

In & around the Benefice....

28th March | Palm Sunday

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www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.org



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Note our new website!!

HOLY WEEK

Please join us for our Palm Sunday Benefice Worship Service

Live-streamed from St Margaret's, Denton at 10.00 am on Sunday 28th March

Please watch it by following this link: <https://youtu.be/tnpHemhXRHo>

The service booklet is attached with this newsletter and available on the website.

The service will be followed by Zoom coffee at 11.00am:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87328553009?pwd=MCsvUjJlTmJxcXBDQl9aMzdCa2pkdz09>
Meeting ID: 873 2855 3009, Passcode: 624107

Our **Sunday sermon** can be listened to via 'Dial-a-Sermon' on **01604 263361**.

This is the cost of a normal local call from either your landline or mobile.

There will be a short welcome message - wait on the line for a moment and you will hear from Rev Amanda this week with the Gospel reading followed by the sermon.

Monday - Wednesday: Compline (Night Prayer) pre recorded services at : <https://youtu.be/RJv9rXW7bvI>

Compline will be said in the Benefice on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week from 8pm. Join in, either at 8pm in the knowledge that you are praying with others, or at a time which suits you.

A short booklet is available on our website (and attached with this newsletter) which can be printed or followed along on screen to enable you to join in with the service.

Maundy Thursday: Compline service on Zoom from 8pm with the Maundy Thursday readings

You might like to bring a bowl of water and towel to prayerfully allow Jesus to wash your feet. This service will conclude with an invitation to go out to your garden, or look out to the garden to 'Watch,' remembering that Jesus asked the disciples to watch and pray whilst he prayed to the Father in the garden of Gethsemane. There is a '**Watch Reading**' attached with this newsletter which you might like to use for this. I'll be putting the chimnea on in the Rectory garden as it will be cool at that time of the evening, but I have experienced this to be a holy space indeed.

The link for this service is as follows: Topic: Maundy Thursday Compline Time: Apr 1, 2021 20:00 London
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83737781080?pwd=NzNYZyB2azBpZC9PK1BzSII3emxBUT09>
Meeting ID: 837 3778 1080, Passcode: 088895
Or by phone on **013141601196** with the Meeting ID: 837 3778 1080 and Passcode: 088895

Good Friday: Rev Morna and Rev Amanda will be in the churchyards at the following times to lead a short act of worship at the foot of the cross - do come and join us:

10.00am St Margaret of Antioch, Denton
11.00am St Mary the Virgin, Whiston
12:30pm St Mary's, Grendon
1:45pm St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby
2:45pm St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES 4th April

St Mary's, Grendon	6.00am
St Mary the Virgin, Whiston	8.00am
St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby	10.00am
St Margaret's, Denton	10.00am
St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings	10.00am

Space will be limited due to social-distancing requirements so please contact a churchwarden to reserve your place.

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- Each of our village communities in lockdown
- All who are lonely, fearful and anxious
- All who are ill in body, mind or spirit
- All those who are affected by COVID-19 in any way
- Pubs and other businesses in our area who may be finding these times difficult
- Our schools (Grendon C of E Primary School, Denton Primary School and Yardley Hastings Primary School), their Headteachers, teachers, staff and pupils
- Young people struggling with doing schooling in challenging conditions
- The parents within our benefice, trying to work from home whilst teaching their children and keeping the home running
- The government and wider MPs as they lead our nation through these complex times
- The mass protests in Myanmar following the military coup, for all who have lost their lives in the protest, or whose lives are in danger.
- Those who are in residential care or housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- Those struggling in body, mind or spirit, among them: John Payne (Yardley Hastings URC), Jenny Payne, Judith Keggins, Jane Cave, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Jo Cawley, Michelle Wright, Peter Vaughan and family
- The recently departed, amongst them Sue Good, Patricia Fraiel, Pauline De Bell, Joyce Moore (Denton) and Tom Stock, and all who grieve at this time

LENT GROUPS

Photographing Lent

The theme for the final week of the photography challenge is '**Love**'

Do share your photographs with us on Twitter (@BeneficeYardley) or on our Facebook pages.



