

Jesus enters Jerusalem



Church of St Etheldreda, London

Heather Smith *reflects on* Philippians 2:5-11

Today Jesus enters Jerusalem and the crowd welcomes him, but as the week goes on it becomes clear that the welcome was simply that of people who were carried away in the moment, and that they are capable of a shocking turnaround. Ask any leader or politician and they will tell you that your supporters can turn on you in an instant when the circumstances change or someone else offers a better chance of advancement. It all seems so meaningless and unfair, with people playing games to obtain a little more power without caring who gets hurt in the process.

We human beings search for meaning and we rail against cruel or distressing events that seem to have none. If the events of Holy Week were simply the meaningless disloyalty of a crowd and pointless cruelty of those afraid for their own positions, we might still be struggling to find meaning for our own lives. But today's reading from Philippians gives us the meaning we desire. Christ emptied himself and humbled himself to death on a cross, but God exalted him, making his story the most meaningful narrative in history.

Philippians encourages us: "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We too might suffer, but his suffering gives our suffering, and our whole lives, the meaning we search for. 🙏

Suffering Saviour, share with us your strength in the face of suffering and grant us your vision as we tread the path through this world. Make us firm in faith as we seek to walk in your ways. Amen.

A Palm Sunday reflection

by Janice Scott

Janice Scott sets Palm Sunday in context.

Palm Sunday is the only occasion in the Gospels where Jesus appears to have made advance preparations, and the only time when we're told that he rides. So why did he make elaborate preparations to ride into Jerusalem? Presumably he was physically demonstrating a powerful message – that he was indeed the king coming in peace, as prophesied by Zechariah. Certainly the crowd went wild with excitement, spreading their cloaks on the road – a centuries-

old way of acclaiming a king (2 Kings 9:13) – and hailing him as "the Son of David!" – a well-known title for Israel's Messiah.

At the beginning of Passover week the city would have been full and the Roman presence very obvious, because nationalist trouble would be expected. By riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus may also have been emphasising the difference between earthly rulers such as Pilate or Herod, who rode on splendid mounts or in elaborate chariots, and God's servant king, who came humbly and in peace. 🙏

Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

We've gone from resting here in the winter to working flat out in the spring, with lambs, chicks and ducklings to care for, two piglets arriving and a polytunnel to weed and plant. Some days it's going well and others are a tragedy that needs rescuing somehow. From twenty-four eggs, only a lone duckling hatched yesterday,

so I made a dash to a friend who'd found a hen with ten surprise chicks in the barn and I collected two little bundles of fluff. Introducing chicks to a duckling meant watching them crossing boundaries of voice, appearance and species, and yet this morning they are finally snuggled up together.

God encourages us to make community where there's brokenness, to get over our judgements and to not give up in despair. I learn so much from these tiny creatures and they have become my prayer for today for this God-given world. 🙏

“No pain, no palm; no thorn, no throne.”

William Penn (1644-1718), English writer and religious thinker

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 13th April

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship on Palm Sunday which is being led by Mr Brian Skelley. The stewards today are Tina Wise and Jean Peck. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 18 th April	10.45 am	Good Friday: Service led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber followed by refreshments in hall
Sunday 20 th April	10.45 am	Easter Sunday: Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Sunday 27 th April	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Keith Beckingham
Sunday 4 th May	10.45 am	Church Anniversary service led by Reverend Pauline Crispin, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 11 th May	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Glenda Sidding
Sunday 18 th May	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber
Sunday 25 th May	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Barrie Knight

Colehill Methodist: Every Monday, 11.00 am to 12.00 noon(ish), Bible Study, coffee, prayers and plenty of chat. All welcome.

NO BIBLE STUDY, COFFEE AND CHAT ON MONDAY 14th AND 21st APRIL. BACK AGAIN ON 28th

Bible in a year: 13th – 19th April: 1 Samuel 22 – 2 Samuel 8 and Luke 12 – 15:10

Meet Reverend Dr Mark Kimber: Most Fridays Mark will be available in the Okeford Room from 10.00 am to 11.00 am for anyone who wishes to have a chat with him. However, on the third Friday of each month there will be a session entitled '**Meeting with Mark**' to which you are cordially invited.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday: There will be a service in Colehill Methodist on **Maundy Thursday** at 7.00 pm. This will be a quiet service with Holy Communion remembering our Lord in his suffering. And on **Good Friday**, a service of reflection will be held in our church at 10.45 am, followed by refreshments in the hall.

Church Anniversary: Our Church Anniversary will be on Sunday 4th May and we are very pleased that Reverend Pauline Crispin has agreed to come and lead our service for us. Following the service we will enjoy a lunch in the hall which will be either a chicken dish, a vegetarian dish or a gluten free meal. There will be no charge for the meal, but donations on the day will be gratefully received. If you wish to attend the anniversary lunch, please sign the list in the Narthex, no later than 20th April.

Joyce Wild

Woodlands Methodist: Worship for You service, 13th April, 6.00 pm, led by Reverend Andrew Pottage.

Woodlands Methodist: Friday 26th April, 7.30 pm, 'Call My Bluff'. Can you guess what is the correct usage of each vintage tool? Further details on poster in hall.

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 11.4.25) – Coffee, Squash, Cereal, Tinned Sweetcorn, Toothpaste. Any other donations of food or household goods are also welcomed. For those able to support the Foodbank with items, a box has been placed in the Narthex as a collection point.

John Cornish

Prayer: Please can we remember to uphold in prayer those members of our congregation we know are ill or suffering in some way.

Please also remember in prayer those we know who have recently been bereaved.

If you know of anyone who would like prayer and be mentioned by name in The Link, please let me know (having obtained their permission first to mention them by name).

Minister: Reverend Dr Mark Kimber

Enquiries via Lead Steward, John Cornish, on 07799 516 735

Pastoral Support: Joyce Wild: Tel: 01258 454091