

What's on

Coming Up

Concert - Saturday 28th March, St Mary's Church, Elmley Castle, Music from Pershore Town Choir and the Harp and Vocals duo 'Stray Threads'. Tickets £10 from the Pershore Town Choir Website, or QR code from the poster or on the door which includes refreshments. Proceeds to Parish and West Midland Air Ambulance.

Good Friday - 3rd April

An Hour Before the Cross St Mary's Church 12pm

An hour of readings, music, silence around the cross will take place at St Mary's Elmley Castle at 12pm. A wonderful way to prepare ourselves for the Good Friday Service or to keep a Good Friday observance if one is unable to walk up Bredon Hill. All welcome

Procession to Service on Bredon Hill

Walkers will depart from the St Mary's bottom gate at 1.15 pm for a slow walk up with Bishop Hugh who will speaking at our Good Friday Service on Bredon Hill.

The ground is very soft on the Hill and no vehicles will be allowed on the site (except the musicians' mini bus). The Ashton bus and Overbury Land Rovers will be stopping either at Lalu Farm or at the gate to the site depending on the how soft the ground to turn on is. **Anyone getting a lift needs to be able to walk up to ½ mile** from the drop off point to the site of the service.

Please email content for the next Link News to rectoryoffice@btinternet.com by Wednesday 2025. Contributions from all villages welcomed. Thank you.

Please note that the rectory office is manned on Wednesday mornings 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

Link News is sent to all Church members whose email addresses we have. If you would like to forward it to a friend, please feel free to do so. If you know of someone who would like to be included in the mailing list, please ask

Sunday 22nd March, 5th Sunday of Lent and Sunday 29th March, Palm Sunday



“When in April the sweet showers fall and pierce the drought of March to the root.... Then people long to go on pilgrimages and specially, from every shire's end of England, down to Canterbury they wend to seek the holy blissful martyr, quick to give his help to them when they were sick”

Whether Chaucer is still studied these days I cannot imagine, but I recall getting to grips with Middle English and recent events have reminded me of the Canterbury Tales.

As I am sure you know, on Wednesday 25th March Archbishop Sarah will be Installed as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury being the first woman to have held that office. In preparation and for the first time in modern history ++Sarah has undertaken a walking pilgrimage from London to Canterbury. You can find details online and I am sure it will feature on the national news. I have found this a reassuring initiative. I have no doubt she could have travelled by car, driven there in comfort but taking the very old call to be a pilgrim and suffer the pilgrim's indignities of blisters, exposure to wind and weather and the gaze of cynics and supporters alike, it is this she has chosen.

And in that she follows directly in the way of Christ, as someone noted, “we do not follow a Jesus who walked and left no footprints”. The mood of Lent darkens noticeably on Sunday as Passiontide begins. The traumatic death of Lazarus and his return to this life after three days in a tomb whilst ending on something of a high provokes deep anger in the powers that be in Jerusalem and Jesus withdraws, hiding himself far away from the city for a few days. On her journey Sarah is carrying a simple wooden shepherd's crook on which the wondrous crozier she will be holding on Wednesday is based. A weapon to see off a wolf from the flock, a hook to rescue a lamb fallen into a gully and a guide for the whole flock in difficult terrain.

Journeys will feature in several ways over the coming weeks, Messy Church will reenact the Palm Sunday procession, Good Friday the walk on the Way of Sorrows to Calvary, and on Resurrection Sunday our journey to church will be like those of the women to the (empty) tomb who returned in joy.

May God grant peace to all pilgrims.

Amen
Peter Hayes

From the Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*. Chaucer

Readings and Collects

Sunday 22nd March

Readings

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Psalms: 130

Romans 8: 6-11

John 11: 1-45

Collect:

Gracious Father

You gave up your Son out of love for the world. Lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood. Jesus Christ our Lord

Sunday 29th March

Readings

Matthew 21: 1-11

Philippians 2: 5-11

Collect:

True and humble King, hailed by the crowd as Messiah; grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the way of glory

We pray . . .

For all in our community who are sick or in long term care:

- Rev'd Peter Mkengi
- Bob Davies
- Bill Ettridge
- Anthony
- Yvonne Seward
- All in residential and care homes
- All who live with chronic conditions

We remember the loss of loved ones

Those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

John Cook

*May the souls of the faithful departed,
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

World Water Day (22nd March)

Lord, we pray for all those around the world without access to clean water. Give thanks for those charities who work to change this inequality and help to ensure everyone can drink fresh water and remain healthy.

For our neighbours in Mongcroft Road and Quay Lane

Loving God, bless our neighbours with peace in their homes and joy in their hearts. May kindness flow freely between us, and may we be quick to listen, slow to judge, and eager to help. Let our street be a place where compassion is stronger than conflict, and where every person feels valued and safe. Amen

For Palm Sunday

Dear Lord, as we celebrate Palm Sunday, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and reverence. Help us to reflect on the significance of this day, when Jesus entered Jerusalem as a humble King. May we remember his sacrifice and the love that led him to the cross. Fill our hearts with humility and gratitude as we walk through this Holy Week, Amen



Sunday 22nd March

9.00 am Great Comberton - Holy Communion

10.45 am Defford - Holy Communion

10.45 am Bredon - Holy Communion

10.45 am Ashton-under-Hill - Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th March

10.00 am Little Comberton - Northumbrian Morning Prayer

10:00 am Overbury - Holy Communion

Sunday 29th March

10.00 am Elmley Castle - Holy Communion

10.00 am Overbury - Holy Communion and Procession

10.45 am Eckington - All Age Family Service

10.45 am Bredon - Holy Procession and Reading the Passion

3.00 pm Elmley Castle - Messy Church

Wednesday 1st April

10.00 am Iona Morning Prayer

An Invitation to Christ Eucharist in the Cathedral from Bishop Hugh

Monday 30th March at 11.00 am

I am very much looking forward to being with you for this service for the first time. This service is the only time that all diocesan clergy gather to worship together during the year, and I very much hope that all licensed priests and deacons will be present and that you will choose to make it a priority. .

During the service, we will have the opportunity to renew the vows that we each made at our ordinations, and to reaffirm our commitment to the calls Christ has made on our lives as deacons, priests and bishops

The service is open to everyone, and you are very welcome to invite others to come. I realise that the service is at a difficult time for clergy and others in secular employment but if they are able to come, they will be doubly welcome.

I should be grateful if clergy and LLMs would robe. In this service we are affirming our relationship to one another as licensed and ordained ministers. Robing will happen in the Chapter House of the Cathedral. You are invited to wear either cassock, surplice and white stole/preaching scarf or a cassock-alb with white stole. Readers are invited to wear the equivalent with a blue scarf.

A simple lunch will be available after the service which will be in College Hall, off the Cloisters. Please would incumbents e-mail the information to Fleur Fisher on ffisher@cofe-worcester.org.uk by Friday 13 March

With every blessing

+ Hugh