



# Connection

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
**Palm Sunday**



## **View from a Vicarage**

Welcome to this weeks' edition of the Bredon Hill Group Connection on what will be almost twelve months since we first started producing this weekly publication.

We have this last week marked the anniversary of the first Lockdown by standing in silence and lighting candles to remember all we have gone through and lost over the last twelve months, as well as giving thanks for all those who have sacrificed so much, not least NHS staff and keyworkers; And this Sunday, the clocks will go forward by one hour to mark the start of British Summer Time.



Now I don't know about you, but over this last year, time seems to have become a somewhat strange and confused dimension – months lost in the three national Lockdowns, festivals by which we normally measure the progress through the year, minimized, a small window last summer where, given social distancing, we could spend time socializing with others and going on holiday, but then being caught up in another period of enforced isolation through the winter as we faced another Lockdown. So, I wonder whether it is just me, or have we all just got a little lost and disorientated by the concept of time?

To let you into a small admission, I always get a little bit panicked by the weekend when we put the clocks forward. This is partly because of an experience I suffered as a child, and funnily enough, it was also on a Palm Sunday, just as it will be this year. My home church near Penarth in Wales, used to have a Palm Sunday procession led by a donkey from some shops on the estate where I lived, to the church; And as a member of the church choir, I always got to be somewhere near the front of the procession to help lead the singing as we walked, waving our palm branches. However, on this particular year everything went wrong!

My parents overslept, and so it was a rush to get to the procession; In the confusion my father somehow managed to lock the house keys inside the house and so he stayed behind to sort this out. My mother, baby sister and I however went on ahead, and made it in time to take part in the procession, duly arriving at the church to participate in the Palm Sunday service. However, during the sermon, people suddenly started disappearing out the church, and at the end of the service, I was told that unexpectedly I would now be spending the day at the house of the vicar.

To cut a long story short, what had happened was my father, whilst trying to climb up to an open bedroom window to get back into the house, had climbed onto the garage roof, from which he had subsequently fallen off, requiring an urgent visit to the hospital. Therefore, neighbors kindly came to the church to tell my mother during the sermon what had happened. There were obviously frantic but discrete discussions about what would happen to both me and my sister while my mother went to the hospital, but then while all this was happening an older lady fainted and people started to look after her.

You can only imagine what the poor vicar was thinking as his congregation gradually started leaving their seats as this drama unfolded!

This story will therefore always be one of my memories of Palm Sunday and the clocks going forward; And this year we will all be facing another strange Palm Sunday, as we do so in Lockdown. I like many will miss being in church to sing some of the traditional Palm Sunday hymns, taking part in enactments of that first journey by Jesus, as he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, with the waving of palm crosses as we confidently cry "Hosanna to the King of Kings". For although we will try and replicate this story as we hear it read whilst at home, we know we cannot recreate the atmosphere of the crowd, reflecting their jubilant welcome, but which turn out to be their shallow praise.

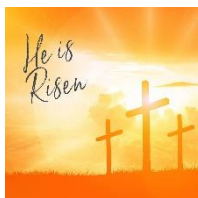


For although the story of Palm Sunday is one of rejoicing and recognizing Jesus as King, it is also the point at which we once again turn our faces towards the cross. Christ's actions on Good Friday were the ultimate act of extreme sacrifice and love for his children, and it is this love and compassion which we are called to share with our friends and neighbours. John 15 vs 13 – 15 says "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you*".

My story of Palm Sunday however is important and memorable for another reason. Because in the midst of all the events which took place, what my family remember most are the acts of kindness, Christian love, support and compassion during that day. My baby sister was taken in and looked after by neighbours; People we did not know, drove my mother to the hospital in Cardiff where my father was taken: As I mentioned earlier, I got to spend the day with the vicar and, as a consequence, became a close friend of his daughter; And, my father, was ministered to by the specialist services of medical experts.

So, although like some, I may bemoan the loss of an extra hours' sleep as the clocks go forward, I will also on Palm Sunday be giving thanks for acts of love and compassion which have impacted on my life, as well as reminding myself of the call by Jesus to love those around me, wherever and whatever this may demand.

