



Benefice of the Piddle Valley, Hilton & Ansty, Melcombe Horsey and Cheselbourne

Sunday 5th April 2020
Palm Sunday (Altar Colour Red)

Readings: Liturgy of the Palms Matt 21: 1-11

Collect: 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 (ESV) - The Triumphal Entry

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front 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, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

COMMENT: Matthew described the event as the deliberate attempt by Jesus to reveal himself a peaceful Messiah. He did this by quoting one of Israel's prophets directly as he so often did (Zechariah 9:9-10). Matthew also alludes to it by the choice of the mount Jesus made in sending two of his disciples into Bethphage to bring him the humblest of beasts of burden. Zechariah's prophecy symbolized the peaceful choice of a victorious monarch selecting a donkey as his mount instead of a conqueror's proud steed for his triumphal entry into his capital city. Jesus' disciples and others acknowledged our Lord's kingship by throwing their garments and branches before him as Jehu had been hailed as king in 2 Kings 9:13. Also the riding of the boy King Solomon into Jerusalem to proclaim him King, on the King's mule will be evoked by our Lord's actions (1 Kings 1:38-40) According to the Mishnah of the 2nd century AD, the custom of waving Palm branches had precedents in the celebration of the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) when pilgrims collected twigs or branches of myrtle, willow and palm to be bound together in a festal plume, called a lulab to symbolize

rejoicing. Waving these lulabs aloft, the pilgrims paraded into the courts of the temple singing the Hallel (Psalms 113-118). It is entirely possible that narratives of the earliest apostolic tradition reflected this practice.

Post Communion: 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**

Benefice Notices

Live Streaming: Please see attached for daily live streamed services. To access the live streamed services, please go to the benefice facebook page at the time of the service, and the live stream will appear. If you 'like' the benefice facebook page, you will receive notifications on live services and other information posted to the facebook page.



Thursday evening compline: will be moved to 8.15pm, allowing for continued support of our NHS staff and keyworkers at 8pm by clapping. Please do join us for compline to offer prayerful support to our friends within the benefice and further afield..

Holy Week: Details of additional live streamed services will be sent out after Monday.

Support Groups: Thank you to all those who have set up support networks to assist those in our community with shopping, dog walking and prescription collections etc. Details have been posted on the web and facebook page.

From our Treasurers: Please contact our church treasurers to organise a regular standing order so as to continue to support the church financially, even with our doors closed. The church treasurer will be able to provide the appropriate account details; email addresses are below:

Hilton & Ansty : Charles Hunter - cjhh@hanc1.plus.com
Melcombe Horsey: Julie Saunders - julie@mendipmagic.co.uk
Cheselbourne : Jo Nash - jnash123@btinternet.com
Piddlehinton: Andrew Rennison - andrew_rennison@yahoo.co.uk
Piddletrenthide: Ginny Butcher - treasurer.piddletrenthide@gmail.com
Alton Pancras: Richard Scott - richard@drscott.co.uk



Foodbank: Fr. Roger has delivered the recently received donations from parishioners to the Dorford Centre. In accordance with government thinking regarding virus life on products and packaging, all donations are stored for a minimum of 100 hrs before arranging delivery. Thank you for supporting this vital service to the wider community.

Benefice Prayer list:



In your prayers, please will you pray for our friends and neighbours throughout the benefice. For the sick, the grieving, for our key workers and support groups

For those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit, through illness or recovering from hospital treatment: *Sara Milne, June Kelloway, Ann Lambert, Fay Lord, Richard Hanbury, Geoff Harris, Ruth Tutt, Roger Gray, Bernard, Marion Traynor, Alex Bexon, Giles Maber and Robyn Kotze.*

We continue to pray daily for the many Doctors, Nurses and all NHS staff, those known to us and the many who are not; who are working in extreme conditions in our hospitals, GP Surgeries and out in the Community.

We pray for the many keyworkers who are keeping the nation going, from delivery people, shop workers to school staff, carers, clergy, police, emergency services, armed forces to name but a few.

You are our strength Lord.

Help us to carry the responsibilities with grace.

Help us to lift each worry or burden to You.

Help us to defend truth, justice and righteousness in our practice.

You are our strength Lord. Amen.

Any additions to the prayer list, please email the Rector.

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