

STANGROUND & FARCET C OF E CHURCHES  
**NEWSLETTER**

March 24<sup>th</sup> 2024



**READINGS FOR  
SUNDAY**

**24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Zachariah 9: 9 - 12

Philippians 2: 5 - 11

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 27: 1 - 54

**Palm Sunday Homily by Jackie Ashley**

How are you with crowds? Perhaps you get excited at the thought of a crowd - being caught up in the anticipation and excitement of a special occasion like seeing someone that you admire, perhaps a celebrity, a royal family member or a sports personality. You might enjoy sharing the atmosphere with hundreds of like-minded people all equally as keen and eager. Or maybe you find crowds rather intimidating and threatening. Today we reflect on the joyful crowds that welcome Jesus into Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover and the very different crowd that will call for him to be crucified by the end of this very week.

Today is Palm Sunday and all four gospels tell us about Jesus triumphantly riding into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey. News had spread that Jesus, the man who had raised Lazarus from the dead was on his way to Jerusalem and anticipation was high. There were two crowds; the crowd which was travelling with Jesus and the crowd which surged out of Jerusalem to see Him. Some people in the crowd were simply curious. Here was the person who, as rumour had it, had raised a man from the dead and many had gone just to have a look at this sensational figure. Perhaps these were the very people who would be calling 'crucify him' within the week. Many more, however, were greeting Jesus as a conqueror shouting Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! It was impossible for Jesus to speak to such a crowd so he did something that all would be able to witness, he came riding on a donkey! This indicated two things: firstly, it was a deliberate claim that he was the Messiah in the dramatic living out of the words of the prophet Zechariah and secondly that he was a very particular kind of Messiah. The point being that a king riding on a horse was intent on war, a king riding on a donkey was coming in peace. This is a sign that Jesus was not the warrior figure that people dreamed of but that he was the courageous Prince of Peace. No one recognised this at the time not even the disciples. Their minds were filled with the hysteria surrounding them. The one who was to come was here! But the disciples looked for the Messiah of their own dreams and wishful thinking and not for the Messiah that God had sent.

Today we have the benefit of hindsight and hope. We know what happened next to Jesus.

We have it in us to shout out 'Hosanna' and 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord' in grateful thanks that we are in the crowd that journey through eternal life with Jesus.

During Holy Week please take the time to reflect humbly on the rejection, humiliation and suffering that had to be endured by the Messiah that we know 'was the one who was to come.'

Ref: The Gospel of John, William Barclay

## For our Prayers this Week

### Those who are sick:

**Rita Rush, Dennis Chappel,  
Carol Highe, Brian Highe,  
Marie Le-Hair, Karen Quinn,  
Jean Davies & Kath Davies**

### For the families of those who have died:

**Darren Nicholls & Brian Cope**

### Benefice Service

We will be holding a Benefice Service at St Michael's Church at 10.30 am on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April. There will be an opportunity to renew baptism vows during this service.

### Community Café

To give all our Volunteers a well-deserved break for all the hard work they put into the Community Café. We will be CLOSED on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

### A.P.C.M

Our A.P.C.M meeting will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30 pm at St Michael's Church, Stanground. If you would like to stand for PCC please see one of the Churchwardens for a nomination

### Emmaus Course

The Emmaus Course has now paused for Easter and will resume again starting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April from 7 until 9 pm at St Michael's Church. We would love to see you join us. You do NOT need a degree in Theology to attend – it is a course that will help everyone to explore the Christian Faith, whether you are simply exploring Christianity, new to the faith or have been a Christian a long time. Each session will be interactive involving some teaching, some discussion and some reflection and of course will involve coffee & Cake!

## Easter Family Day

Egg hunt with prizes  
Easter pinata & craft  
Café & more

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March  
11:00 – 4:00  
St Michael's Church, Mace Road, Stanground



### LEGAL ASSISTANT REQUIRED

A part-time post with flexible hours.

Mary's Child is looking for someone who has an interest in law and welfare benefits. Experience and qualifications preferred but not essential.

You must be a team player, computer literate and have good communication & organisational skills.

To apply please send your CV to [charlie@maryschild.org.uk](mailto:charlie@maryschild.org.uk)

# HOLY WEEK



THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

ALL WELCOME

### St John's

Palm Sunday

24<sup>th</sup> March

9.30 am

Family Holy  
Communion

### St Margaret's

Palm Sunday

24<sup>th</sup> March

9.30 am

Holy Communion

### St Mary's

Palm Sunday

24<sup>th</sup> March

11 am

Holy Communion

### St Michael's

Palm Sunday

24<sup>th</sup> March

11.15 am

Family Holy  
Communion

Tuesday

26<sup>th</sup> March

7 pm

Service of Healing

Wednesday

27<sup>th</sup> March

7 pm

Service of Tenebrae

Good Friday

29<sup>th</sup> March

10.30 am

Service of Reflection

Thursday

28<sup>th</sup> March

7 pm

Holy Communion &  
Foot washing

Saturday

30<sup>th</sup> March

11 – 2 pm

Easter Family Day

Good Friday

29<sup>th</sup> March

10.30 am

Stations of the Cross

2 – 3 pm

Passion reading &  
Silence

Good Friday

29<sup>th</sup> March

10.30 am

Stations of the Cross

Easter Day

31<sup>st</sup> March

11 am

Holy Communion

Easter Day

31<sup>st</sup> March

6.37 am

Sunrise Service

11.15 am

Holy Communion

Easter Day

31<sup>st</sup> March

9.30 am

Holy Communion

Easter Day

31<sup>st</sup> March

9.30 am

Holy Communion

