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# Section News

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23 JUNE 2021



**Reflection**

**Notices**

**Shoemakers**

## Superintendent's Thoughts

### BIBLE MONTH – WEEK 4 – MARK 11:1 – 16:8 – Passion Week



It seems strange to be thinking about Jesus' passion again so soon after Pentecost. The Bible Month material seems out of kilter, as we move into the long period in the church's year called Ordinary Time.

The narrative of these final chapters of Mark takes us from Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem right through to the resurrection (or, following some manuscripts, the commissioning of the disciples and accounts that the message delivered by them was accompanied by signs. In a book of sixteen chapters, six chapters are devoted to the last week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry. So, what are the emphases and

themes that the gospel invites us to consider in such detail?

Firstly, there continues to be an immediacy and a sense that time is running out... as Jesus entered Jerusalem "it was already late" (11:11) There are passages about the end times and the destruction of the Temple. These are coupled with both Jesus' actions and then parables that speak of the overturning of the *status quo*. Tables are thrown aside in the Temple; land is given to tenants who are not seen to be deserving and the widow's mite is seen as being far more significant than the offerings of the wealthy. Contributing to the sense of urgency and the need for preparation, "Be on guard, keep awake" (13:33) is the warning that no one knows when these turning points and challenges will come – only God knows...

Secondly, there are the elements of ritual in the lead up to the crucifixion which take on added significance when we have the whole story in front of us... Mirroring the baptism at the beginning of his ministry, Jesus is anointed at Bethany. Mirroring the Psalms, in Gethsemane there is prayer of both anguish and acceptance. There is the institution of the Lord's Supper which became and remains a central act of remembrance and thanksgiving of the Christian church. The words used by Jesus have a huge impact as we continue to use them some 2,000 years later..." Do this in remembrance of me..."

Thirdly, there is a continuation of the exploration of who Jesus is and what authority he holds. This should be seen in the context of the questions that Jesus previously asked the disciples about who they said he was and Peter's bold confession that "You are the Christ". This time the questions are addressed to Jesus as well as Peter. Jesus largely remains silent both in the face of the high priest's council and Pilate. He says only two things: one is to confirm to the council that he is "the Christ, the Son of the Blessed" and the second is to reply to Pilate's question as to whether he is the King of the Jews by saying, "You have said so." The contrast between silence and proclamation remains. Peter's reply is in complete contrast to his earlier outburst in terms of content, but not of passion... "I do not know this man of whom you speak" (14:71)

These are themes which have run throughout the gospel and which, I would suggest, give us food for thought in our own lives... Perhaps a starting point for us is found in the words of William Charter Piggott's hymn,

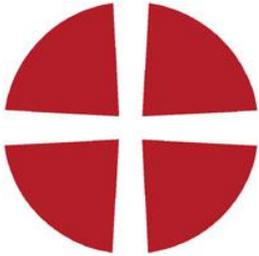
When to speak and when be silent,  
When to do and when forbear...?

# Notices

<b>Dates for the Diary</b>				
Week beginning	June 27 <sup>th</sup>	July 4 <sup>th</sup>	July 11 <sup>th</sup>	July 18 <sup>th</sup>
Sunday 4.00 pm <i>Reflection – a short 30-minute gathering using images, music and words led by Revd Rachel Borgars.</i>  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84235746908">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84235746908</a>		✓	✓	✓
Monday 7:30 pm <i>Discussion Group – originally called the ‘Hot Potatoes’ group, this is an opportunity to discuss current issues with some theology as part of the mix.</i>  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84961411119">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84961411119</a>		✓		✓
Tuesday 7:30 pm <i>Midweek Evening Prayer – based on the Methodist Worship Book led by Hungerford Methodist Church</i>  <a href="https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87344877369?pwd=YnYwQU50K1JuYzhkanBtQit3OU9XZz09">https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87344877369?pwd=YnYwQU50K1JuYzhkanBtQit3OU9XZz09</a> (Passcode: x3a55r)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thursday 7:30 pm <i>Circuit Bible Study – a more formal Bible study which usually meets monthly on the last Thursday in the month. During June we shall meet weekly following the Bible Month material.</i>  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88651459988">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88651459988</a>	✓ Bible Month			
Friday 9:15 am (based around Whitchurch & Kingsclere) <i>Prayer Group – an opportunity to pray together, bringing both joys and concerns in prayer.</i>  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82103846709">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82103846709</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p>If you would like to join in with any of these gatherings via telephone, please do ring me on 01256 895878 and I will give you the details to dial in via any telephone. I do hope you will join us, even if you haven't felt Zoom is for you up until now!!</p>				

## Pastoral News

**Please remember the following people and circumstances:**



For friends at Thatcham Methodist Church as they take the long-awaited step of recommencing worship in their own building following the roof collapse and subsequent repair and refurbishment project.

For the Presbyters and Deacons, who were due to be ordained in 2020 and had to wait until last week and for those who will be ordained this coming Sunday. We especially pray for the Revd Tracey Darling who was on a student placement in the Circuit and will be ordained at Coventry Central Hall on Sunday afternoon.

***“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10)***

# Shoemakers

CHRISTIAN BOOKS & COFFEE SHOP

Shoemakers is having a make-over.

This summer we will be freshening up the Shoemakers shop in the Arcade by giving the paintwork a thorough overhaul. And we need YOUR help!

We will be closing the shop from Monday 12 July, re-opening on Tuesday 27 July. The plan is to gather a painting party of volunteers who would be willing to spare whatever time they can during the fortnight to help us repaint the shop, inside and out.

If you could spare some time we would love to hear from you - please contact Steve in the shop

Phone: 01635 37836

Email: [office@christophershoeemaker.org.uk](mailto:office@christophershoeemaker.org.uk)  
or just pop in and see us!

Thank you so much for anything you can do!

**The Trustees of Shoemakers**

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**AND FINALLY (From Karen Frost who saw this on Facebook, from this month's Sorted magazine:**

Imagine Songs of Praise being moved to a commercial channel that allowed sponsorship. With that in mind, here are some of the strange things you might hear:

This week's Songs of Praise comes from the V&A, as we examine "*How Great Thou Art*."

And now the Specsavers award for the nation's favourite hymn goes to "*Be Thou My Vision*."

"*Crown Him With Many Crowns*" in conjunction with the British Dental Association.

In the news this week: Jeff Bezos has just re-released the popular John Newton hymn as "*Amazon Grace*."

Next up, "*There Is Power In The Name Of Jesus*" is brought to you by National Grid.

After the break, "*Low In The Grave He Lay*" will be performed by the Co-operative Funeral Service Band.

And now the Duraglit-Brasso Band brings us the timeless Graham Kendrick classic "*Shine Jesus Shine*."

Closing this week's Songs of Praise is "*Here Is Love Vast As The Ocean*" brought to you by P&O Ferries.