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Church Link

Palm Sunday
10 April 2022

No. 106

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of sin
and the depth of your love;
in humble hope and fear
may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alternative Collect for Good Friday

There's a lot going on during the next few weeks. Please support the actors and musicians who will be performing in local churches and take advantage of the fresh experiences they offer. In Bishop Sutton, Oddments Theatre company are performing a contemporary interpretation of the Passion this evening (8th April), in St Mary's Church, West Hartree, the United Choir and local soloists are pleased to be able to present Stainer's Crucifixion on the evening of Good Friday. St Andrew's Blagdon will be welcoming musicians from the Royal Welsh College of Music to perform a programme of chamber music on Saturday 30th April. Full details below.

Our usual weekday worship will be replaced this week with a special programme for Holy Week, including a reflective programme of worship for Good Friday at St Hugh's, Charterhouse. In a change to the programme for Easter Day published last week, please note that St Michael's, Compton Martin Family Easter Worship will now be at 10:15am. Please see the amended poster.

This Sunday, the Liturgy of the Palms and Passion with Holy Communion will be at St Andrew's Church, Blagdon at 10:15am. Said Holy Communion will be at 9am at St Michael's and Messy Church at St Bartholomew's at 4pm.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Yours in Fellowship,
Revd. Simon Lewis
Laura Williams

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Holy Week and Easter

Sunday 10th April - Palm Sunday
9:00am - Holy Communion, St Michael's, Compton Martin
10:15am, Liturgy of the Palms and Passion with Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Blagdon
4:00pm - Messy Church (Easter themed) St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Monday 11th April
10:00am - Holy Communion in the Spirit of Iona St Hugh's, Charterhouse

Tuesday 12th April
10:00am - Holy Communion in the Spirit of Iona St Hugh's, Charterhouse

Wednesday 13th April
10:00am - Holy Communion in the Spirit of Iona St Hugh's, Charterhouse

Thursday 14th April - Maundy Thursday
7:30pm, Liturgy of Foot Washing and Gethsemane Watch
St Hugh's, Charterhouse

Friday 15th April - Good Friday
From 11:30am - Stations of the Cross: Walking with Jesus
A walk from each village to St Hugh's, Charterhouse, arriving c. 1:45pm
12:00pm - 2:00pm Jesus' Last Hours, told through reflections, music and prayer, St Hugh's, Charterhouse
2:00pm - Jesus' Final Hour; reflective worship, St Hugh's, Charterhouse

Sunday 17th April - Easter Sunday
10:15am - Easter Thanksgiving with Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Blagdon
10:15am - Family Easter Worship, St Michael's, Compton Martin
12:00pm - Family Easter Worship, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Reading and Reflection

Palm Sunday

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Reading: Luke 23:1-49

Jesus before Pilate
Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.' Then Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He answered, 'You say so.' Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.' But they were insistent and said, 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

Jesus before Herod
When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Jesus Sentenced to Death
Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, 'Cruelly, cruelly him!' A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.' But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

The Crucifixion of Jesus
As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed!" Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. (Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?' And he indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

The Death of Jesus
It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

A Reflection

Jesus Son of God, Messiah, King; titles so effortlessly used in worship it is easy to forget that they begin on the rubbish dump downwind of Jerusalem at a terrible death by crucifixion between two convicts on a dismal executioner's hill, called 'The Skull.'

The Gospel tells how Jesus announces God's reign of justice and mercy in a way surrounded by mocking, brutal violence. Recent weeks have brought shocking violence again close to home.

Sensing or knowing his destiny Jesus goes to Jerusalem. Jesus is on a prophetic mission, bringing God's reign to Jerusalem. Jerusalem, it seems brings the tragic rejection of his mission. God's people are implicated; the secret of our condition plain to see and our hope is in trusting the mercy of God. The opposition to Jesus builds during the narrative; the scribes and chief priests know he had told a parable against them; they would have arrested him then but they feared the people.

Jesus is mocked as he hangs on the Cross. We still hear the mockery today; it is a truth of course, 'He saved others, let him save himself! Just so! Jesus introduces God's reign of mercy, by not saving himself. They are blind and the blindness persists still. It is the Romans who put the inscription over Jesus' head 'The King of the Jews.' What was written to humiliate the enemies of Rome is, for us, a proclamation of the truth. The 'King of the Jews' brings justice and mercy; he is 'the righteous one.'

To discover where 'the righteous one' comes from look a few verses on. It comes from the lips of the Roman Centurion; when he 'saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent!' This is our translation of the Greek word which also means 'righteous.'

We stand now with the people and the disciples; today, in our world we are frightened at the power of evil; we wonder why we could not or simply did not prevent atrocity. The people stood by watching; then they returned home 'beating their breasts'; with hindsight, we look into the darkness of brutality and madness; we are afraid enough to ask perhaps 'Oh my God, what have I done?'

What God will do next is, of course, the heart of the Gospel; a story for another day.

