

St. Mary's Church
Cubbington



Sunday 28th March

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Greetings from the Vicarage.

I've taken over writing the message this week, although I have said to Sam that we should maybe share the writing, as there has been a lot of very positive feedback for her over the last couple of months since she began covering the weekly letter writing for me.

How are you all? Looking forward to moving towards a less restricted lifestyle I imagine. It's been a long time since we were able to go about freely and have the church open for worship with limited restrictions.

Today I'm thrilled to say that we have opened St. Mary's for Sunday worship. Let us hope and pray that this is the first step in a move to keeping the church open for good.

My health is continuing to improve and I am feeling a bit better and I am trying to build up my strength. My feeding tube has now been removed because I am now able to swallow to some extent. This means I am liquidizing food, indeed anything and everything that will help me to put back on some of the weight I lost (2 stone in total)!

I am busy exercising my shoulder and arm around the site where the graft was taken from. With the help of my speech and language therapists, I am also working hard to build up my mouth and facial muscles in the hope that I will get some speech back. This is a major challenge, as unlike most people who have a tongue that moves, mine is now permanently fixed to the inside of my cheek and mouth where the tumor was. I understand that this will be a long process but I have resigned myself to be patient and trust in the wonderful power of prayer and healing.



I have decided to add a photo to show you what I look like at the moment, I hope I don't scare you. Although I say so myself, I look a lot better than I did a few weeks ago when both sides of my face and neck were swollen and all of the wounds were rather a mess!!

Over the last few weeks, we have been following Jesus as He makes His way towards Jerusalem. When we plan a journey, it's usually something that we are looking forward to, or else why would we bother? Both of the times that I have visited Jerusalem have been very special indeed.

I spent months planning an itinerary so as not to miss anything, using every part of the time I had, to see and do as much as possible. It was exciting planning each day and it was absolutely fantastic waking up early to the beautiful sun and venturing out to walk in Jesus' footsteps.

Have you ever stopped to think how Jesus must have felt when He ventured towards Jerusalem? Was He looking forward to being with other believers in the Holy City, or did He know what would happen later to Him a few days later?

On the day that we are celebrating today 'Palm Sunday', Jesus rode into Jerusalem to the cries of joy from the crowds who came out to welcome their new King. This was a great day for the people of Jerusalem and all those who had also travelled from afar, because they had been waiting for so long for the promise of a King who would make all things better, the person who would change their lives and give them a new and perfect existence.

I think so often we have an idea of what we want Jesus to be to us and do for us, but as the people who waved their palms, we often get it wrong. What we want or what we think we should

have from God is different to what God gives to us. Those people in Jerusalem wanted a rich and powerful warrior who would fight the different forces of power and destroy their enemies. What they got was a loving caring gentle but mighty powerful man who was prepared to be humiliated and eventually go to the cross to prove He really was the Son of God.

The crowds came out and welcomed Him into their city only to turn on Him a few days later. They were jealous of His popularity and they were people who were in leadership positions and should have known better, namely the priests and high priests. How could anyone turn from a joyous welcome one day, to shouts of 'Crucify Him!' a few days later!

How fickle are we? Do we praise God when things are good? Do we call on Him when we are struggling? Do we forget Him when we are happy and doing what we want? Are we any different from those people in Jerusalem? As Christians, these are important questions that we need to be honest enough to answer for our own individual selves.

I hope and pray that we are in a more stable relationship with Jesus that keeps us in close contact with Him everyday - regardless of how we feel and whether things are going our way or not. Keeping in touch with Jesus is made much easier if we stick to a regular prayer time, maybe when we wake up or before we go to bed or both. Making time each day to sit and read a short passage from the bible gives us the opportunity to spend time in His presence, especially if we start by asking God to speak to us through His words.

As we approach the great joy of Easter, let us not forget all that Jesus had to go through on His final journey to His Holy City. Journey with Jesus through the greatness, but let us never overlook His suffering. Our true and faithful friend. **Amen.**

Yours faithfully in Christ.

Reverend Graham.

Palm Sunday and our readings are

Psalm 118: 1-2 & 19 - end

Psalm 118

THIS IS THE
Day
THAT THE
LORD
has made,
SO LET US
rejoice
and
BE GLAD in it.
PSALM 118:24

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures for ever.

² Let Israel say:
“His love endures for ever.”

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteousness;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

²³ the LORD has done this,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ LORD, save us!

LORD, grant us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.
From the house of the LORD we bless you.

²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has made his light shine upon us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession
up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures for ever.

and the Gospel reading is

Mark 11: 1-11



The Triumphal Entry

11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no-one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’” ⁴They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.



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.



SUNDAY 28th March

Palm Sunday

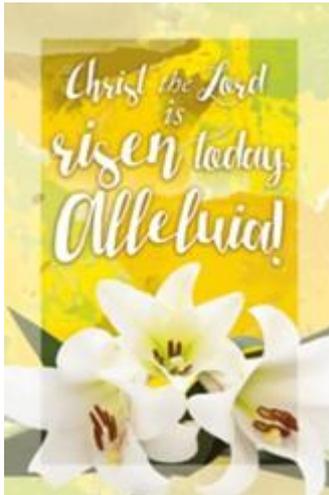
Many thanks to **Joy Lingard** for making our wonderful **Palm Crosses**.

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## SERVICE TODAY

Invitation only

**10.00am: Book of Common Prayer**



## Service for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April

**Easter Day**

Invitation only

**10.00am: Easter Holy Communion**

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THIS COMING WEEK

Tuesday 30th March

1.30pm: Funeral at Canley Crematorium
for the late John **BLACKMORE**

Wednesday 31st March

10.30am: Graveside funeral
for the late Carl **GODDARD**

Thursday 1st April

12noon: Funeral
for the late Bob **GRIFFITHS**
followed by burial in the churchyard.

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