If you would like an opportunity to meet and share your photographs, (including those from last week's theme of '**Darkness**') we will meet over Zoom on **Thursday 1st April from 7pm**

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83336619686?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83336619686?pwd=WXR0MmxDcUovYmFJUUZKcEFa05jZz09)

[pwd=WXR0MmxDcUovYmFJUUZKcEFa05jZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83336619686?pwd=WXR0MmxDcUovYmFJUUZKcEFa05jZz09)

with Meeting ID: 833 3661 9686 and Passcode: 278836

Crafting Lent:
Threads and reflections around the Lenten journey.

Crafting lent on Tuesday 23rd used paper craft to make a palm cross and palm rose while we thought about the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem and how a few days later the crowd turned against him. After we had finished our craft we listened to a sonnet by Malcolm Guite taken from *Sounding the Seasons*:

A Sonnet for 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



The final crafting lent is on **Tuesday 30th March at 2pm:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85311974392?pwd=bjFvQjZVWkFVM0JNR1dnSmRsdWlvUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 1197 4392, Passcode: 541782

HOLY WEEK FOR THE CHILDREN



[Click here for a whole host of ideas for Holy Week activities for the children to try at home](#)

EASTER TRAILS have been prepared in Grendon, Denton and Yardley Hastings:

GRENDON - Everyone is warmly invited to join in the trail to discover what happened in Holy Week.... The trail will be available from Palm Sunday until Easter Sunday and begins at 57 Main Road. You can do the whole trail in one go but are encouraged to visit the Easter Garden in the Churchyard and add something to it on Easter Sunday (this can be anything you like from a painted stone, a plant, a cross you have made or.....)

There will be items to collect on the trail (all of which will have been prepared more than 72 hours in advance but please take care to sanitise your hands on the way round) & QR codes to scan to hear the Easter story.

Although by then 6 people or 2 households will be able to gather please respect social distancing at all times.

If you don't know the village very well, please visit the children's page of the website for a map of the addresses where you will find the clues.

DENTON - The Easter trail in Denton will run on Easter Saturday from 10.00am until 4.00pm. Entry forms will be available from outside the pub at 10.00am and on the website.

YARDLEY HASTINGS - Details have been circulated around the village.

What Can I join in with in our Benefice?

Sunday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Live streamed service at 10am	Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Monday	Morning Prayer @8:30am		Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Tuesday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Crafting Lent @2pm	Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Wednesday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Coffee Morning @9:30am	Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Thursday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Evening Prayer @5:30pm	Lent Photography @ 7pm

Morning or Evening Prayer - all welcome to join, please email Rev Morna for a Zoom link revmorna@gmail.com

Church coffee catch-up is on **Wednesday 31st March at 9.30am** please use these details to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85834704986?pwd=MGc0MiZoNzhMc1BlczBkVUJ6ZmdxUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 3470 4986, Passcode: 042623

and by telephone **0131 460 1196** using Meeting ID: 858 3470 4986 and Passcode: 042623

Book Club meets next on **Tuesday 6th April at 7.30pm**

We are now reading "*The Sealwoman's Gift*" by Sally Magnusson or "*The Thursday Murder Club*" by Richard Osman

What Can I join in with further afield?

Pre-Easter Quiet Day: 'Fig Trees and Overturned Tables' online with Launde Abbey on 29th March - more details here: <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/qd-04-21/>

A virtual prayer walk from Turvey Abbey <https://youtu.be/Y37XaiKi6A8>

Services at Peterborough Cathedral - for more information please click here: <https://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/services.aspx>

Church of England Church Online - for more information please click here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online>

The Church of England's free phone line with hymns, reflections and prayers - call 0800 804 8044

Listen and sing along to the hymn for the day - <https://www.rscm.org.uk/our-resources/hftd/>

Download the Daily Prayer app or Time to Pray app from your App Store which gives you services of prayer with set readings for the day.

BBC Radio 4 Prayer for the Day - Listen each day via the BBC Sounds App, here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000r3q5> or listen live on BBC Radio 4 at 5:43 each morning.

