



Parish of St. Mary's Swynnerton & St. James' Cotes Heath  
 Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup> 2021 (Palm Sunday)



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Join us on Zoom at 10.00. this Sunday for our benefice worship  
 Use the link below and log in from 9.50.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82172796502?pwd=dm9PandVL1I6YTgzOFFTQzQ1L0NqQT09>



CLOCKS GO FORWARD THIS SUNDAY MORNING AT 1AM WHEN WE MOVE TO BRITISH SUMMER TIME.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES  
 GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>



There will be a short service at St. Mary's at 12.00. which will be relayed to those wishing to join in at home. (Meditation included in this newsletter). Use the Zoom link above. The church will then remain open until 2pm for private prayer.



EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>

Holy Communion at 10.00. at St. Mary's. (Also accessible on Zoom link).

Join in Holy Week services at Lichfield cathedral by going to their website:

[www.lichfield-cathedral.org/lent/holyweek-easter2021](http://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/lent/holyweek-easter2021)

There's more religious broadcasting than ever this Easter. On Good Friday you can listen to Stainer's Crucifixion on BBC Radio 3 at 2pm or "At the foot of the cross", music and poetry on Radio 2 at 7pm.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will be celebrating the Eucharist from Canterbury cathedral on Easter Day (8.10 am Radio 4 and 10 am BBC 1). Please check times and look for a wealth of other interesting programmes.



Since John Bamford launched the annual North Staffs Christian Aid Walk over 30 years ago, it's raised £1 million pounds for the charity. Sadly, it hasn't taken place for the last two years so this March, people were asked to walk where and when they could, and ask their usual supporters to sponsor them.

Local fund raiser Margaret Thompstone writes:

*"On my birthday, which was gloriously warm and sunny, Geoff and I went to Tittesworth and I did my Christian Aid walk after eating croissants and cake!*

*If you would like to sponsor me for the walk with a donation, then please put cash or cheque through my door at 16 Fairbanks Walk, Swynnerton."*

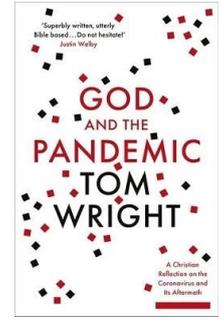
Margaret adds that during the pandemic, Christian Aid has directly helped half a million people in 27 countries, distributing essential soap, water and food.

Margaret, right, with organiser John Bamford in 2019)



The Lent Course concludes at 3pm on Sunday afternoon. This week June Steed leads a session entitled "Finding echoes of the story of Jesus in our world today". Do join in by using the Zoom log in above, or read more at [www.churchofengland.org/livelent](http://www.churchofengland.org/livelent)

**“Where do we go from here?”** It’s a question on everyone’s lips as we think about our next cautious steps out of lockdown. Tom Wright, in his book “God and the Pandemic” emphasises the need for Lament, for drawing alongside those who are grieving. “The initial calling of the Church, first and foremost, is to take our place humbly among the mourners.”



Rabbi Jonathan Romain, minister of Maidenhead synagogue, speaks for all faiths when he says that worship will never be the same. He notes that virtually all religious groups have reported a higher attendance at services online than they would normally have had in person. “Many newcomers felt the need to connect, either with others or with God.” He suggests that services in the future will need to be conducted via a two-tier system, addressing both those in the pews and those on a screen. “Clergy will have to get used to facing two audiences, as well as not appearing to prefer one to the other.”

- Our friends at St. Luke’s have begun to adapt their church for the C21 by installing a dropdown full-size screen (no need for books), a much-improved audio system and a wall-mounted camera. This will enable services to be recorded and also ‘streamed’ into people’s homes. They now have broadband access in both the church and church hall and when the church building is closed, free wi-fi is available in the vicinity.
- Our own team at St. Mary’s is planning to “live-stream” the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services so that those who are at home can join in with those worshipping in the church building. Feedback on how this works would be very welcome. Please contact any of those listed on page 1.
- “ZWITT” (Zoom worship in Tittensor every Thursday at 10.00.) continues –details from Paul Graetz. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3558390555?pwd=ZlNvRVcxbHZlVWRaUzhGS1Vqcy9QZz09>
- SAND TABLE NEEDED FOR TODDLERS - St. Mary’s Toddlers will be starting up as soon as regulations allow but meetings will be outside at first. This brings an opportunity for more messy play and different activities. If anyone has a small sand table (sand pit raised off the ground) that they no longer need, please would they contact Anna. (07725 124583).
- The Revd Mary Thomas, a vicar in Shropshire, has been appointed as the Bishop of Lichfield’s new Adviser for Women in Ministry. She will be part of Bishop Michael’s staff team and will work with him on all matters concerning women in ministry. She will also gather and assess information about what might cause barriers to the recruitment and appointment of women in the diocese.

