



**St Andrew's Whittlesey, St Mary's Whittlesey,
St Thomas' Pondersbridge and Holy Trinity Coates**
Church of England Team Ministry:

www.wpcteam.org.uk

Sunday 28 March 2021

Services 28th March 2021 Palm Sunday (Red)

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
Holy Trinity Holy Communion
11.00 am St Mary's Holy Communion

Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 34: 11-20 Hebrews 5: 5-10 Passion Gospel Mark: Chapters 14 & 15

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**

Readings for Morning Prayer Monday 29th March - Saturday 3rd April 2021

Monday	Psalm 41	Lamentations 1.1 -12a	Luke 22. 1 - 23
Tuesday	Psalm 27	Lamentations 3. 1 -18	Luke 22. 39 - 53
Wednesday	Psalm 102	Jeremiah 11. 18 - 20	Luke 22. 54-end
Maundy Thursday	Psalm 42 & 43	Leviticus 16. 2-24	Luke 23. 1 - 25
Good Friday	Psalm 69	Genesis 22. 1-18	Hebrews 10. 1-10
Saturday	Psalm 142	Hosea 6.1-6	John 2. 18 - 22

Wednesday 31st March

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion Holy Trinity, Coates

Maundy Thursday – 1st April

7.30 pm Holy Communion Holy Trinity Coates
Followed by watching with Jesus in the garden and
9.30 pm Compline

Good Friday – 2nd April

2.00 pm Good Friday Reflections St Mary's

Saturday 3rd April

7.30 pm Easter Eve Vigil Holy Trinity Coates

(Holy Week Zoom services advised separately)

Services 4th April 2021. Easter Sunday (White)

09.30am	Zoom Holy Trinity	Morning Praise Holy Communion
11.00 am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

For members of St Andrew's and St Thomas' congregation who would like a face to face service (although duly masked) please join the worship at St Mary's or Holy Trinity.

A Prayer for Holy Week

Lord Jesus Christ, you were under no illusions about those you called to follow you. You knew that Judas would betray you, Peter deny you, and the rest of the disciples forsake you, yet still you continued on your way to the cross. We marvel at your amazing grace that goes beyond our understanding. Help us, as we recall the stories of Judas and Peter, to appreciate the wonder of your love for us who deserve so little, and in return to love you who deserves it so much. In your name we ask it. Amen.

Nick Fawcett

A Prayer for Good Friday

Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us that, living as we do in the light of Easter, we sometimes lose sight of the darkness of Good Friday. Remind us today that for those who saw the life slip from you as you hung on the cross, there could be no escaping the awfulness of the moment. You endured the pain of betrayal, the hurt of denial, the humiliation of mockery and, finally, the awful isolation of separation from your Father as you took our sins on your shoulders – and you did it for us. Lord Jesus we marvel at your love; at the fact that you were willing to go not just part of the way but the whole way to redeem the world. We marvel that you, in whom is life eternal, were willing to experience death so that we might taste life. Teach us today to appreciate the wonder of that sacrifice and to recognise all that it continues to mean in so many ways. Amen

Nick Fawcett

A prayer for those who mourn Gracious God, as we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus for daily use. Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving Prayer for Passiontide. Blessed are you Lord God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory for ever. As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief your only Son was lifted up that he might draw the whole world to himself. May we walk this day in the way of the cross and always be ready to share its weight, declaring your love for all the world. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Anniversaries 28th March to 3rd April

St Thomas': Frederick Ronald Snitch, 30th

Holy Trinity:

St Mary's: Lucy Bass, John Ernest Warren, 29th Brenda Winifred Cobb-Western,
Colin Alfred Harris, 2nd.