I hope that you also will find much to inspire and challenge you as we enter Holy Week; And we will be helping you in this, by encouraging you to attend a short service of Reflection and Compline at 7.00pm on Zoom on the evenings of Monday to Thursday. This will then be followed on Good Friday by a Zoom service of hymns and readings as we reflect on the story of the Crucifixion. In addition, many of our local churches will be open for private prayer on that day, so if you are unsure of which churches are open, then please do contact your churchwarden.



Then on Easter Sunday we will sharing in the joy and celebration of Easter with four physical services of Holy Communion at 10.30am in Eckington, Bredon, Elmley Castle and Beckford. Anyone wishing to attend one of the physical services on Easter Sunday will need to contact Alison Khan or a church warden to book a place and help ensure we can safely accommodate all those who wish to attend.

Details of all these services are shown later in this publication or in the Elmley Castle Link Pew Sheet.

Easter is such an important time in the church's year, and I do hope that despite the uncertainties of the Lockdown, you will be able to engage and share in Christ's ultimate journey and act of sacrifice and love. Please do get in touch, if there is anything for which you would like by means of support and prayer, and I will welcome the opportunity to help in any way. In the meantime, I hope you all have a blessed Holy Week, and hope to see you at some of our services in the coming days.

*Allison*

**Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group**

## **Service of Holy Communion for Palm Sunday**

### **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**



### **Psalm 118:19 to end**

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

### **Mark 11: 1-11**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>and</sup> said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>some</sup> of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread

leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

### Post Communion Prayer

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**



### Hymns

1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark! all the tribes hosanna  
cry;  
O Savior meek, pursue your  
road  
with palms and scattered  
garments strowed.

3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The winged squadrons of the  
sky  
look down with sad and  
wond'ring eyes  
to see th'approaching  
sacrifice.

5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow your meek head to  
mortal pain,  
then take, O God, your pow'r  
and reign.

2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, your triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
expects his own anointed Son.



Source: [Trinity Psalter Hymnal #329](#)

1 My song is love unknown,  
my Savior's love for me:  
love to the loveless shown  
that they might lovely be.  
But who am I,  
that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

2 He came from heaven's throne  
salvation to bestow.  
But they refused, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know.  
This is my friend,  
my friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend.

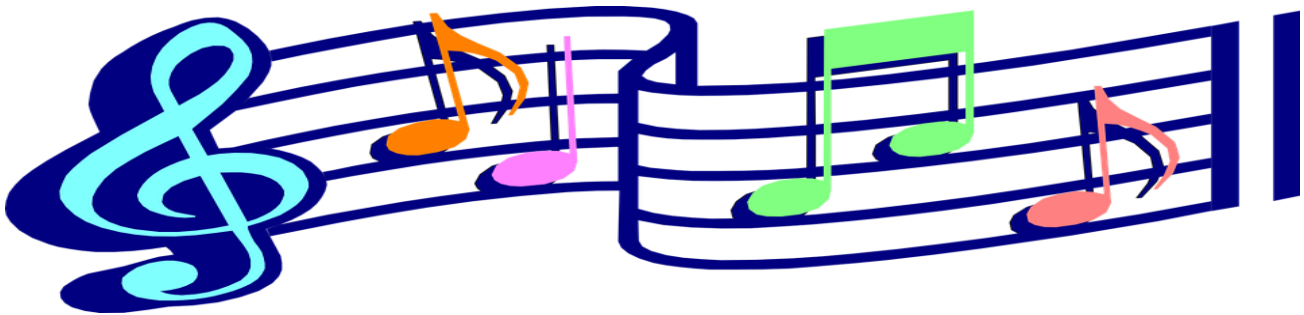
3 Sometimes they crowd his way  
and his sweet praises sing,  
resounding all the day  
hosannas to their King.  
Then “crucify”  
is all their breath,  
and for his death they thirst and cry.

4 With angry shouts they have  
my savior done away.  
A murderer they save,  
the Source of Life they slay!  
Yet willingly  
he bears the shame  
that through his name all might be free.

