

## Welcome to the second edition



Dear friends

**"HOUSEKEEPING NOTES"** – if you have any personal comments, requests or matters which you wish to share with Maureen, please email on her

personal email (see below) not via InTouch.

Please send to Adrian anything you like for the InTouch sheet so we can keep in touch with one another. Share anything which you feel may inform or be of interest to others - whether it's a joke, a favourite hymn, a funny story or requests for plants, etc. Please also, if you know of someone living near you who cannot receive this sheet by email, print off a copy and pop it through their letter box. Several members of our congregation are in this situation. We don't want them to feel left out, abandoned or forgotten!

There are many opportunities to join in worship – on the TV, on Facebook, on Youtube – there are some suggestions later on in this edition. Do take the opportunity to have a look to see what you would like to be part of. Even though we have no services in any of our five churches, perhaps you could look to see what is being offered by a church which you used to attend either until recently, or several years ago. It can be refreshing to experience different forms of worship, and increase our faith and understanding.

David and I continue to say Morning and Evening Prayer each day, so be assured that we are remembering all of you in our prayers, as well as everyone who is involved in the medical profession, all who are supporting the country in deliveries etc., and putting themselves and their families at risk; those on the front line in supermarkets and shops; and those who own businesses and who have set aside their usual form of production to help with producing safety protection items etc. So many people to pray for – the list can be quite overwhelming and exhausting, but we remember that God knows all this before we even open our mouths to pray, and so sometimes we sit in silence and listen for God's voice speaking to us, words of calm and peace and reassurance. In the words of Julian of Norwich *"All shall be well; and all shall be well; and all manner of things shall be well."*

Love

**Revd. Maureen**

## Palm Sunday



*Palm Sunday by Patrick J Murphy*

Sunday 5th April is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. Usually on this Sunday some of us gather a short distance from the church to commemorate Jesus's entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. If we have our palm crosses with us, we hold them up and they are blessed by whoever is leading us and then we hear what is called The Palm Gospel, this year from [St Matthew chapter 21 verses 1-11](#) (New Testament in the Bible, the first "book" of the four Gospels).

When we arrive in church to join those who are already there but have not been able to walk with us, we hear the words of the Collect for Palm Sunday.

*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.*

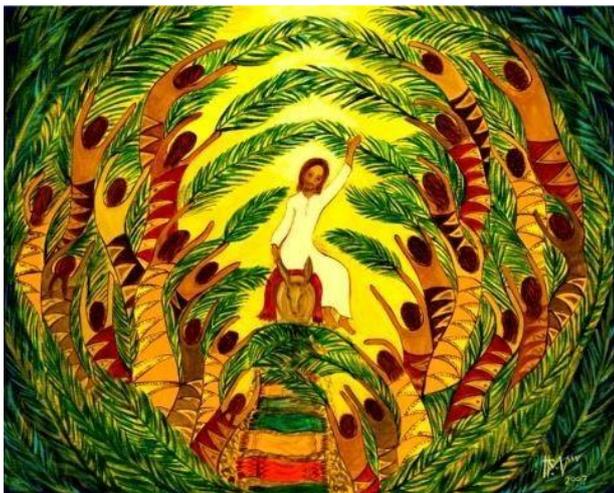
After this, usually, we have a dramatized reading of the Passion of Jesus which is very long and we have different voices taking the various "parts". However, this year I suggest that – if we wish – we just use the Collect and the reading from St Matthew mentioned above – unless anyone feels that they would like to read the longer version which is [Matthew chapter 26 verse 14 to chapter 27 verse 66](#)! This does cover the whole of the trial and passion of Jesus right up to the placing of his body in the tomb and the tomb being sealed. This could be read later on in Holy Week, and on Good Friday the dramatized reading set is the Passion Gospel from [St John chapter 18 verse 1 to chapter 19 verse 42](#).

## This week's Gospel



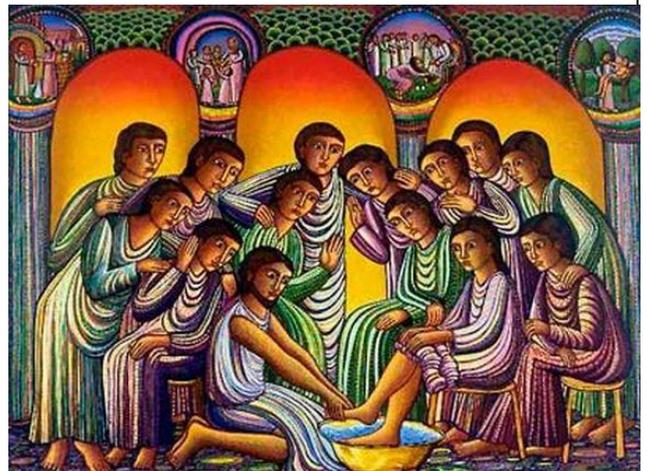
*Entry into the City by John August Swanson*

The **PALM SUNDAY** Gospel is interesting: in reading what St Matthew wrote, it appears that an arrangement had already been made with the donkey's owner for Jesus to use the donkey herself and her colt. There is the suggestion of a sort of password if questions were asked: "The Lord needs them". We are told that the crowd was very noisy and excited and that there were so many of them that they surrounded the donkey and colt in front and behind. They were shouting as they went, and caused quite a disturbance in the city as people asked who this person was who was on a donkey. And the crowd announced: "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee." There must have been lots of other people arriving in Jerusalem for the Passover, but perhaps not on donkeys – Jesus' way of arriving in humility rather than with pomp and force which was the way in which the Messiah was expected – to overthrow the Romans and free the Jews from the might and rule of Rome.



