

Bridges Group News
Date: 24th March 2023
Sunday: Palm Sunday



News from Priors Hardwick

Did you notice that Jesus borrowed a donkey for his ride into Jerusalem; he borrowed a room in which to celebrate the last Supper; he needed the physical strength of Simon of Cyrene to complete the burden of hauling his cross to the top of the hill of Calvary and he borrowed the tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea for his burial? The donkey and the upper room were borrowed from Jews; the physical strength and the tomb were borrowed from Gentiles. So these, we might say, together with Jesus's well established disciples and friends were, each one a vital part of his 'preparation' team.

Lord Jesus Christ as we remember the praises of the crowds who followed you into Jerusalem, let us not forget those who served you at your time of need and in very different ways on the first Palm Sunday. With our praises may we also perceive where, when and how best we can serve you in the world today.

Rectory reflection from Rev Andy

A famous historian once wrote: 'Great civilisations are not murdered. Instead, they take their own lives'. There is a groundswell of opinion around today which is forecasting the collapse of Western civilisation, and much of the danger we currently face is caused directly by inequality and greed. A super rich elite is hoarding vast quantities of wealth and resources, and while often preaching to the masses on the dangers of climate change, the top 10% of global income earners are responsible for as much greenhouse gas emissions as the other 90% combined. Bill Gates wrote recently, 'I probably have one of the highest greenhouse gas footprints on the planet. ... My personal flying alone is gigantic!' His view seems to be that as he invests millions into campaigning against climate change that gives him the right to do as he pleases. On his way into Jerusalem Jesus wept as he saw what the future would hold when the Romans razed the city to the ground. In turn that seemingly invincible empire would itself crumble and die within a few centuries as corruption and rot took hold. The religious leaders of Israel were falling into the same trap, more concerned for their personal wealth and status than the well being of the nation they led and that would have dire consequences. The city as a whole will pay for it. There is a structural, systemic, failure. There is something rotten at the core of the city, and of the nation. Malachi foresaw it, and maybe we see that same story playing out today. But there is good news. There is always good news. The one who disrupts our complacency is the one who provides its remedy. The one who lays bare the complexity of innocence and guilt is also the innocent one who will die for the guilty. The one in whom there is nothing of Rome is also the one who will die for Rome as well as for Jerusalem. Hosanna – Lord, save us!

Prayer

Merciful God, as we enter Holy week, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not only praise him with our lips, but may follow him in the way of the cross.

Looking ahead...

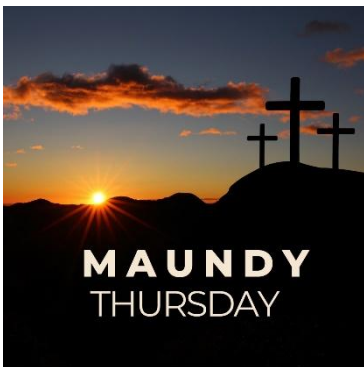
- Lent bible course, every Wed evening, details from Margaret Clarke
- **Thursday 21st March - Deanery Synod Meeting with Bishop Ruth, our interim Bishop. 7.30pm in The Tom Hauley Room at All Saints Church Harbury – open to all.**
- 25th March Group Committee (Council) Meeting location TBC
- Wednesday 27th March St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston 10am-noon. Easter crafts for children, with a story and refreshments.
- Thursday 28th March - St. Michael's Church, Stockton, 7pm, Maundy Thursday service with (optional!) foot-washing, a shared meal with Holy Communion and Tenebrae (a service of light and shadows in which to watch with Jesus)

- Friday 29th March - St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston, 10.30am Journeys to the Cross. Words, music, silence followed by hot cross buns and coffee.
- Friday 29th March – Good Friday “Quiet Time and Reflections” 2-3pm St John the Baptist, Lower Shuckburgh
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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS – REMINDER!

- Electoral roll and notice of revision to be displayed 6 weeks before the APCM (displaying names only please – not any contact details)
Electoral roll to be amended 4 weeks before the APCM
Revisions to electoral roll to be displayed 2 weeks before the APCM
- Draft reports to be circulated to PCC for approval 4 weeks before the APCM
- Notice of meeting to be displayed 2 weeks before the APCM
- Accounts to be displayed 1 week before the APCM
- Agenda & reports to be distributed 1 week before the APCM
- Nominations for CWs and PCC members to be received 2 weeks before the APCM

<p align="center">Services this Sunday: 24th March Palm Sunday</p>	<p align="center">Services next Sunday: 29th March Easter Day</p>
<p>9.00am BCP Holy Communion at Lower Shuckburgh 10.00am Joint Village service with Wormleighton with walk at Priors Hardwick 10.30am Morning Worship at Stockton 3.00pm “4th Sunday” at Priors Marston 5.00pm Evensong at Napton</p> <p>Bible readings for the week are: Zechariah 9:9-12, Mark 11:1-11</p>	<p>10.30am The Gathering at Wormleighton 3.00pm Service for Easter followed by Tea and Cakes at Priors Marston</p> <p>Bible readings for the week are: Acts 10:34-43, Mark 16:1-8</p>



Maundy Thursday Service – 7pm on Thursday 28th March at Stockton Church

We are planning to hold a special Maundy Thursday service which will include foot-washing (optional!), a meal with Holy Communion and Tenebrae – a service of “light and shadows” as we sit with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and prepare for the events of Good Friday.

As a meal is included, it would be helpful to have numbers, so please could you let Sue Andrew at Napton know by emailing sue-andrew@hotmail.com or calling/messaging 07891

043007 and please note any food allergies that you might have.

(For more details of events and diary dates, see our website: www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk or the parish magazines) **Next Week's Bridges Group News will be hosted by Priors Hardwick**