BBC Radio 4 Daily Service - Listen each day via the BBC Sounds App or listen live on BBC Radio 4 at 9:45 each weekday morning.

BBC Radio 2 Pause for Thought - Listen each weekday on the BBC Sounds App, here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p015nm0y/clips> or live on BBC Radio 2 at 9:20am.

BBC Radio 2 Good Morning Sunday - Listen each Sunday on the BBC Sounds App, here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006wqv4> or live on BBC Radio 2 each Sunday at 6:50am.

Songs of Praise - Watch on BBC Two at 1:15 each Sunday, or catch up on iPlayer.

Something Interesting to Read or Listen to?

If you haven't discovered it yet, please take a look at Rev Morna's blog, which she's aiming to keep up to date with a mixture of photographs, reflections and poems: <https://teaandtheology.org>

On Being (<https://onbeing.org/>) is full of interesting things to read or listen to with interviews from so many marvellous minds.

Poetry Unbound (<https://onbeing.org/series/poetry-unbound/>) is a series of podcasts with Padraig O Tuama reading and exploring a poem - they are wonderful and Rev Morna highly recommends them to you.

Great is Their Faithfulness by the World Vision Choir: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRXR2O_JBU&list=RDMM&start_radio=1

REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY. MARK 11 1-11

I don't know about you, but I hate returning items to the shops. I think this probably stems from the years I spent working in Debenhams where people would return all manner of things in all manner of conditions. I still struggle to this day and can't quite bring myself to return items I have bought online.

In Mark's gospel this morning, we hear how Jesus arrives in the city of Jerusalem, at a time when the city was in full feasting mood. Jesus arrives astride a young horse and there are people before him and behind him hailing him 'Hosanna' or saviour!!

All seems exciting, noisy, joyful, even euphoric. The crowd are welcoming their saviour, the one who is going to overthrow the Roman occupation and bring peace and prosperity. So, what happens next?

"Jesus entered Jerusalem – went to the temple and looked around at everything -then since it was late, he left Jerusalem and went back to Bethany with his 12 followers."

Mark is the only gospel writer who includes this last detail, the other 3 do not mention it.

So why did Mark think this was an important point?

What is Jesus doing here?

Was it just 'late in the day' – had everyone packed up and gone indoors?

Was he tired, – and ready for a bit of a break?

Was Jesus feeling utterly overwhelmed at the prospect of the next six days?

We don't really know – however at the beginning for our reading we hear how Jesus told the disciples to explain to the chaps questioning them about the loan of the young horse.

"that it would be returned immediately".

So, did Jesus have to honour his word and simply get the horse back to its owner? He could have sent the disciples back with it.

Or is there something here about returning things, getting things back to their rightful owner, and so was Jesus going back to Bethany to set things right, to re-focus on the climax of his mission here on earth, without those niggly, undone, unfinished bits of life hanging around?

Bethany was the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha, perhaps this was Jesus' safe place, perhaps he went back there to return the horse, tie up any loose ends, retreat and prepare for what His father had laid ahead from him.

As we look to prepare to walk with Jesus through Holy Week, are there any things we need to return to?

Are there any relationships that need healing, and people we need to re-connect with, say sorry to, to thank, and to check in with?



Let us all start Holy Week 2021 together, yet safely apart, by wiping the slate clean, returning what needs returning, healing scars we have created, and building bridges where we have torn them down. My prayer is that when we do meet at the foot of the cross, shed a tear in the tomb, and emerge into the dawn of Easter Day, that we receive a glorious sense of God's peace and his joy, that comes in the form of healing relationships, and in the Glory of the Risen Christ.

'Hosanna, hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'

Rev'd Amanda



The Collect

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

Amen

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Gospel reading

Mark 11: 1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

LITURGY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

First Reading

Isaiah 50: 4-9

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?

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASSION

Mark 15: 1-39

Hear the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord**

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'

He answered him, 'You say so.'

Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.'

But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked.

Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?'

For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?'

They shouted back, 'Crucify him!'

Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?'

But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!'

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

'Hail, King of the Jews!'

They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, '*The King of the Jews.*'

And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!'

In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.'

Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.'

And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.'

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

This is the passion of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

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