



The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford

Sunday April 5 2020

Palm Sunday

www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk

www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchOldswinford.



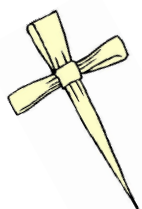
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Welcome to the pewsheet which covers Holy Week 2020 and begins with Palm Sunday. This will be a Holy Week like no other we have experienced. I was talking on the phone to one of our oldest parishioners just after we had been told that the church had to be closed up, 'even during the War the churches were open!' she said, 'even then there were services to go to!' I have been puzzling over how to think positively about all the restrictions, limitations and separations this pandemic is requiring of us. The following is one possible way to solve that puzzle.

In a wonderful sermon on Mothering Sunday, Rev'd Doctor Sam Wells of St Martin in the Fields talked about the old-fashioned word for the latter stages of pregnancy: 'confinement'. He drew parallels between the two kinds of 'confinement'. The current situation in which so many of us are 'confined': required to live separately, isolated from usual human contacts and regular patterns of life, and the struggle, agony and labour that precedes 'the single most wonderful thing about life': birth. He said: 'In the midst of our sadness, suffering and bewilderment today, maybe we could think of this time like a child in the womb, growing in hidden ways, drawing on unknown resources, discovering our true identity and preparing for what is to come.' [Click on this link to hear the full version of this sermon.](#)

Before the lockdown we planned to hold a children's activity afternoon and, as part of that planning, we ordered some kits which contained very tiny caterpillars. Over the last two weeks the tiny creatures ate and grew and changed. They became busy, spiky, munching beings and now they are rapidly turning into chrysalises; dull, brown, lifeless-looking envelopes suspended from the lids of their little containers. It is very hard to imagine the butterflies forming inside them. But this is the promise of Spring – and its miracle.



The Magnolia by the church door is faithfully in full bloom again, those wonderful waxy flowers having emerged from the dull buds.



I pray that in this new month of April we will be able to 'know, feel and remember how hope comes close in the depths, bringing Jesus's light, life and love.' (Peter Traaben Haas). In the days of confinement still to come, may you experience God's presence in new, unexpected ways. And when we emerge together in the seasons to come then we will celebrate again Christ's resurrection in us. *Rev'd John*





Before the morning service for Palm Sunday begins make sure you have last year's palm cross with you or if not a piece of foliage from the garden or a new palm cross that you have made yourself for this year which you could decorate and add a prayer to. Send us a picture and we'll make an online collection so we can see each others.

Collect for this week:

Almighty and ever living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Palms

Matt 21. 1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately. This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"
The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The New Testament Reading

Philippians 2. 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 27: 11-54

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place

of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord
PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

Post Communion Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

We invite you to offer prayers for

Worldwide Church:

The Province of the Indian Ocean: Archbishop James Wong Yin Song Uppsala (Sweden):
Archbishop Antje Jackelén, Bishop Karin Johannesson

Churches Together: The Stourbridge Foodbank

The work of St Mary's.....

At this most challenging of times, we pray for all those who work in our NHS. The doctors and nurses, but also all those who support them – the healthcare assistants, porters, receptionists, managers, catering staff and cleaners. Pray also for all those who work in social care, working in residential centres and visiting people in their homes to make sure some of the most vulnerable in our communities continue to be looked after through the pandemic. We pray that healthcare workers will find the strength to make the right decisions in difficult circumstances and the time to look after themselves as well as others.

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life, be with doctors, nurses and carers, as they act as agents of your healing touch. In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving; and when their work is done, be with them in their weariness and in their tears. Amen.

Those living in:

Arlington Court and Redhill Drive

Local Community: Oriel House Care Home

Among those who are ill:

Mavis Kynaston, Brian Drew, Peter & Angela Viner, Mary Joyce Tolley, Sam and Natalie Jones, Jill Finney, David Johnson and Norma Haden

We continue to pray for:

Colin Millward, Pamela Peacock, Josh Raffan, Ian Moore, Judy Taylor, Joe and Ros Yeates, Rory Macintosh, Elian Irvine-Boden, Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan Bryan, Noah Cantius, Dennis Noakes, the May family, the Rogerson family, Heather and Alex.

Those in nursing home care:

Dorothy Gibson, Melitta Ling and Betty Shore.

The departed:

