

**The Parishes of Adbaston, Gnosall, High Offley & Knightley,
Moreton and Norbury
Sunday 24th March (Palm Sunday)**

Collect

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**

Psalms 118: 1-2, 19-24

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

Let Israel say,

‘His steadfast love endures for ever.’

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Palm Gospel John 12: 12-16

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John: **Glory to you O Lord.**

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!’ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: ‘Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!’ His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been

written of him and had been done to him. This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you O Christ**

Passion Reading - Mark 15: 1-39

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ He answered him, ‘You say so.’ Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, ‘Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.’ But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, ‘Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?’ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, ‘Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?’ They shouted back, ‘Crucify him!’ Pilate asked them, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Crucify him!’ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And

they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

This is the passion of the Lord.

In our year's mind (St Lawrence, Gnosall), we remember: James Patrick Meadon, Edna Chesters.

Notices

This Week's Services 24th March

Gnosall 8am Holy Communion
10:30am Morning Worship
Adbaston 9:30am Morning Worship
High Offley 9:30am Holy Communion
Moreton 11am Morning Worship
Norbury 11am Morning Worship

Holy Week Observances

Monday 25th March
9.30am, Morning Prayer, High Offley
Tuesday 26th March
9.30am, Morning Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday 27th March
9.30am, Morning Prayer, Knightley
Thursday 28th March
7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service, Moreton
Friday 29th March
10am Messy Easter Workshop, Gnosall
12 noon, Reflections by the Cross, Norbury
2pm, Walk of Witness, Gnosall
9-10pm, Prayers & Reflections, Zoom

Easter Sunday Services 31st March

Gnosall 8am Holy Communion
10:30am Holy Communion
High Offley 9:30am Communion by Extn
Adbaston 9:30am Communion by Extn
Norbury 11am Holy Communion
Moreton 3pm Holy Communion

Benefice Zoom Services

As part of the rhythm of prayer of this Benefice we offer services on Zoom for you to join with from the comfort of your homes. All are welcome to join us, it's the same code for each one, available from the office.
Night Prayer is every Monday, Wednesday & Friday evenings 9.30pm on Zoom.
Morning Prayer is every Tuesday morning at 9.30am on Zoom.
Sunday Worship is the first Sunday of every month at 10am on Zoom.

Easter Flowers at Gnosall

We will decorate the Church for Easter on Saturday 30th March between 9am and 11am. Please bring your own flowers and greenery. Everyone welcome.

Easter Cross at Gnosall

On Easter Sunday please bring a tiny posy or single flower to put in the Easter Cross.

Concert for High Offley Church

Join us for an evening of Classical Guitar with William Hudd on Saturday 6th April at 7:30pm at Woodseaves Village Hall. Tickets £10 including a glass of wine or soft drink. Proceeds to the refurbishment of the clock faces.

Spring into Summer with Gnosall Singers

Moreton Millennium Hall, Saturday 27th April at 7pm. All proceeds go to Moreton Church. Contact Pat Simcock on 01952812976 or Pat Tweed 01785822523 for tickets, £7 each.

Eco Church

Eco Prayer for March:

Holy God, as new life emerges around us, may we see and understand that Jesus' death and resurrection is for the whole of creation. As seedlings grow towards the light, may we grow towards the light of Christ. Amen

Eco lifestyle tip for the month:

Celebrate Spring! Make sure you're giving yourself quality time enjoying creation: smelling the blossom, copying bird song, finding a footprint or identifying spring flowers with the Pl@ntNet app. Nature can boost our happiness so take time to observe nature in your gardens, and in your local green spaces. For more eco-tips, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at: arocha.org.uk/wild-christian

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