



*Welcome to*  
St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton  
*Palm Sunday*  
*28.03 2021*

***Please pray for:-***

**The Residents of:** Wheelers Road, Wheelers Close, Wheelers Drive and Five Arches.

**The Sick:-** Miranda Cooper, Rose Stenner, Paul & Margaret Knott, Irene Leet, Fr Roy Boots, Nicholas Hambleton, Betty Chiplin, Ethan Horwood, Patricia Flagg, Pat Gilham, Bishop Peter Hancock, Vince Marriot, Christopher Watts, Faye McDermott, John Norman, Joan Martindale.

**The Departed:** Daphne Spooner

**Years Mind:-** (S) Leslie Cousins, Irene Doughty, Frank Taylor (M) Marion Whale, Peggy Merrilees, Arthur Groves (T) Lawrence Carter (Th) Rishard Lawrence, Aubrey Mills, Cicely Mills, David Davies, Helen Maberley, Ema smith (F) Elsie Edwards, Jack Wisbey, Sarah Tunstall (S) Florence Whittock.

## **The 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 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 for ever.

## **A Reading from the prophet Isaiah chapter 50 verses 4-9a**

The servant of the LORD said: The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Liturgy of Palms from the Gospel according to Mark chapter 11 v 1-11**

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.”’ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

### **A Reflection from Fr Guy**

In ‘normal’ times we would gather with our palm crosses and process into church, and then hear the reading of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. These are COVID times, far from normal, and we are challenged to reimagine how we do things. So, on this Palm Sunday we forego the reading of our

Lord's Passion (and a sermon), and offer you this sonnet by Malcolm Guite, in which we are invited to consider the part we played on Palm Sunday.

### **Palm Sunday**

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,  
The seething holy city of my heart,  
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?  
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;  
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,  
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find  
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing  
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind  
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;  
Self- interest, and fearful guardedness,  
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,  
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness  
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come  
Break my resistance and make me your home.

From Sounding the Seasons, by Malcolm Guite,  
Canterbury 2012

### **Prayers of Intercession by Colin Tincknell**

O Lord as we approach Holy Week, we give thanks that through your Son Jesus Christ you became man and dwelt among us. Through your Son you gave us a template for our lives on earth. You gave your Son to die upon the Cross for our redemption and in His Glorious Ascension you provided a means for us

to enjoy eternal life. You gave us your Holy Spirit as advocate and guide for our time on earth. Throughout the world the Holy Church acclaims you: Father of majesty unbounded.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, dwell within us that we might increase our faith in you.

### **Lord n Your Mercy - Hear Our Prayer**

Lord we pray for the Church on earth that each one of us will live up to the template which your Son gave to us. When we fail, forgive us our sins and help us to return to you. On Maundy Thursday in the upper room in bread and wine you gave us a memorial of his death and passion for the sake of the world. Imagine if we were one of the disciples what Jesus, knowing our inmost hearts, would be saying to us as he lovingly washed our feet.

### **Lord in Your Mercy - Hear Our Prayer**

Lord we pray that you will intercede on behalf of the dispossessed, the hungry and those without hope in our World and in our locality. Let there be a fair sharing of your riches. Our pride in riches comes not from the Father but from the world. We know that the world and its desires are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever.

We think of all the children in our Country who do not have sufficient to eat, those who have lost so much education in the Covid pandemic and those who do not have facilities to study at home. We pray for all families in need and pray that society will not pass by on the other side and ignore their distress.

### **Lord in Your Mercy - Hear Our Prayer.**

Lord we pray for your community here at St John's. Increase our faith and trust in you. Help us to know that in doing our work we are doing your will and that in serving others, we are serving you. We pray for all those who are sick and especially those who have asked for our prayers at the time:

..... And those we remember who are known to us:

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

During Holy Week help us to reflect on your Son's death and the agony he experienced on the Cross which demonstrated your goodness to us.

We reflect and thank you that in your goodness you have given us our families and friends and those who enrich our lives. We give thanks for the work of Father Guy and Kate and pray that their Ministry is successful, and that in the days ahead they will become a full part of our lives and that with them our Church may move forward in bringing your love to everyone in the Parish.

**Lord in Your Mercy - Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for all who have died recently and those whose years mind occurs at this time. ....

May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

**Post Communion**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in 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**

## THIS WEEK

<b>TUESDAY</b> 30 March	10am – 12 Noon	Private Prayer
<b>THURSDAY</b> 01 April	7.00pm	<b>Liturgy of Maundy Thursday</b> with Watch of Prayer until 10pm
<b>FRIDAY</b>	12 Noon – 3pm	Private Prayer
<b>SUNDAY</b> 04 April	9.30 am	<b>Easter Eucharist</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b> 06 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00am – Noon 12 Noon	Private Prayer Said Eucharist

"The Vicar and PCC have reviewed our COVID-secure Risk Assessment and have revised our guidance on church attendance. From the beginning of April we anticipate that more of the congregation may wish to attend church in person. Social distancing measures remain in force so seating is limited and we ask if you wish to attend church on Sunday, you book a seat by contacting Carol Moore on 01761 412226 or [carolmoore226@yahoo.com](mailto:carolmoore226@yahoo.com)."

It has also been decided that as it is now possible for more people to come to church we will no longer be broadcasting the service on You Tube and Beth will not be sending the email version of the service either.

**Church Bench.** A huge 'Thank You' to Alan Gregory and Tony Daniels for refreshing our bench outside the church, it looks so much more inviting to sit there among the beautiful daffodils.

**Sally** has asked me to thank you on her behalf for all the lovely cards of condolence she has received from you and also for the lovely flowers that have filled her home since her mum Daphne died. Daphne's funeral will be at 1pm on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> April when unfortunately, because of Covid rulings attendance can be by invitation only but Sally is hoping that when restrictions are lifted later in the year we will be able to hold a service of celebration for Daphne's wonderful life.