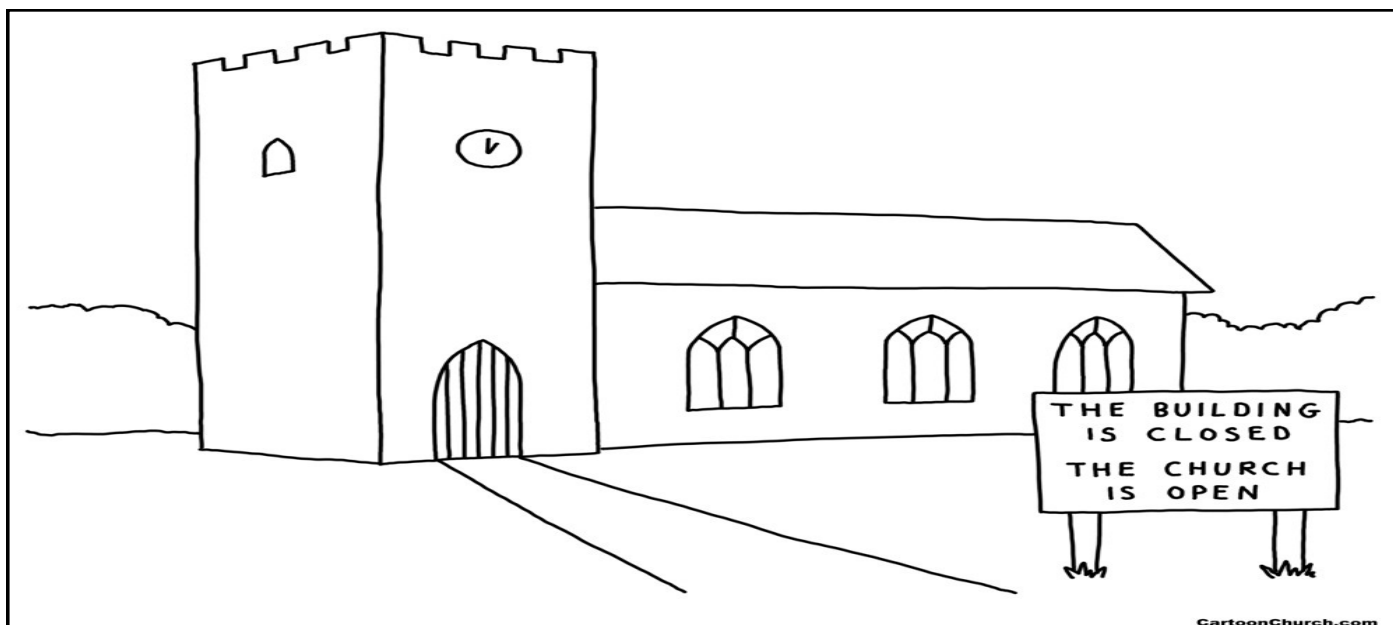
Dominic Haskew, Janet Daker and Olive Guest

In memoriam:

Alec Beevers (10.4.19) Bernard Waldron (11.4.19)



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*



We have been continuing to make live broadcasts of some services through Facebook and copies of those services are shown on the website page labelled as videos www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk/videos/

A live broadcast of our Sunday morning service of Holy Communion will be made through our Facebook page and again this will be saved and then uploaded to our website as soon as possible afterwards.

[This is the link to our Facebook page.](#) You don't need to be a member of Facebook to view the broadcast.

Copies of the collect and readings are shown on this news sheet for you to use.

The church, church hall, coach house and parish office all remain closed but John is working from home and can still be contacted through e mail and the usual parish office telephone number. Revd John and Revd Alex are also working from home but can still be contacted via their usual phone and e mail contacts.

If you know of anybody who is in particular need then a group called Stourbridge Community Support Group will be able to help. You can contact them by direct messaging them through their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StourbridgeCS> or by phoning 01384 812761

STAY AT HOME 

**PROTECT
THE NHS**



**save
lives**

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (where this absolutely cannot be done from home)
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

As we enter Holy Week we hope to still run as many of the services as we had originally planned but as Facebook live broadcasts which will be posted as recordings on the videos page of the church website. You don't need to be a member of Facebook to watch the broadcasts.



Monday - 7.00pm Reflections and Meditation with Compline.

Tuesday— 7.00pm Reflections and Meditation with Compline.

Wednesday—7.00pm Reflections and Meditation with Compline

Thursday—10.30am Holy Communion service from the BCP

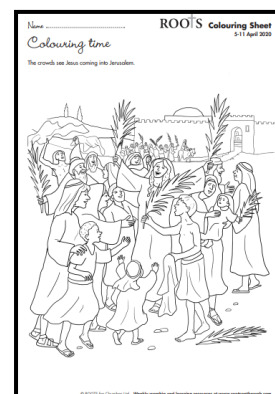
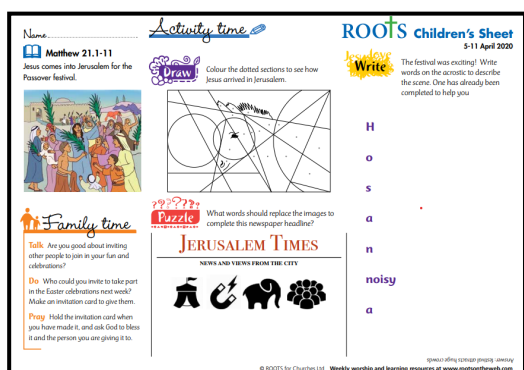
Friday— 2.00pm Reflections and meditation

Father in heaven, as your people prepare once more to follow the events of this Holy Week, may we be led by your spirit to deeper insights into your love and saving grace; that we may love you more and serve you better, for the sake of him who died for us and rose again, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

For children.....

The Roots materials that we use with our Children Together Group on a Sunday are available to use from the website www.rootsontheweb.com

Amongst other ideas and suggestions are two activity sheets as shown below. Click on the link below the thumbnail to access the webpage where these can be downloaded and printed.



<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20308/05-apr-2020-childrens-sheet.pdf>

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20327/05-apr-2020-colouring-sheet.pdf>