*Hosanna in the highest! By Hanna-Cheriyam Varghese. Acrylic/Canvas*

## Holy Week



*Washing of feet 2013 by John August Swanson*

**HOLY WEEK** is a time of great intensity, leading up to Maundy Thursday when we remember Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper; Jesus washing the disciples' feet and thereby showing them how they were to serve one another; and Judas leaving the meal to fetch soldiers and guards with weapons in order to betray Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. If we were able to be in church our service would include the priest washing the feet of those who wished to do this, the altar and surrounding area would be stripped of decoration and a few people would stay in the church for a short while or until midnight – as though "on watch" in the Garden of Gethsemane.



*Crucified Jesus by Carole Foret*

On **GOOD FRIDAY**, people would gather in the church to commemorate the trial, passion and death of Jesus on the cross with readings and prayers and then disperse quietly.

On Saturday, known as **HOLY SATURDAY**, or very early on Sunday morning there would be a Vigil service. This would begin outside the church in the darkness with the lighting of the Easter fire, and a large candle would be lit from this and ceremonially carried into church and placed on a stand. There would then be Bible readings from the Old and New Testaments, psalms and prayers; also our Baptismal promises would be renewed at the font, and a final hymn to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the tomb and heralding a day of great rejoicing.

**Our Prayers**

In our **PRAYERS** this week, we are asked to pray for the parishes of this Benefice of Bishops Lydeard, and particularly this week for the parish of St Mary; for members of the Prayer, Spirituality and Education Group; for the schools in our Benefice – Bishops Lydeard school and Lydeard St Lawrence – the children, staff and Governors; and also for those in our community who volunteer as Taunton Street Pastors. We pray, too, for anyone celebrating a birthday this week.



*Prayer by Sowjanya Sreeram*

Our prayers are also asked for those who are unwell: John, Gwen, Joan, Bobby, Lucinda, Norma, Marissa, Roger and Wendy; for all at Dunkirk House, that they may be kept safe and well and for any who are ill at this time: residents, staff and volunteers.

For those who mourn: Anna, and especially the families, neighbours and friends of Brian and Clare.

**Prayer for a Locked Church**

by Alan Amos, sometime vice principal of Westcott House theological college:

*Ah my dear Lord, the church is locked  
but let my heart be open to your presence;  
there let us make, you and I,  
your Easter garden;  
plant it with flowers,  
and let the heavy stone be rolled away. Amen.*

**News from Barbara**

I have been in touch with Dunkirk House Memorial Home, which has been in lockdown for 2 weeks. There are several residents with Coronavirus type symptoms. The staff are doing a heroic job, but have quite a few off work at present.

Roger's mother is well, and very mentally active, so various family phone her quite often throughout the day. Roger is happy and well.

In the village, Steve is in total isolation with his underlying renal transplant putting him in the very vulnerable category. Lots of people from Lydeard Mead and around here are in touch with him by phone and help.

**Barbara**

**From Yvonne and Charlie**



We are in need of tomato plants please, as we have the green house & no way of buying from shops. Is there anyone in the village who has spare plants to sell please? It is really the same for lettuce... the pick & come back variety as Charlie has 2 or 3 leaves every day!! We also didn't get to Otter before it shut so we have no seeds for parsnips, beans, beetroot, peas, carrots etc so if anyone has any to sell we would be grateful or if they know a reliable company we can order through?

Do thank those who put the newsletter together & especially the poem which made us smile!

May God bless you all and keep you all safe.

**Yvonne & Charlie**

**A thought from Mark Twain**

*"The two most important days in your life are the day you were born, and the day you find out why."*

### A request from Maggie

Please could I ask, if there is going to be a prayer part of 'In Touch', that my mum's name could be added? We are taking her into St. George's Care Home for the duration of this virus so that all her needs can be met and she is safe. Unfortunately, of course, we won't be able to visit. We've prayed hard about the best course of action for her at this very complicated time and the place was offered. Her name is Daphne Chilcott and she's 96.

Thank you. Keep safe and God bless.

**Maggie**

### And the people stayed home

"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.



And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."

**Kitty O'Meara**

### Online worship resources

We are most happy to recommend the following online worship.

#### St. Peter's, Taunton, online church

With Revd. Debbie Turley



Morning Prayers Tuesday at 09.00; Wednesday at 10.00 and Thursday at 09.00.

Compline Monday to Friday at 6.30pm .

Live on [Facebook](#) and recorded on [YouTube](#) ('Ninja Vicar').

#### St. James's Church, Piccadilly, London

Revd. Lucy Winkett



Sunday Service 29/03/20

1,173 views · Streamed live on Mar 29, 2020

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SHARE

SAVE

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Sunday Eucharist and an excellent sermon live at 11.00am, and recorded at any time - both on [YouTube](#). Other services throughout the week with details at <https://www.sjp.org.uk/>



The Diocese of Bath and Wells has a page with details of services being streamed over Holy Week and Easter here:

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/2020/04/holy-week-and-easter-at-home/>