But I trust in you, O Lord.

I say, 'You are my God.

[Psalm 31:14]

And prayer for Sunday

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 I may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partaker 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.

Online Worship

Palm Sunday - 10th April 2022

This week's Church of England online worship comes from St John's, Goole, in the Diocese of Sheffield, and is led by the Rev Hannah Patton. It will be live streamed at 9:00am on Sunday and remain for viewing on the Church of England's Youtube channel.

[Click here to join](#)

Children's Corner

This week's Young Church Mag tells the story of Holy Week. It can be downloaded and printed by clicking [this link](#).

Sunday 3rd April - Passion Sunday
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
5:00pm - New Horizons, Eternal Light
Contemplative worship at St Hugh's, Charterhouse

Sunday 10th April - Palm Sunday
9:00am - Holy Communion, St Michael's, Compton Martin
10:15am - Liturgy of the Palms and Passion with Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Blagdon
4:00pm - Messy Church, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Sunday 17th April - Easter Sunday
10:15am - Easter Thanksgiving with Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Blagdon
10:15am - Family Easter Worship, St Michael's, Compton Martin
12:00pm - Family Easter Worship, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Sunday 24th April
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Michael's, Compton Martin
5:00pm - Evening Worship, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Weekday worship (Please see separate programme for Holy Week)
Mondays, 6th and 20th April
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's Ubley
9:15am - Intercessions Group, St Bartholomew's Ubley
Tuesdays, 5th April 26th April
10:00am - Minis Melodies, a toddler group, St Andrew's, Blagdon
Wednesdays, 6th and 27th April
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin
9:00pm - Evening, St Andrew's, Blagdon
Thursdays, 7th and 28th April
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Blagdon
12:00pm - In the Spirit of Iona, online via Zoom

May 2020
The Link
www.thelinkmag.org
The Community Magazine for the Parishes of Ubley and Compton Martin

The Link - Parish Magazine for Ubley and Compton Martin - is currently without an editor. If you would be interested in knowing more about this role, please contact cachel.branton@gmail.com

Blagdon Newsletter
on-line
May 2020

Whilst The Link is unavailable, readers may like to access the sister publication, Blagdon Newsletter. The online edition for April 2022 can be accessed by clicking the banner image above, or please email the Church Office for a PDF copy.
Subscribers to The Link have received a printed copy of Blagdon Newsletter this month.

Stainer's Crucifixion

Derek Griffin (tenor)
David Rees-Jones (bass)
Christopher Burt (organ)
United Parish Choir
Director – Tricia Rees-Jones

Good Friday (15th April) at 6.30 pm
St Mary's Church West Hartree
(retiring collection)

ODDMENTS THEATRE CO PRESENTS...
THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

A brand new production, hitting the road this Easter!

This show will take you on a journey through the last 7 days of Jesus' life. Laugh and cry as we explore God's overwhelming Love for mankind.

Friday 8th April 7:00-9:30pm
Bishop Sutton Village Hall, BS39 5XQ,
Advance tickets £10:00 / on the door £12
Dave & Jenny Tel: 01275 332746
Suitable for ages 14+

Bishop Sutton Community Church

THE CASSIOPEIA ENSEMBLE PRESENTS...
AN EVENING OF CHAMBER MUSIC
SATURDAY 30th APRIL 7:00PM
Mozart 'Dissonance' String Quartet K465
Schumann Piano Quintet Op. 44

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, BLAGDON, BS40 1FS
ANY ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT: 07879 193517
TICKETS! £6
WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM

Prayer within our Community

We have been asked to pray for:
In the Parish of Blagdon, please pray for Britta and her parents Roger and Kathy, Neil and Margaret and Joyce.
In the Parish of Compton Martin, please pray for Ann and Robert, for Ceinwen and Robert.

Please pray for Toby, Sophie and Alexander and their families as they prepare for baptism, and Katherine and Christopher as they prepare for marriage.
We pray for the repose of the souls of Janice Dean, Diane Green and Jacqueline Groves and for their families and friends who mourn.

*O Holy Jesus
O most merciful Redeemer,
Friend, and Brother,
May I know thee more clearly;
Love thee more dearly,
And follow thee more nearly
Day by day
Amen.*

If you have someone or something that you would like us to pray for, your requests can be passed onto them and included in our prayers. Please click [here](#) to send us your requests.

Community Support and Help Details

Support is available in all our villages for anyone who is self-isolating:

For those who live in Ubley

Ubley Cares
Landline: 462827 speak to Jonathan Longhurst
Email: jljandj@sky.com

For those who live in Compton Martin:

Coronavirus support in Compton Martin Parish
Email: comptonmartin.cv@gmail.com
Landline: 221415 speak to Jean Lockett
Mobile: 07968 861118 speak to Jean Lockett
Email: jeanl@stmartin.com
Landline: 220102 speak to Rachel Branton