5 In life, no house, no home  
the Christ on earth might have.  
In death, no friendly tomb,  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heav’n was his home,  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I sing belief  
in one my soul adores:  
never was pain nor grief,  
never was love like yours.  
This is my friend  
in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

*This media is licensed under the terms of [Hope Publishing; one copy](#).  
Source: [Voices Together #320](#)*



1 All glory, laud, and honor  
To thee, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring

2 Thou art the King of Israel  
Thou David's royal Son  
Who in the Lord's name comest  
The King and Blessed One

3 The company of angels  
Are praising Thee on high  
And mortal men and all things  
Created make reply

4 The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before Thee went  
Our praise and love and anthems  
Before Thee we present

5 To Thee, before Thy passion  
They sang their hymns of praise  
To Thee, now high exalted  
Our melody we raise

6 Thou didst accept their praises  
Accept the love we bring  
Who in all good delightest  
Thou good and gracious King

*Source: [Musixmatch](#)  
Songwriters: Melchior Teschner / Steve Dunn*

## Reflection for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March



### **Reflection for Palm Sunday 2021 by Dr Paula Gooder, Theologian in Residence for the Bible Society, for the St Paul's Cathedral website**

Palm Sunday is one of the most bittersweet moments in the Church's calendar. On Palm Sunday we commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem when all the crowds accompanying him sang a Psalm of praise, waved branches and appeared to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem as king. After years of not recognising who Jesus was, of misunderstanding and conflict, it feels as though the crowd suddenly get it. They see Jesus riding on a donkey and remember prophecies like those in Zechariah 9.9 ('Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey') or maybe that Solomon had ridden to his coronation on a donkey (1 Kings 1.33). Whatever it was, the crowd finally seemed to understand who Jesus was and what he had come to do – and celebrated. Of course, we know – as Jesus did himself – that this is not the happy ending we might hope for. Almost the moment that Jesus set foot in Jerusalem, the crowd turned and melted away. Only a week later they were baying for his death.

One of the things that strikes me every year on Palm Sunday is how Jesus acts through all of this. We know that he knew his death was imminent, because he told the disciples about it on more than one occasion. He must have seen the crowd's celebration and known how quickly they would change. A strong sense of foreboding hangs over this whole event; a sense that the worst is still to come. And yet, through it all Jesus persevered. Quietly, authentically, generously, he went about his business as he always did: teaching the disciples; responding with love to people like the woman who anointed him with oil; holding his own against those who sought to trip him up with difficult questions.

By doing so he suggests to us how we might seek to live in hard times. The answer? One step at a time. Not letting the anxieties and stresses that lie all around us knock us off course; being who we are called to be quietly, authentically and generously. It may help to remember that even Jesus became overwhelmed with grief in the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest. We are not called to be unfeeling automatons but we see in Jesus through all of this – especially during his trial when the accusations flying around became more and more desperate – a still centre. Someone who listened more than he spoke. Someone who never stopped being truly who he was. This is the Jesus of Palm Sunday, the Jesus of Holy Week. This Jesus stands with us through all of this, knowing our pain, giving us comfort and loving us through it all.

David Suchet reading the Passion Story

It is traditional on Palm Sunday to listen to the whole of the 'Passion story' from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to his crucifixion. If you would like to do this you can hear David Suchet reading from Mark's Gospel at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjOgcMQXvSc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjOgcMQXvSc) . You will find the Passion Reading from in the video starting at 1.40.48 through to 2.00.09.

## Prayers for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Almighty and loving heavenly Father, we bring our petitions humbly to you on this special day, remembering Christ's acclamation by the people. May we wave palms of prayer as we honour Him with our thoughts and words.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin, o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Lord, we bring the continuing frustrations of the Covid restrictions to your mercy seat. We pray that you will inspire and encourage us to be people of real Faith... in your strength, confident... in your peace, contented.. and through the Holy Spirit, full of joy to encourage others. Bless and lift us now, we pray.

We give you thanks for so much good in our world. We take for granted our food, our homes, our healthiness and, so often, our loving families...thank you, Father, for our many quiet joys. May we lift up all those who suffer without those blessings, both nearby in the Midlands but especially believers in other countries who are persecuted for loving you. Keep safe and enrich their faith, we pray

May we commend to you all those known to us, close to our various congregations, who are ill, lonely or facing loss or hurt. Silently, we bring to mind.... Bless them please, our Father.