St Andrew's: Peter Evan Edwards, 28th James Arthur Foster, Dora Whitehead, 29th
Gwendoline Stratton, 30th Frank William Hill, 31st Dennis Bashford, Tony Papworth, 1st
Ivy Hilda Bennett, Arthur Malcolm Faithfull, 2nd

Please remember in your prayers those who are in residential homes, hospital or hospice & those known personally to us including:

Marie Rogers, Terry Randells, Emma Aindow-Gregory, Lizzie Monk, Joan Kefford,
Richard Willows, Joyce Jackson, Mary Widgery, Tony Barnett, Tom Cullup,
Eunice and Brian Smithyman, John Stutley, Liz Tuckey, Janet Dale, Ken Slote, Sue Taylor.

Please remember in your prayers those who have recently died and think of their family and friends:

Margaret (Peggy) Rees

Mavis Connor Funeral 30th March 12.15 pm at St Andrew's followed by burial at
Whittlesey Cemetery at 1 pm

Daphne Elliott Funeral 31st March 1.15 pm at St Mary's followed by Peterborough
Crematorium

Wendy Cumbridge Funeral 1st April 11.00 am at Peterborough Crematorium

Peggy Cox Funeral 6th April 11.30 am at Fenland Crematorium

We continue to remember in our prayers everyone who work in the NHS.

Think of those who have worked from home and managed to continue their children's education.

We pray for the people with leadership and responsibilities locally, nationally and internationally.

To support you with your daily prayer and contact with the wider church please make use of the following websites.

Church of England. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Prayer online. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Diocese of Ely. <https://www.elydiocese.org/>

Ely Cathedral. <https://www.elycathedral.org/worship-at-home>

Ministry Team - Contacts

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If there is anything that we can do to help, listen, collect something, pray, that will help you through this time please be assured that we will do our very best, please use contacts above.

Notices

Additions to Newsletter: If you have anything that you would like to share with members of our congregations through the Newsletter, please send to Susan Taylor the editor.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings:

St Andrew's: Wednesday 7th April at 7pm (Zoom)

St Thomas': Wednesday 14th April at 7.30 pm (Zoom)

St Mary's: Tuesday 18th May at 7.30 pm (Zoom or face to face tbc)

Holy Trinity: Wednesday 19th May (provisional)

Review of Electoral Rolls: Please contact your electoral roll officer if you want to be included or to change/delete your details from your respective Electoral Rolls.

2021 Lenten Collection -UNICEF Vaccination programme For our Lenten collection this year, in light of this current world wide Covid 19 pandemic, we will be supporting UNICEF. UNICEF are trying to have as many of their volunteers vaccinated so they can carry on with their worldwide vaccination of children. UNICEF says that - with help - they will deliver 2 billion Covid 19 vaccines for health workers and the most high risk people on our planet. From buying & transporting supplies through to administering the vaccine, financial donations will help deliver history. Our donations would help to ensure the vaccines get to even the remotest places in the world. £45 will provide 'cold chain' equipment to safely store 500 doses of vaccines - How many of these units could we manage to help them with? Pat Marston (07443867424) will be arranging the collection this year, so please decide in your hearts what you would like to give to this project, contact Pat to let her know, and when it is safe to do so arrange for your donation to be given to Pat who will collate the collection and keep track of how many units of 'cold chain' equipment we are able to help with. Roger will also be able to collect monies and cheques as he delivers newsletters.

Payments can be made at any time to Pat Marston. Ring her on 07443867424 to arrange delivery/collection. Cash in envelope please – just with the name of your church on the outside (your name is not necessary unless you wish to give it). Cheques – via Pat please (so we can accurately assess how many 'cold chain' units @ £45 we will have managed to contribute) made out to UNICEF UK – COVAX. If anyone is able to gift aid – just add 'gift aid – I am a UK taxpayer' to the back of your cheque or on your envelope. Our total will be announced mid/end April. Thank you all, Pat.

