

Prayers for Palm Sunday.

Lord Jesus,
We would have like to have been there
as you rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey.
We would have liked to have been one of the crowd
who cheered and sang you songs of welcome.
Help us to welcome you today into our lives
And to know that you are always with us.
Lord in Your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

On this day, we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem in triumph.
The people welcomed him but the path of suffering and self-giving
lay before him.
We pray, Lord Jesus, that you may enter the lives of all those who
are suffering at this time – through illness, poverty, injustice, fear
and anxiety. Especially for those caught up in the corona virus
pandemic across the world and for those who care for them.

Comfort them with your presence – and help our hands to be
channels of your healing love in simple and safe ways.
Lord in Your Mercy
Hear our Prayer.

A Blessing:

May Christ, who out of defeat, brings new life and a new future,
fill you with his new life. And the blessing of God the Father, Son
and Holy Spirit, be upon you and all those who you love, on earth
and in heaven, now and always. Amen



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Sunday April 5th, 2020.

Palm Sunday

The benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe
“Keeping in Touch” – Edition 2

Greetings for Palm Sunday from Annette.

Thank you for the very positive feedback that we have had since we emailed
out our first “Keeping in Touch” newsletter and likewise for the You Tube
service videos. We hope you enjoy the Palm Sunday offering – the link to
which Anita will send you in her covering email.

Receiving a fresh Palm cross has been a special symbolic act at the beginning
of Holy Week for centuries. But with no church services in actual buildings
and the decision nationally not to deliver crosses or even cards to people’s
homes, the usual tradition of blessing and distributing palms needs to be laid
to rest this year. In comparison to the huge repercussions that the coronavirus
in having on people’s welfare and well-being across the world, this is a very
small price to pay.

The good news is that our Licensed Lay Minister Mel Eyeons has written a
short piece for us this edition as she suggests ways for us all to remain positive
If you do watch the you Tube video I invite you to at least have something to
wave when we come to the catchy song “ We have a king who rides on a
donkey!” – and recall Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday.

Next Sunday, April 12th will be Easter Day so there will again be a video
celebrating this wonderful Christian Feast as we celebrate Jesus’ overcoming
of all that that can bind us in darkness and fear.

“Peace be with you!” were Jesus’ oft spoken words when he greeted his
disciples both before and after his resurrection. May those words be ours too
as we journey with Jesus this Holy Week towards the Easter Garden.

With love and prayers from Annette at St James Vicarage.

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PAGE ONE.

Finding some positives – by Mel Eyeons.

It's a funny thing but I've found social distancing harder than I thought I would. I'm not big on going out socialising in groups, mostly work from home anyway, and can quite happily spend time doing things on my own. But normally when I'm doing that, I know that I have the option of going out to see someone, wandering round the shops or going for a coffee. Having that freedom taken away has left me, like many others, feeling lost and cut off. I miss seeing my friends at St James and elsewhere and would really like to do something as simple as sitting in a café.

People are adaptable creatures, though, and I am adapting. I'm making an effort to reach out to people by phone and video calls. This isn't always easy as I used to have very bad social anxiety, and although it's mostly gone now, I'm still a bit nervous of phoning people in case they're annoyed at the interruption. It's worth it though because it's really helped to talk to people and sometimes see their faces, and I hope that they like having someone to talk to. Sometimes we have to go out of our comfort zone to reach out to one another and make an extra effort, and the rewards are generally worth it.

I'm also following in Nick's footsteps (pedals?) by getting myself a bike so I can do my daily exercise in a new way and go bit further than I can do just on foot. This is giving me something to look forward to, and I hope it's really true that you never forget how to ride a bike as it's been a while since I was last on one. It would be rather embarrassing to fall off in the middle of the village!

I'm appreciating my garden as well, especially the birds singing and the good weather we've been having. It's been good to spend more time just enjoying sitting out there and watching my chickens peck around. They're not great at singing but they do have some soothing clucks.

Finally, I've also been doing some craft projects and other things that I've been meaning to get around to for a while. I mention all this because small pleasures are especially important when things are hard, and I hope you can find some that will help you.

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Always thinking about bad news and worrying isn't good for us. We need breaks to look at good stuff and reset our minds. A wise person said to me recently that you can't think about two things at once.

This means that spending some time thinking about good things will give us a break from the bad stuff for a while.

So, I hope you are all keeping safe and well and can find some positives to focus on even in this difficult time.

With love and prayers,
Mel.

Palm Sunday

Where can we find the gospel accounts of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?

Matthew 21 v 1-11

Mark 11 v 1-11

Luke 19 v 28-44

John 12 v 12-19

“Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted:

“Hosanna”!

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

“Hosanna in the highest!” From Mark's gospel.

Hosanna means in Hebrew “Save now, we pray”.

A prayer very relevant for these days of worry and concern.

But don't forget – Jesus means “to deliver, to rescue”.



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