We give thanks for the memory of loved ones now passed away... Thank you, Lord.

We ask for your uplifting hand on the whole of our church and ministry, both locally and across our country. Please, dear God, encourage and strengthen our ministers and all servants of the church in the outreach of Christ.

Be graciously pleased, heavenly Father, to accept our humble petitions in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
Amen

### Requests for Prayers

If there is someone or something that you would like to pray for please email us at [eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com](mailto:eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com)



Please continue to pray for the ill and isolated, frontline, hospital and medical staff and for all those who are in any kind of need. God Most High, lead us now on the road to the cross. May we follow with faithfulness and joy, singing, 'Hosanna in the highest heaven.'

We pray for all those who are sick everywhere and for those who have asked for our prayers and for their carers, Roy and Margaret Putnam, Edward Bunn, Brian Bolam, Wendy Dufty, Yvonne Seward and Andy Caddell.

We continue to pray for Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt.

We pray for those who are in residential care Sheila Bigland-Gibbons, Barbara Milton and Rita Sheppy.

We pray for those who have died everywhere. For those who we know and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. Eileen Fincher, Michael Connelly, Ronnie Compton, Captain Anthony Greenwood, Betty Kirkpatrick, Margaret Sutton, Pat Hidden, Don Dufty and David Finch

## **Palm Sunday traditions from the Diocese of Worcester**

Sometime around the year 384, a well-to-do Spanish nun wrote a travel diary whilst on a three-year pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her diary contained details of Holy Week services held in Jerusalem, including notes about a Palm Sunday procession down the Mount of Olives into the city. It wasn't long before Palm Sunday processions took off in the life of the church.



## **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**

We are not certain when and where the practice of reading the Passion story began; however, it may already have been in place in Rome, Spain and

Gaul at the same time. By the Middle Ages, Matthew's Gospel was used each year and sung by three different voices. Since the three-year lectionary came into use, the church has started reading Mark (this year) and Luke (next year) as well on Palm Sunday. Reading the Passion in full, with several voices, on Palm Sunday and Good Friday is to stand in a very ancient tradition of remembering the love and sacrifice of Jesus.



### **Easter Garden Competition**

Last year we had a very successful competition to see who could make the best Easter Garden and we would love to do the same this year! Decorate a tree, make a garden on a plate, create an Easter scene – get those creative juices flowing and send your photos to [the.tebbatts@btinternet.com](mailto:the.tebbatts@btinternet.com), including your name and age. There will be a chocolate prize for the winner of the best display by a child and the best display by an adult – we can't wait to see what you create!

### **Holy Trinity, Eckington – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

We will be collecting items for the Pershore Foodbank on the weekend of Palm Sunday. A box will be available outside the church all day on both days – we would particularly like to ask for Easter Eggs but all donations will be gratefully received. During March the Foodbank would like these non-perishable items. (They are not able to use chilled or frozen items.)





## EASTER EGGS

Coffee  
Rice Pudding  
Veg & tomato soup  
Cereal  
Tinned tomatoes  
Instant mash  
Sponge puddings  
Meat e.g. tinned chicken and mince  
Deodorants  
Pasta in sauce e.g. macaroni cheese



We are also continuing to collect at Eckington Church on Wednesdays and Fridays 10am-3pm. There is also a box permanently in the porch of Church Cottages (Kit and Sas Carson's house) for foodbank donations.



## Church Services via Zoom

There will be a Zoom service this Sunday at 10.30am – details are below. So, if you would like to join us for worship and fellowship, please contact Alison Khan (email [acbhteam@gmail.com](mailto:acbhteam@gmail.com) or telephone 07984 748059) and she will send you an invitation.



### **Palm Sunday - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021 - 10.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom**

Reverend Allison will be leading Morning Prayer for Palm Sunday via Zoom at 10.30am.

There will be palm crosses available outside the door of Holy Trinity, Eckington on Palm Sunday and we will also be doing a Foodbank collection in time for Easter.

