



HOLY WEEK

The United Benefice of St Helen, Burghwallis and St Mary Magdalene, Campsall

5th April 2020

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy week as we travel with Jesus to the Cross. It begins with triumph as Jesus enters Jerusalem to fulfil the words of the prophets (Isaiah 62.11 and Zechariah 9.9) riding on a donkey and her colt. But things begin to turn sour so that the crowd who cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" becomes the baying mob who shout out, "Crucify Him!" The journey to Jerusalem is also the journey to the cross. So, there is much solemnity about the week and reflection upon our own lives. We shall miss our service on Maundy Thursday but we can still reflect upon Jesus washing his disciples' feet especially in a time when we are denied contact with others. Perhaps, as you wash your hands this week think upon Jesus' dialogue with Peter (John 13. 6-11) and repeat Simon Peter's words, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head."

Some of you will have seen in the emails sent out by Shirley Troop that last Sunday Chris and I celebrated communion separately but linked by Zoom. We were able to share a recording of this with you later by email. We hope to continue doing this this week so that we can see that communion and prayers are being said for the benefice.

I shall miss the discipline of three hours at the cross on Good Friday. I would suggest that in your homes you set time aside on Friday to read through the Passion Narrative (Matthew 26.14 to the end of chapter 27. A powerful symbol would be to have a cross before you and light a candle as you read it but snuff this out when you have read Matt. 27.50.

I shall be taking two funerals this week. The first is for Elaine Byatt from Campsall who I believe is the first Coronavirus victim at the DRI; the second is John Brunskill who is an old friend of mine and was Lay Reader at Hathersage for many years. Please pray for their families that they may be comforted during a time when our funerals are being very restricted.

May Elaine and John rest in peace and may they rise in glory.

Contacts

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