But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.'

<sup>33</sup>Peter said to him, 'Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.' <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.'

<sup>35</sup>Peter said to him, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And so said all the disciples.

**Jesus Prays in Gethsemane**

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' <sup>37</sup>He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.'

<sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' <sup>40</sup> Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?' <sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

<sup>42</sup> Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.'

<sup>43</sup> Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

<sup>44</sup> So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

*The disciples must have been emotionally and physically beat. Jesus had told them he was about to be killed.*

*Now he expected them to pray.*

*How might you have reacted?*

*How might the outcome have been different if they had prayed?*

### **Peter denies knowing Jesus**

... <sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, 'You also were with Jesus the Galilean.' <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before all of them, saying, 'I do not know what you are talking about.'

<sup>71</sup> When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.' <sup>72</sup> Again he denied it with an oath, 'I do not know the man.'

<sup>73</sup> After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.' <sup>74</sup> Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know the man!'

At that moment the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

*Can you see yourself in any situation at all behaving like Peter?*

*What gives you hope that nothing's beyond redemption?*

### **Jesus is brought to Pilate**

**27** When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. <sup>2</sup> They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

### **Judas commits suicide**

<sup>3</sup> When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup> He said, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' But they said, 'What is that to us? See to it yourself.' <sup>5</sup> Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.

*Judas betrayed Jesus; Peter denied him.*

*Judas took his life; Peter was given a second chance.*

*What might we learn from this?*

### **Jesus is Crucified**

... <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!'

*What was it that convinced the centurion?*

*What is it that convinces you?*

*Prayer: Lord we are fully there with you on the cross in all the shame, for on it you carried all our sin; this is the glory. Hosanna. Hallelujah. Amen*

*This is a selection of readings from Matthew. You may like to read the full story from chapters 26 and 27, using your home Bible or trying The Passion Translation published recently and available free on the internet (Bible Gateway site).*