### **Holy Week - 29<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

Each evening from the 29<sup>th</sup> March to the 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm, Bishop Michael Hooper and Reverend Allison will lead a nightly reflection via Zoom based on Rowan Williams' book *Candles in the Dark: Faith, Hope and Love in a Time of Pandemic* concluding with the evening office of Compline.





### **Good Friday - 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021**

Reverend Allison will be leading a service of hymns, readings and silent meditation for Good Friday, via Zoom at 10.30am

The customary pilgrimage up Bredon Hill will not be permitted under current COVID regulations, but each parish will also be arranging local events, including the opening of churches for private prayer so look out for local notices.



### **Easter Egg Hunt at Holy Trinity Eckington – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

Attention all children - please join us in the churchyard at Holy Trinity for a FREE Easter Egg trail between 2-4pm on the Saturday before Easter. No need to book but social distancing rules must be observed. For further information please contact Karen Sagar on 01386 750401. There will be a small chocolate prize for each completed trail.

### **Easter Sunday – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Subject to no changes to the current government guidelines; Easter Services of Holy Communion will take place in the following churches at 10.30am:

St Giles, Bredon led by Reverend Allison

St John the Baptist, Beckford led by Bishop Martin

St Mary's Elmley Castle led by Canon Roger

Holy Trinity, Eckington led by Bishop Michael

If you wish to attend a service, please contact Alison Khan to book your place.



### **Easter Sunday Songs of Praise**

Reverend Allison will be leading an Easter Sunday Songs of Praise via Zoom at 4pm on Easter Sunday.

This will be an opportunity for you to nominate your favourite Easter hymn to form part of the service and then introduce it to the rest of the online congregation before it is played for all to sing along.

If you have a hymn that you would like included please contact Alison Khan at [acbhteam@gmail.com](mailto:acbhteam@gmail.com) or on 07984 748059.

### **The Second Sunday of Easter - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

A Morning Prayer service via Zoom led by Reverend Allison where we will be welcoming Archdeacon Robert Jones who will be joining us to provide the Reflection for the Second Sunday of Easter



### **Services after Easter**

At the Bredon Hill Forum meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March, the return of clergy led public worship in our churches was discussed. It was agreed that in the period between the 18<sup>th</sup> April and the 21<sup>st</sup> June, when

hopefully Step 4 of the Government's Roadmap will come into effect, a two church service each week rota would be put in place as set out below.

It will be for each PCC, in the Benefices where there are more than one church, to decide where those services will be held and whether they wish them to be Eucharistic or a Service of the Word. Forum members are currently consulting with their PCCs on the plan.

The service pattern for the 18<sup>th</sup> April will be those listed for the third Sunday of the month, and the full details of the April services will be in next week's Connection.

During May, where there are five Sundays in the month, a United Group Service will be held and details will follow.

#### Week One of the Month

10.30am Holy Trinity, Eckington  
10.30am St Mary's Elmley

#### Week Two of the Month

10.30am St Giles' Bredon  
10.30am Beckford Benefice

#### Week Three of the Month

10.30am Defford/Besford alternate months  
10.30am Elmley Benefice

#### Week Four of the Month

9.00am Bredon Benefice  
10.30am Beckford Benefice



For all services being held via Zoom please contact Alison Khan if you wish to attend so that she can send you the Zoom invite. Tel: 07984 748059 or email: [acbhteam@gmail.com](mailto:acbhteam@gmail.com)

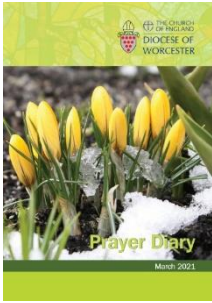
### Additional Resources during Lockdown

Even though we are inviting everyone to join our weekly Zoom service at 10.30 on Sunday morning, please be aware that the Freephone Daily Hope programmes of worship services and prayers are still available by ringing 0800 804 8044. This includes a Church of England weekly service (select option 6) and traditional Morning/Evening Prayer (select option 7). This service will not cost the caller anything and provides worship material for those looking for additional services and prayer.



A free phoneline of hymns,  
reflections and prayers





## News from the Diocese

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)



### **Reverend Allison Davies**

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group