

# ST BARNABAS RANMORE

The Cathedral in the Woods  
RH5 6SP

newsletter for  
Holy Week

March 2026



ON March 29th at 11.00 a.m. The Rev'd Caroline Lazenby will preside at a Said Eucharist for Palm Sunday which is the start of the most sacred week of the Christian year.

On that day in the year 30 AD two processions entered Jerusalem. From the west the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, rode at the front of imperial Rome's best of best cavalry and soldiers. Pilate's procession was all about the power of the Roman Empire; all this pomp and ceremony was designed to be impressive and oppressive.

The massive horses, the soldiers' armour, weapons, banners, golden eagles on poles, the beating of drums. The troops were there to reinforce the Roman garrison permanently stationed in Jerusalem and which overlooked the temple. Pilate lived on the coast, about 60 miles away in Caesarea and he found that new city much more pleasant than Jerusalem which was inland and often very hostile as indeed that Palm Sunday a lot of the onlookers were towards the Roman procession.

Whilst all this was going on in the west of Jerusalem, to the East of the city Jesus rode a colt down the Mount of Olives. Jesus with his followers had come from Galilee and all along the way they had been talking about the Kingdom of God reinforcing Jesus' main purpose of pointing the way to Jerusalem and all that would happen there during the coming sacred week.

And so these two processions serve to show the central conflict leading to Jesus being crucified. Jesus had planned his procession in advance and surrounded by followers and sympathisers shouting and laying palms and cloaks along the way in front of him, made at once a connection with the prophet Zechariah in verse 9:9 who spoke of a king coming mounted on a colt and who would bring peace.

Here are we over 2000 years later still reading and reflecting and praying through Holy Week, still deeply shocked and saddened at the events unfolding through the week. Jesus knew exactly how his life would play out and the Gospels show us at the same time the disciples lack of understanding, sometimes even misunderstanding. At the same time the Gospels show an absolute understanding by Jesus of exactly what was going on, where he was going, what was going to happen to him, and why.

We must remember though that there is a place in this story for us. And so once again we shoulder the crosses of our own making and walk with Jesus into the darkness of these next six days. But there again, we know how the story ends, as indeed Jesus did way before us. We have the hope and the joy of knowing on Easter morning Jesus will be alive and among us and eternal life is on offer to us.

Jesus is not a figure from the past, he lives with us today in our present and what a message of hope that is for us all.

With reference to *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan

**THE TRAITORS**

A Tenebrae Sequence  
of music and readings  
for Holy Week

**1 April 2026**  
7-8pm

sung by  
**The Whyte Effect**

**FREE ENTRY**  
All seats unreserved

St Barnabas' Church  
Ranmore RH5 6SP

Retiring collection for church funds

ON Wednesday April 1st at 7.00 p.m. The Whyte Effect will present the **Tenebrae Meditation**.

Nicholas Yates, Principal conductor, writes "After four very successful Tenebrae meditations, The Whyte Effect is returning to St Barnabas to do a further one on Wednesday 1 April at 7pm.

Like the story of Holy Week, the evening moves from light to darkness; as the evening light fades, the candles on our Tenebrae hearse (the Lenten candelabra) are gradually extinguished. The text for this year is completely new and explores what it is to be a traitor, and whether Judas was actually a traitor at all or a 'faithful'. If you have watched the BBC's *The Traitors*, you will have some inkling as to what we will be exploring during the sequence.

This music this year includes Tenebrae Responsories written by the 16th century Spanish Renaissance composer, Tomás Luis de Victoria (which has the following text, referring to Judas "this wicked sign was given by him who committed murder with a kiss")

and pieces by Stanford, Gesualdo and Purcell.

We are also performing *Domine, quis habitabit Ill* by our namesake, Robert White. This is a phenomenal piece and I hope you will all come just to hear that.

Christ Watts has kindly agreed to be the narrator, and Robin Luff and Carolyn Bourton will be reading the poems.

The sequence, which is not a service but is devotional, will be powerful and emotionally charged and last for approximately an hour followed by a drinks reception. There is no charge for entry but there will be a retiring collection for church funds.

An advertising campaign is in train to promote this event as part of St Barnabas reaching out to the wider community and encouraging people who do not know us and what we do to come into our church. If anyone would like any posters to distribute there are some at the back of the church.

Please do come and bring friends and family, and if transportation is an issue for you please let us know and we will endeavour to arrange a lift. We would like as many people as possible to come to what promises to be an excellent, and not long, evening.

ON Friday April 3rd at 2.00 p.m. Rev'd Caroline will lead a Good Friday meditation which will focus on standing at the foot of the cross, reflecting on Jesus' suffering, sacrifice, and love, while acknowledging human brokenness. It is a time for quiet reflection on forgiveness, mercy, and the promise of hope, even in the darkness.

ON Sunday April 5th at 11.00 a.m. Rev'd Caroline will preside at a Said Eucharist on Easter Sunday. On this day churches will celebrate because Jesus died for our sins and then rose again.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

John 3.16