

# The Wylde and Till Valley Benefice

*Berwick St James, Great Wishford,  
Little Langford, South Newton, Stapleford,  
Steeple Langford, Stockton,  
Winterbourne Stoke and Wylde*



## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March Passion Sunday The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Dear Friends,

I hope all is well.

**Why is this Day of the Lord referred to as "Passion Sunday" and how does it serve as the gateway into Passiontide?**

With Passiontide we approach the conclusion of our Lenten journey, and so we intensify our focus and perhaps our emotion, shifting from the human Jesus to the glory of Christ

The Gospels now focus on the Passion of Our Lord. "Passion" in the Christian sense, does not just mean an intense emotion; the Passion describes what happened to Jesus at the end of his life, at a point when He stopped being a doer (preacher, teacher, healer, worker of signs and miracles), and became the man to whom things were done. That is, when Jesus became the object of other people's actions, rather than acting himself. The Passion therefore encompasses suffering, endurance, refusal to retaliate and also love – but expressed in human, physical form and of great intensity. In Catholic churches, one of the most striking changes in the Passiontide is that the crosses and statues are draped, as an outward sign of the Church's inward sorrow. It is not difficult to understand why the wailing garments are placed over the statues, which could distract us from the meditations of the Passion.

Jesus "*the doer*" is, perhaps more straightforward for us to understand. We can read and picture in our minds the healings, the conversations and travels of Jesus. But in the Passion of Our Lord, the time at the very end of His human ministry when He became the one who suffered, we now need to worship with the heart, for we are now contemplating not just what Jesus did that saves us, but what he was, and is and ever shall be.

### Services this Sunday

- 10:00am**      **Mothering Sunday ~ Zoom Service without Eucharist: Zoom materials will be confirmed separately. Non-Zoom materials to be included with this news sheet) preacher: Rev'd Louisa Halliday**
- 6:00pm**      **Zoom Evening Prayer for the Passion Sunday, Fifth Sunday in Lent, preacher Jenny Nelson**
- Wednesday**      **9:00pm Compline by Zoom**

## Please pray for

<b>The long-term need for prayer</b>	Ann Brierley (Stapleford), Pat Considine (Steeple Langford), Richard and Liz Dilnot (Stockton), Anton Funnell; June Howes (Wyllye), Phyllida Humphrey (Berwick St James); Sheena Pratt (Stapleford),
<b>The urgent sick</b>	
<b>The Departed</b>	Brian Haley (Steeple Langford), Gordon Emm (Stapleford), Joan Philipps (South Newton), June Atterton (Wyllye)
<b>To be Baptised</b>	
<b>Those in nursing homes</b>	
<b>Weddings</b>	

## From the Benefice Prayer Sheet

21	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent: Passion Sunday</b> We pray for the church and village community of Wyllye. We pray for the church and village community of Wyllye and Fisherton Delamere and their Churchwarden Roger Liddiard
22	Heavenly Father, maker of all living creatures, we ask you to bless all the pets within our community giving thanks for those who brings so much joy into our lives. Amen
23	Lord Jesus, the earth is yours and you have commanded the winds and the sea; help us to leave behind our consumer demand for plastics and move towards behaviours that are environmentally healthy; help us to follow your lead in caring for the world you love. Amen.
24	We pray for the church and village community of Stockton and their Churchwarden Richard Hewitt
25	<b>The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection, Amen
26	We pray for the church & village community of Steeple Langford & their Churchwardens Neil & Fiona Fox
27	We remember with gratitude the members and work of the local emergency services, the police, ambulance and fire services. Amen.
28	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
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 for ever.  
Amen*

**Monday is Jonathan's  
day off**

**Rev'd Jonathan Plows,**

**RECTOR**

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