

## St Mary's Speen Pew News 319 on Friday 3rd March

Dear friends, Hallo again. Remember that Jesus is always with us. We may not be sitting together but we are a gathered community and Jesus remains with us, as we take some time to pray and reflect together although apart during this time of Lent.

### 1. HOLY WEEK

- a. Janice has kindly prepared her Virtual Church for Palm Sunday, and Pam will join us later in the week with her reflections for Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- b. The Diocesan Live-Streamed Services for this week are available online. Click on the box in my email which says "DOX Easter Poster" and they are all listed there.
- c. BBC Radio Berkshire has a Church service at 8am on Sunday. They will not mind if we are listening in our pyjamas.
- d. If you would like to make use of St Nic's resources for Holy Week you can watch by pressing "Control" and click on the line below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KXOPD8EKVg&feature=youtu.be>

- e. I sent you Janice's Thought for the Week, prepared especially for St Mary's people, on Wednesday. Look for my email if you missed it.

### 2. HYMN

Today's hymn is "New every morning is the love" chosen by Jo Foster. She is well and has helpful neighbours. The line about "*The trivial round, the common task....*" seems particularly appropriate at the moment. One of the problems with staying at home is that there are a lot of jobs that need doing, and in the current circumstances I cannot persuade myself that I am too busy start on them.

Click on the line below to play the hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKZzuUybtEg>

### 3. HELP

There are so many kind people offering help. Please do not worry about asking if there is anything anyone can do for you. Just ring.

Community Support Hub 01635 503579

[www.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-communityhub](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-communityhub)

or if you have gone out for a bit of exercise you may have seen the posters about the Speen Parish Council Community Assistance Forum. They are keen to help people staying at home with shopping, prescription pickups, or with just a chat. Text **HELP** to 07840 466710 (if you have a mobile) and someone will get back to you. Or ring the West Berks number above and they will alert the Speen Group accordingly. It works, I know.

### 4. BIRTH

Hannah (nee Treasure) was safely delivered of a baby boy. To Hannah and Iain. 8lbs 10oz, a brother for Amos on Tuesday 31st. Janet and Alan Treasure are of course delighted.

#### **5. JENNIFER'S BIRTHDAY**

Amazingly, dear Jennifer will be 99 on 14th April. I am absolutely sure she would love to have cards for the congregation. She is alone in her little flat, but carers come in and her shopping is done for her.

Please could everyone do their best to write her a card, or a just a little message? If you don't know her address, maybe you would like to send/deliver cards to me at 44 Speen Lane, whenever you think about it, I will make sure they get to her on 14th. And I will sing Happy Birthday to her from the garden.

#### **6. THE JO FAGEANT/ ST MARY'S SPEEN CHALLENGE.**

Jo has come up with yet another project for us all, which is good for recycling and will enhance Jo's garden. Please save your plastic bottles, and stuff them with soft plastic, i.e. crisp packets, squashy plastic food wrapping e.g. bread wrappers. Milk containers work very well, and she doesn't mind which size. Jo writes "I'm thinking I could make an edge for my flower borders. If the plastic that gets stuffed in the bottles is a variety of colours this could look quite attractive and rather quirky. Trouble is I don't get many plastic bottles (although I can use my milk containers) and try to avoid bits of plastic as much as possible. However, I thought in these restrictive times it might be worth asking people via PN if they have any unwanted plastic bottles that they could stuff for me for collection when we all meet again – all in aid of a garden bed for vegetables and a few flowers I'm planning to encourage my grandson to help me with". She says also it works better if crisp packets are cut up into smaller pieces. She has obviously been experimenting.

#### **7. PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO PEW NEWS!**

Please do let me know a favourite hymn you would like to recommend, a prayer, or a poem. Let me know how you are passing the time. I am sure you all have some interesting hobbies. We need to keep the "coffee after church" conversations going. Tell me about a piece of poetry you like.

#### **8. JIGSAWS**

There are 10 jigsaws kindly donated by Jo Fageant, waiting for someone to love them, in my hall. If you would like a couple, please let me know and I will drop them in. If you are concerned about infection, I suggest they are left in a garden shed or somewhere overnight. And wash your hands. Of course.

And there was I, thinking there was nothing to go in Pew News this week. Thank you for reading.

Best Wishes as ever. Mavis

**ST MARY'S, SPEEN**

**'VIRTUAL CHURCH'**

*The start of Holy Week*

**PALM SUNDAY**

**5<sup>th</sup> April 2020**



***Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel!***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!***

***Hosanna in the highest!***

*You may like to find last year's palm cross and either hold it or place it in sight as you use this sheet; light a candle or play some quiet music as well if it helps you connect with others*

*Palm Sunday services have a very different 'flavour' to usual Sundays, and start with this Introduction:*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

*This prayer would be said if we had new palm crosses this year; let us, instead, rededicate ourselves to our King and his service*

God our Saviour,  
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;  
let these palms be for us signs of his victory  
and grant that we who bear them in his name  
may ever hail him as our King,  
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **THE PALM GOSPEL**

**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 he 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.'

*What would it be like to be part of this procession? Imagine you hadn't heard about Jesus and this was the first time you saw him – what would you make of all this? In your imagination, follow him into Jerusalem . . .*

### **THE COLLECT**

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.

*Silence is kept.*

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. **Amen.**

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

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup> 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.

## **THE PASSION READING**

*Sometimes churches read the whole of the Gospel set for Palm Sunday as a dramatization, with different voices around the church taking the roles. If you have a bible to hand, do read from Matthew 26: 14 – 27:66 to get the full sweep of events. Alternatively, take your time and read part of it, below:*

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

<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.

<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!'

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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!'

*Spend some time with this familiar account, notice how you feel about those involved – do you identify with anyone? Have you noticed something new, given the current situation? Is there anything you would like to say? to do? to pray?*

### **A Time of Prayer, Praise and Intercession**

*Whilst continuing to pray for our government, Church, family and friends, the sick and the bereaved, we hold before God all those on the 'Front Line' during this pandemic, together with those infected and affected in any way. And let us continue to give thanks for our many blessings . . .*

*The following are the prayers of intercession provided for Palm Sunday*

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean  
spiritual death,  
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian people,  
that through the suffering of disunity  
there may grow a rich union in Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them,  
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,  
that they may find support and encouragement,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith,  
may find mercy in the day of Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

## **A Blessing**

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.