Please continue to pray for Doreen Green and her family, and George Edwards and Margaret Reid recuperating at home.

We remember those who are ill or are going through challenging times: Richard Wenger, Fr. Paul Chavasse, Wendy Jackson and Paul Bell, Elaine Dulson, Pat Lawrence, Carol and Martyn Turner, Pat Barley, Geoff and Linda Foster, Margaret Farr, the Goacher family, Margaret Mc.Knight, Dot Sergeant in her new home at Oulton Abbey, and friends of the church family, Maddie, Jessica, and Karen Glasgow.

And we hold before God Valerie Stokes who is preparing for an operation, Pat Johnson who is receiving care in hospital and Doreen English who has recently had surgery.

Thanks to David Harman for the Palm Sunday intercessions.



## WORSHIP FOR PALM SUNDAY

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his holy word, to bring before him the needs of the world, to ask his forgiveness of our sins, and to seek his grace, that through his Son Jesus Christ we may give ourselves to his service.**

God shows his love for us because, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*Confession:* **Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore to us the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image, to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Creed:* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Let us pray to the Father through his Son who suffered death on the cross for the world's redemption...

### *Collect:*

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 to 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 forever. **Amen.**

*Intercessions:* Strengthen Michael and Matthew our Bishops and all your Church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in truth, live together in love and reveal your glory in the world.

We continue to pray for our Parish during this unusual time and we give thanks for all those who work for your kingdom here – including those producing this weekly Newsletter, visiting the sick, contacting the lonely, running our weekly Zoom Services, Prayer meetings and Lent Course and planning to open the church for Good Friday and Easter Sunday.... We pray especially for all involved in the Shaping for Mission initiative as they consider the way forward for your Church here in our Deanery. Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen, give wisdom to all in authority and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace, that we may honour one another and seek the common good.

We remember in our prayers all those in the NHS and the nation's Care Homes caring for the sick and vulnerable and all those involved in the manufacture, international distribution and administering of the Covid vaccines particularly at this time with the increase in infections in continental European countries and we give thanks for the broadcasting services which keep us informed about what we should do to keep safe at this time....

Lord in Your Mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Give grace to us, our families and friends and to all our neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and love as he loves us.

May our love for our neighbours bear true witness to your love for all mankind as we seek to share the Good News... Lord in your Mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit – and we lift to you all those who mourn, those listed elsewhere in this Newsletter who seek our prayers and all those whom we know who need our prayers at this time..... give them and their families courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation....

Lord in Your Mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey His will. May Your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to your world: for we are strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to Your Kingdom. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**THE GRACE**

## A GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION

### JESUS IS CONDEMNED Matthew 27:11-14, 22-25, 26b

*Jesus stood before the Roman governor, who questioned him. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked.*

*"So you say," answered Jesus. But he said nothing in response to the accusations of the chief priests and elders. So Pilate said to him, "Don't you hear all these things they accuse you of?" But Jesus refused to answer a single word, with the result that the Governor was greatly surprised.*

*"What shall I do with Jesus called the Messiah?" Pilate asked them.*

*"Crucify him!" they all answered. But Pilate asked, "What crime has he committed?"*

*Then they started shouting at the top of their voices: "Crucify him!"*

*When Pilate saw that it was no use to go on, but that a riot might break out, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am not responsible for the death of this man! This is your doing!"*

*He had Jesus whipped, he handed him over to be crucified.*

#### **Let us pray.**

Lord Jesus, we are ashamed to admit how often we wash our hands of you. Give us the courage to follow you, even when all others reject you. Help us to be determined and firm in our conviction that following your will and showing love to all is more important than any other treasure that we have in this life. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### JESUS IS CROWNED WITH THORNS AND MOCKED Matthew 27:27-31