Please Support Our Raffle. St. Andrew's Church-The Thursday Club. We are having an Easter

Raffle – an Easter Basket - to raise funds for our Thursday Club which is an outreach helping those who are lonely and socially isolated in our local community. Once a month the group meets to share a meal with our guests and transport is provided for them. We have not been able to meet since February 2020 but keep in regular contact with our guests. Due to the pandemic we envisage an even greater need for the club, and currently are trying to build up funds to ensure the meals and transport are free for our guests. If you would like to take part in our raffle (booklet of five tickets for £5.00 or £1.00 a ticket) please call or email Chris McGowen <tel:351867> or email: cmcg993@gmail.com The raffle will take place on Easter Sunday. We really would appreciate your help. Roger Brown has very kindly agreed to collect any donations for raffle tickets as he delivers the Church Newsletter. Please have ready in an envelope marked for Easter Raffle with your name and telephone number. If there is any difficulty in sending money or cheque (made out to St.Andrew's Church) he is willing to come and collect it from you. Call Roger Brown tel:202884.

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Palm Sunday Mark Chapter 14 & 15

The six-year-old came home from Palm Sunday services proudly carrying his palm. Mom and Dad quizzed him on his Sunday School lesson for the day. He responded enthusiastically, "Jesus came to Jerusalem on a donkey and the happy people waved their palm branches and sang, O Suzanna..."

Happy people singing - what a special day! Jerusalem was going to be Camelot and Jesus was going to be King Arthur. The crowds were dreaming of trumpets and towers, capes and sashes, flowing robes and sparkling scepters. The disciples would be knights at the round table, shining in their armor, using might for right, battling evil. The rain would never fall till after sundown. By eight the morning fog would disappear in Camelot!

Would this be the day? As Jesus rode into his capital city tourists from all over Israel lined the street and cheered wildly. The faithful cut down palm branches and spread them over the road just as their ancestors had done over a century-and-a-half before in a rare moment of national triumph, when the Maccabees finally completed the overthrow of the Syrians. They had been horrible! Antiochus had forbidden the practice of the Jewish faith on pain of death. He had taken over the Jerusalem Temple and dedicated it to the worship of Zeus. After a 20-year guerilla war, the Jews finally won. Would this be de-ja-vu all over again? Would Jesus lead the conquest of the hated Romans? The crowds shouted, "Hosanna!" which means "Save us, please," or "Save us NOW!" "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! They shouted until they were hoarse. They laughed and cried and danced and sang - the disciples thought that it was the best day they had ever known.

The crowds lining the route of the procession should be commended for their enthusiasm. They were not there just because they loved a good parade, they were there because they wanted to believe. They had hope. Hope. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast". "Where there's life, there's hope" and they had it.

Good for them. The reality is that if we figure to survive in this world, we had better have hope. The ancients knew that. Do you remember Pandora? Mythology has her as a lady endowed with every charm, the gift of all the gods. She was sent to earth with a little box which she had been forbidden to open, but curiosity finally got the better of her, she lifted the lid and out from that box escaped every conceivable kind of terror. Pandora made haste to close the box up again, but it was too late. There was only one thing left...HOPE, even when all else is lost, there is still hope.

This was what had sustained the Israelite faithful from generation to generation. This was what energized the crowd along Jesus' parade route that day, but hope is apparently a fragile commodity. We know the story, by the end of the week the crowds will have disappeared and be replaced by a few faithful friends gathered on a hill outside Jerusalem called Calvary. What in the world happened?

Perhaps the answer is as simple as a loss of hope. It might have taken different forms for different people. For example, there were those in the crowd known as the Zealots whose top priority was ridding the land of Caesar. For them it was religious duty to drive the infidels out. They were looking for the coming Messiah to lead them into battle, riding in a chariot or mounted on a fiery stallion. But here comes Jesus riding on the colt of a donkey, a notably undersized farm animal. An adult man on a full grown donkey would almost have his feet scraping the ground. Hardly the image of the conquering hero. Goodbye, hope.

There were the religious leaders. Hope for them would have involved bidding a not-so-fond farewell to the Romans, but that was not their true priority. Truth be known, their deepest hope would have been for Jesus not to upset their apple cart. No chance. According to Mark's gospel, the day after the parade, Jesus came to the Temple and made a wreck of things.

We too need hope for 'Sunday's a Comin' (but that's a reflection for another day).
God Bless.

Rev Mike