

Prayers

Lord, we are happy to join the crowd, waving branches,
but not so sure we want to follow you through this coming Holy Week:
into the temple courts, into the upper room
into the Garden of Gethsemane
to the high priest's house,
to the assembly of elders,
to Pilate, to Herod, to the place of The Skull,
to the foot of the cross.

We need you to go with us on this journey.
Grant us clear vision,
Courageous hearts,
Persistent steps.

We pray for those of our own community, our city and parish, for our neighbours and friends, those God has given us to love. Especially we pray for those who are sick, for the housebound and those self-isolating, and for all healthcare workers.

We pray for the homeless and vulnerable, and for the safety and protection of all.

We pray for those who have died recently, including Gillian Masdin, Norman Rosling, Colin Thrower, Gerry Wegg, Angie Twaite and Syd Clarke.

We remember those whose anniversary of death falls at this time:
Lavinia Eccles, Margaret Pearson, Ethel Allison, Elizabeth Saunders

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.**

Boiler Appeal

Many of you have been wonderfully generous in the last couple of months in response to our appeal for the church boiler. We have now raised **£3542** which takes us a long way towards the total of **£9489**. **Thank you!**

**For those paying by BACS: Lloyds Bank branch no 776601
account no 64549960 'St Margaret's Church (Old Catton) PCC'**

Foodbank

Some of you have for a long time, been wonderfully generous providing food and necessities for the Foodbank. With the church closed, donations can be taken to Linda Hazel, 1 Prior's Drive, and she will operate as a collecting point for the time being, and will take your offerings every week.

Some further Reflections

I have just received a mailing from Canon Keith James from the Cathedral which I will paste on the back of my letter which accompanies this sheet today. Material appropriate to Holy Week and for our Locked Down existence.



Weekly Worship and notices from St Margaret's, Old Catton

*Palm Sunday
5 April 2020*

Church Services are now suspended to help the effort to protect people from Coronavirus

It is with the greatest regret that we cannot now offer normal Sunday worship, or even funerals in church, but we are attending to directions from the Church of England and the Government. As part of our ministry in Old Catton, this comes with some worship material for you to use today.

The **BBC** is producing church services on Sunday mornings across TV and radio. On **Palm Sunday, 5 April**, there will be a service at 11.00 on BBC1 from Hereford Cathedral. On the **Church of England website** and the CofE Facebook page, a service at 9.00 am today is led by David Walker, Bishop of Manchester.

This church notice sheet is being circulated by email where possible and on paper also. If you receive a paper copy but **could** receive it by email please send me a request - adp07@btinternet.com. We continue to prepare services on Youtube which are at <https://www.photosdg.com/stmsvcs> **If you copy this link into Google, it should give you access to a short films service from the Vicarage, filmed by Derek Grasby**
Palm Crosses are available in the rack at the church gate, if you have not received one already. You can also pick up a paper copy of this order of service from there, and a Parish Magazine.

Unfortunately I can't email palm crosses!

Old Catton Parish Council are offering assistance; phone 01603 423880 (Mon-Fri 9 - 4) email clerk@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk CattonWatch: via Facebook (@CattonWatch)

Broadland District Council is offering practical advice and financial help for the vulnerable and elderly. Ring the Help Hub 01508 533933, and www.broadland.gov.uk or contact Cllr Karen Vincent 07881 365238 cllr.karen.vincent@broadland.gov.uk

A prayer for blessing of Palm Crosses

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die; let these palms be for us signs of his victory and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen



During Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we begin this solemn celebration. We recall how Jesus entered Jerusalem to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us in heart and mind go with him, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life..

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. **Amen.**

Matthew 21.1-11 Jesus enters Jerusalem

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.'

A few thoughts:

Today, churches across the world celebrate Palm Sunday. On any normal Palm Sunday we have a procession of Palms and in St Margaret's a wooden donkey leads it, usually with children riding it or pulling it.

It reminds us how Jesus borrowed a donkey, and rode into Jerusalem to widespread acclaim from the crowd that accompanied him.

Until this point, Jesus' ministry in Judaea had, largely, been met with bemusement. Hardly anyone seemed to understand who he was or what he had come to do. But when Jesus mounted the young donkey and rode it into Jerusalem this seemed to change. All of a sudden people seemed to know who he was, they shouted and sang and waved branches in recognition, which, even the day before, would have been almost inconceivable.

So what changed? What suddenly helped the crowd see who he really was?

Was it the donkey? There's no doubt that Jesus' mounting of the donkey at Bethany was not only important but planned. Jesus had pre-booked it – two disciples were sent to collect the creature that he had arranged to borrow.

Was it a triumphal entry? When Roman emperors, who had been victorious in battle, returned to Rome they rode in style on a white horse bringing with them all the people they had defeated along the way. So if this is meant to be a triumphal entry, it's a very odd one.

About 100 years before, there had been a rebellion against their Greek overlords and the Jewish nationalists threw them out; so when they returned to Jerusalem, the people did so waving palm branches and with harps and cymbals, stringed instruments and singing. There is an echo of this, maybe.