*Then Pilate's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace, and the whole company gathered around him. They stripped off his clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. Then they made a crown out of thorny branches and placed it on his head, and put a stick in his right hand; then they knelt before him and made fun of him. "Long live the King of the Jews!" they said. They spat on him, and took the stick and hit him over the head. When they had finished making fun of him, they took the robe off and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.*

#### **Let us pray.**

Thank you, Jesus, for allowing yourself to be tried and condemned and scourged. For the joy of bringing salvation to all people

and because of your great love for us, you endured the shame and pain.  
**Amen.**

**SIMON CARRIES THE CROSS Luke 23:26**

*The soldiers led Jesus away, and as they were going, they met a man from Cyrene named Simon who was coming into the city from the country. They seized him, put the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.*

**Let us pray.**

Heavenly Father, your Son came not to be served, but to serve. Forgive us for becoming so preoccupied with ourselves that we have become deaf and blind to the grief and suffering of those around us. Constantly remind us that we cannot love you without loving others as well. Help us to always remember that to be a follower of yours means that we share in the burdens of others. Lord, show us someone whose cross we may help carry. **Amen.**

**JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM Luke 23:27-31**

*A large crowd of people followed him; among them were some women who were weeping and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Women of Jerusalem! Don't cry for me, but for yourselves and your children. For the days are coming when people will say, "How lucky are the women who never had children, who never bore babies, who never nursed them!" That will be the time when people will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Hide us!" For if such things as these are done when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"*

**Let us pray.**

Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me for not fully embracing your sacrifice for me, for not living every moment of my life in a way that glorifies you and tells others that you are my Lord and Saviour. Forgive me for being so caught up in my own troubles and my own busyness of life that I forget to stop and encourage and care for others. Help me to never lose sight of who you are, what you have done for me, and how that means I should act toward others who are around me. **Amen.**

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### **JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHES John 19:23-25**

*After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took the robe, which was made of one piece of woven cloth without any seams in it. The soldiers said to one another, "Let's not tear it; let's throw dice to see who will get it." This happened in order to make the scripture come true: "They divided my clothes among themselves and gambled for my robe." And this is what the soldiers did*

#### **Let us pray.**

Father, we thank you that Jesus willingly allowed himself to be humiliated because of his deep commitment to each of us. He stretched out his arms of love on the hard wood of the cross so that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of Jesus and all that he endured for us; for the honour of your name. **Amen.**

### **JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS Mark 15:25-32**

*It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The notice of the accusation against him said: "The King of the Jews." They also crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left. People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus: "Aha! You were going to tear down the Temple and build it back up in three days! Now come down from the cross and save yourself!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the Law made fun of Jesus, saying to one another, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself! Let us see the Messiah, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him!"*

#### **Let us pray.**

Lord, remind us of the deathly cost of sin. Forgive us for those things we have done that are displeasing to you. Forgive us for not allowing you to deal with the darkness that we harbour in the hidden recesses of our hearts. Forgive us for fooling ourselves into believing that we are more righteous than we are, that we are better than others, and that we have no need to repent. Forgive us for those things we should have done, but found excuses not to do. Give us grace to humble ourselves before you, so that our sins may be laid bare and we may know your forgiveness. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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**JESUS DIES Mark 15:33-34, 37-39**

*At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?" With a loud cry Jesus died. The curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The army officer who was standing there in front of the cross saw how Jesus had died. "This man was really the Son of God!" he said*

**Let us pray.**

O God, you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and to deliver us from the power of the enemy by his glorious resurrection. May we die to sin each day, so that we may live forever with him who died and rose again for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**JESUS IS BURIED Matthew 27:57-60**

*When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea arrived; his name was Joseph, and he also was a disciple of Jesus. He went into the presence of Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate gave orders for the body to be given to Joseph.*

*So Joseph took it, wrapped it in a new linen sheet, and placed it in his own tomb, which he had just recently dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb and went away.*

**Let us pray.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, you rested in the tomb on the Sabbath day, and so sanctified the grave to be a bed of hope for your people. Lead us to sorrow for our sins, which were the cause of your suffering and death, and grant that when our bodies lie in the dust we may rise and live with you. Amen.