



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

WORTH PARISH

Serving Crawley in Worth, Pound Hill, Maidenbower and Forge Wood

**5 April
2020**

Palm Sunday



Welcome to
St Barnabas' in Pound Hill and
St Nicholas' in Worth

*On the advice of the Archbishops of Canterbury
and York **all public worship is suspended**
until further notice.*

SERVICES TODAY

There will be no public worship today.

CHURCHES NOW CLOSED

There will no longer be access to either
St Barnabas' or St Nicholas'
until further notice.

ALL

Events and Meetings
are cancelled or postponed
until further notice.

See www.worthparish.org
For the latest information

Please send pew sheet notices to
pewsheet@worthparish.org or
phone 0300 111 8150

Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, begins with a crowd of people. Jesus, at the centre of it all, becomes increasingly isolated and more often than before, things happen or are done to him, rather than he does; washing his disciples feet being a notable exception, a particularly striking action for a leader to do, being one of humility not assertion. In the Gospel readings for this week he is always surrounded by people, the number gradually diminishing until at the end, on Good Friday he is left alone, on the Cross, the nearest people being the criminals on either side, a few feet away, and his mother and friend, a few feet below. This week is the week when all eyes are on him, everyone looking but no one is seeing him and when he speaks (other than to answer a question), they do not listen. He does and says less and less, until there is nothing more to do or say. In the end his isolation is total and there is no one to help him.

In normal years we recreate, liturgically, the events of Holy Week. We process with palms, take the part of the crowd in the reading of the Passion, we gather in fellowship to commemorate his Last Supper and to watch with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, we stand together in silent solidarity at the foot of the Cross. We go through it, together. This year the isolation of Jesus is given sharp focus by our own experience of isolation as we are kept apart, kept out of our church building.

Continued ➡

As a result, all of a sudden, we are learning new ways to communicate and to keep in touch with each other and now, perhaps more than ever, the sense of connectedness and fellowship we have, needs to be encouraged and strengthened by all of us, in whatever way we can.

Though apart we stay together in prayer and in solidarity with those who are affected by the virus that is sweeping the world; we ask for God's blessing for them and for all who are ministering to the afflicted, all who are working to combat the spread of the virus, or who are supporting the rest of us in our daily lives.

Holy Week this year may well have an intensity and clarity we've not experienced before. Let us take time each day to read the Gospel readings that take us from Palm Sunday to Good Friday and meditate on the scenes described, knowing that although apart, we are doing so together. This week begins in triumph and ends in defeat, begins with a crowd, ends in solitude. But isolation and death do not have the final word. The Easter Proclamation begins in the darkness, solitude and silence of the Tomb. As the new day dawns, the presence of death is not just dispelled but defeated and the cry goes out, 'Christ is Risen!' to every corner of the world; the resounding song of triumph echoing throughout all ages and in all places. May the Easter proclamation of the triumph of God's love, defeating even death itself, be for each of us our hope and reassurance that beyond our current trials and tribulations, we do and will have so much to look forward to and be thankful for.

Fr Michael

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**

Reading *Isaiah 50.4-9a*

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalm *Psalm 31.9-16*

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

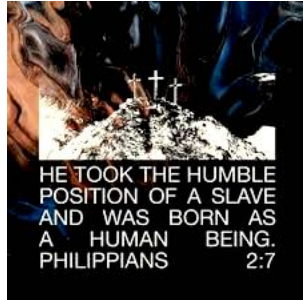
I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbours, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. For I hear the whispering of many - terror all around! - as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hand;



deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Reading *Philippians 2.5-11*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.



Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel *Matthew 27.11-54*

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests

and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had



crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him.

Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son." The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Post Communion

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**

SERVICES THIS WEEK

There will be no public worship until further notice.

Sunday 12 April 2020
Easter Day

Acts 10.34-43 Psalm 118.14-24
Colossians 3.1-4 John 20.1-18

Festivals this week

There are no Festivals
in Holy Week

(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration

DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

Information about events at **Chichester Cathedral** and other resources can be found at:
at: www.chichestercathedral.org

St Barnabas' Refurbishment Project

As already reported, a grant of £10,000 has been received from the Lottery Community Fund. A conditional offer of £2,500 has also come from The Beatrice Laing Trust (this will be available once we have a starting date for the Project and other funding in place). We have also just been informed that The Gatwick Foundation Fund of the Sussex Community Foundation are donating £5,000 to the Project.

The Pastoral Centre was nominated for the Asda Foundation Green Token Giving scheme, due to feature on the Community Board at Asda, Crawley, during the next vote to begin on 1 April. This has now been delayed due to the coronavirus. Further details to follow. This is all good news for St Barnabas' but more funding is needed before our Project can go ahead.

St Nicholas' Easter Flowers

It is with regret, but in keeping with current advice, the fact that all churches are now closed for the foreseeable future and the fact that flowers are not likely to be available, added to the fact that we don't want people to leave home to deliver money and so put themselves and others at risk, that we are not going to collect slips, names or money this year. We are sure that you will remember your loved ones in your own way! Please take care and stay safe. Noreen Oxlade.

If you use **Amazon** please shop via smile.amazon.co.uk where you can choose to support The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Worth, Pound Hill & Maidenbower. We will benefit from a percentage of your spend, at no cost to you. If you need help with this, please email hello@worthparish.org

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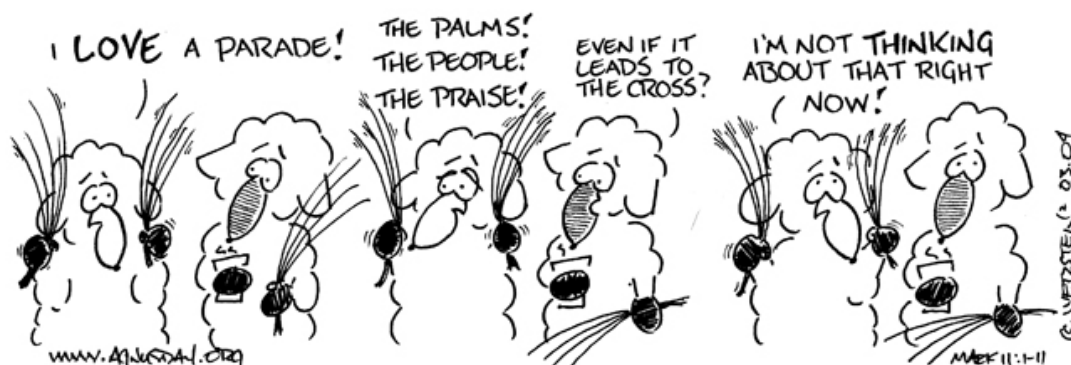


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