But the words they sang on Palm Sunday come from Psalm 118. '*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*'. It's all about a king returning from battle, being welcomed into the Temple in Jerusalem.

So as Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem, it seems that a number of ideas lined up. They remembered the triumph of the Maccabees. And they saw the donkey and remembered a prophecy of Zechariah about a king riding a donkey, and about God saving his people beginning on the Mount of Olives. As they went up to the temple, there were the traditional psalms to sing, and when they got to the words '*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*' you can imagine that the penny dropped. With a combination of distant memory, tradition, prophecy, song and visual symbolism, they saw things come together in a new way. They realised this was the man they'd waited to see.

Many people find that just occasionally they catch a glimpse of God, and of our place in the world; but then at other times it feels as if we are wandering in the fog, disorientated and unable to understand. For many of us, it feels like that at the moment as we are isolated and trying to stop the spread of the virus. Where is God in all this confusion?

Palm Sunday reminds us not only how people realised suddenly through memory, symbolism and shared action what God was doing among them, one day, so long ago. But as we tell again that story it gives us hope in the present, how God is still at work among us even amid our isolation and confusion.

God is at work among us; God will bring us together in understanding and common action. God in his gentleness will bring about his purposes.

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'

1. Daily reflections from Holy Monday through to Good Friday, written by Susanna Gunner

A painting, a short reflection and a prayer are offered to make connections between aspects of our Holy Week journey and the global pandemic which, this year, is inescapably our context for that journey.

<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/resource/holy-week-reflections/>

2. So much of our work and other contacts is now via screens and phones. Brian Draper's Midday Moment is a helpful oasis in the day. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF9Ig6JeFQKBtILatNNH66Q>

He has been producing emails during Lent with short reflections, prayers and practical actions – he is continuing to do this after Easter.

<http://briandraper.org/lent-2020-wilder-ness>

3. How to stay in virtual touch with older friends and family

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-51933618>

4. Many useful resources around church and covid-19 on the Heartedge website – from St. Martin's in the Fields <https://www.heartedge.org/>

5. A comment piece from Pete Phillips (Durham University) - some reflections on what we already know about the church in the online world

https://mcusercontent.com/d12dcf1ac0951a3d0a9c1829f/files/4de62329-3548-48d6-b456-d09fd5f04ae2/The_Church_Online.pdf

The Revd Canon Keith James



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Dear Friends,

You will be missing your church, your friends, your daily and weekly contacts and the support you get from your local community. It's a difficult time. But the life and prayers of the church still go on, and you, with all the health workers, are in my prayers.

Many of you also will be facing difficult financial pressures, uncertain businesses, threats to employment, while others will be financially a bit more secure.

As a church, we are trying our best to keep operating, to keep an eye out for our neighbours, to maintain worship as best we can, to prepare worship on paper and via email, and I would like to express my tremendous gratitude to Derek Grasby for his work in filming editing and uploading to Youtube acts of worship for you to follow at home, Sunday by Sunday. It is not without its flaws and challenges, but I know you are forgiving!

We do have serious financial pressures, however. We depend on the weekly or monthly giving of our congregation to pay our bills. Many of you made pledges, some time ago, to donate a regular amount, and undertook to bring an envelope to church with your giving. With the churches closed, we cannot at present pay our bills.

Nobody knows how long this is going to last, but this is a request to change your method of giving, so that it is done automatically by the bank. IT IS NOT A REQUEST FOR YOU TO RAISE YOUR GIVING, (much as we might like that!) and we know that for some people it is out of the question - believe me, that is all right!

But if you can, please help us through this difficult time by filling in the form opposite, and allow your bank to make payments directly on your behalf. We ask that it is sent to the PCC Treasurer, Alec Holliday, so that he can forward them on to the banks. Alec has taken the task only very recently and it will help him get a clearer idea of what the church's income is going to be, and what we can afford to pay in the coming months.

Many of you have responded magnificently to our boiler appeal, and I thank you for your generosity.

With my very best wishes,

Andrew Parsons

St Margaret's Church, Old Catton PCC Standing Order Form

To: (Bank/Building Society)

Address:

.....

..... Post Code

Your Account no:

Sort code: - -

Please pay to Lloyds Bank, Norwich, for the account of St Margaret's Old Catton PCC (Account No. 64549960) (Sort Code 77-66-01):

Amount (in words & figures): The sum of £(figures)

.....

.....(words)

on theday of.....

(month).....(year)

and a like sum each month / quarter / year *until further notice.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS REPLACES ANY PREVIOUS STANDING ORDER DECLARATIONS.

Signed :

Date :/...../.....

Please send this form either to me at the Vicarage, or to the PCC Treasurer, Alec Holliday, 22 Fifers Lane Norwich NR6 7AF so that forms can be forwarded to the bank. This will allow us to have a clearer grasp of the finances of the church at this difficult time.