

## Some Reflections for Palm Sunday

### Join the Crowd?

Crowds and mass movements of people can be a wonderful thing. I stood outside our house at 8pm on Thursday, and joined many of our neighbours, and people across the country, in showing our appreciation for the NHS, and for all those who are working hard, and putting themselves at risk, to care for others at this time.

It reminds us that small actions by lots of people working together can add up to something very powerful. In our villages, as in many places around the country, people are coming together in remarkable ways, to support one another, and to make sure that the most vulnerable in our communities get the help that they need.

On Palm Sunday we remember the gospel story of Jesus entering Jerusalem with his disciples, humbly riding on a donkey, reflecting the prophecy of Zephaniah:

See, your king comes to you ... lowly and riding on a donkey. (Ch. 9, v. 9)  
And the gospels tell of how the crowds coming into the city for a religious festival began to spread branches from the trees (palms) on the road in front of Jesus, and to cry out 'Hosanna', which means 'save' – Lord, save us.

But Palm Sunday is also the beginning of Holy Week, so, as we remember the crowd praising Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, we think also of the crowd just a few days later that cried 'Crucify him'. Could it be possible that some of the same people were drawn into the actions of both those crowds, first to praise Jesus, and then so soon afterwards to scream for him to be put to death?

In worrying and difficult times we often see the very best and the worst of what humanity can be. That is true in our present situation, as it was in the time of Jesus. Whatever any of us can do as individuals may feel very small, but it can become part of something powerful when many of us act together – either for good, or for evil. May we seek God's guidance and strength to act, individually and together, to humbly serve our neighbour as we serve God.

Revd John Waller

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.