

St David with St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter Newsletter for Palm Sunday, 10 April 2022

Dear Friends,

Palm Sunday and Holy Week gives us the opportunity to join Jesus in his journey to the cross in our worship and in our imaginations. The difficulties which some of us face can feel overwhelming, but the experience of Jesus reminds us that we never face them alone. We are offering daily services in our churches so please join us whenever you can.

We continue to pray for an improvement in the situation in Ukraine. At St David's Church we invite you to write your prayers on the white card doves available at the back of church which will be made into a peace mobile.

Face coverings in church are now voluntary in church, as elsewhere. But please keep aware of social distancing and use hand sanitizer on entering the building. We are delighted to be serving refreshments after our services and are grateful to those who are making this possible. Please be patient, kind and respect the personal space of other people if they don't wish to get too close!

Our services today are:

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's with celebrant, Nigel Guthrie and preacher, Howard Friend (live-streamed on St David's Exeter Facebook page)

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher, Ash Leighton Plom

4pm Thrive at St David's Church with Ash Leighton Plom

6pm Evening Prayer at St David's Church led by Nigel Guthrie

Services in church and online this week

Monday 11 April, 7pm, Holy Communion at St David's Church with celebrant Belinda Speed Andrews and speaker Nigel Walsh

Tuesday 12 April, 9.30 – 9.55am Morning Prayer on Zoom. Please join us on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6602261392?pwd=VzdOaU1XUFBjWk9jV0xvMDZWajZBQT09>

Meeting ID: 660 226 1392

Passcode: 196651

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's (live streamed on Friends of St Michael's Facebook Page)

7pm Holy Communion with celebrant Nigel Guthrie and speaker Robert Mitchell

Wednesday 13 April, 9.30am Mattins and 10am Mass at St Michael's

6pm Stations of the Cross at St Michael's Church

7pm Holy Communion at St David's Church with Celebrant Ash Leighton Plom and speaker, Deborah Leighton Plom

Maundy Thursday 14 April, 10.30am Holy Communion at St David's Church

7pm Holy Communion with foot-washing and watch at St David's Church

7.30pm Sung Mass with footwashing and vigil at St Michael's Church

Good Friday 15 April, 10.30am Liturgy of the Day at St Michael's Church

2pm, Meditation with hymns at St David's Church

8pm Tenebrae (sung) at St Michael's Church

Holy Saturday 16 April, 8pm Vigil and First Mass of Easter

Sunday 17 April – Easter Day

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's Church with celebrant and preacher, Nigel Guthrie (live streamed on St David's Exeter Facebook page)

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher, Ash Leighton Plom

4pm Thrive at St David's led by Ash Leighton Plom

6pm Evening Prayer at St David's Church led by Belinda Speed-Andrews

Covid-19 Safe for Public Worship

At St David's we encourage people to wear face coverings to come forward to receive Holy Communion and then to consume the host after moving away from the altar rail.

At St Michael's the priest will distribute Holy Communion to people in their seats.

Please do not attend church if you are feeling ill or have tested positive for Covid.

Forthcoming elections for PCC and Deanery Synod

At the annual parishioners' meeting on Thursday 28th April this year we are hoping that you will give consideration to seeking election to the PCC and/or Deanery Synod.

At St Michael's there will be two spaces on the PCC and at St David's there will be three.

There are two available spaces on Deanery Synod (successful election to Deanery Synod automatically confers a seat at the PCC).

Papers to complete for nomination will be available in church from early April or you can download a copy here: [PCC nomination form](#)

[Deanery Synod nomination form](#)

We will also be seeking to elect a new churchwarden, and a second chapel wardens for St Michael's. Again, there will be forms available in church in early April or you can download a copy here: [Church Warden nomination form](#)

Please pick up a copy of our parish prayer to use during Lent.

Thrive

Could you help with Thrive, even on a monthly basis? Ash would appreciate some support with the running of Thrive in the coming weeks. Please have a word with him if you feel you could help in some way and see his article in the April magazine about what help is needed.

Knit and Natter

We will meet again in April date to be confirmed. All are welcome to knit, natter or learn! Tea and coffee available.

Men's Breakfast – please note change of venue

The Men's Breakfast will be next **Saturday 30th April at 9.15am** at Boston Tea Party. We are trying a different venue to see how it works this month. Please contact Nigel if you would like to be on a mailing list reminder for this.

Parish Quiz

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the recent Quiz Evening on Friday evening and worked hard to make it happen. Great fun was had and very useful funds were raised. We have sent half the proceeds, £268, to the DEC appeal for Ukraine.

St David's Church opening times

After many years of general closure we are re-establishing regular opening times for St David's Church, usually having the church open from 9.30am to 5pm from Monday to Friday. So please do pop in if you are passing to pause and pray and to greet any visitors.

Tuesday Friendship Café

This week Friendship Café will be in the Parish Room due to organ tuning.

Please let your local friends know that we are open on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am to 12noon as a drop-in for people to find a Christian welcome and company. There are flyers available for you to take as invitations.

Thank you to those who have already offered to help or to bake cakes. There is a rota at the back of church to sign up when you can help. And do just come along if you would like to and help us to welcome any visitors who come into church!

Lent Groups

Thank you to all those who led and supported our Lent Groups.

St Michael's Survey

Thank you to all those who completed the survey. The numerical results and comments will be shared with the Archdeacon, PCC and St Michael's Committee. The numerical results will also be shared, with a commentary to explain them, at an AGM at St Michael's after Mass on Sunday 1st May at approx. 12.15pm.

Church Electoral Roll

The revision of the Church Electoral Roll is complete and the new roll is displayed at both churches. Thank you to Sue Wilson and Paula Lewis for their work on the revision.

New Leaves – April Edition

The April edition of our Parish Magazine is now available in our churches. Thank you to our editorial team for their hard work. Please collect your copy and share with any friends who might be interested in our life.

Green Team

It is great to see the new fruit trees coming into bud, and we are hopeful that at least some of our bird boxes will be well used. Please let us know if you spot any nesting activity in the churchyard!

Earth Day is coming up on 22nd April with the theme 'Invest in our planet'. Have a look at their website and work at <https://www.earthday.org/>.

Phone Network and Home Communion

If you would like to be phoned by someone from the church community or know someone who would appreciate Communion at home, please let Nigel know at nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com or by ringing him on 01392 660226 or Ash on 07855305519.

St Michael's services and prayers

If you would like to access the service details and prayer list for St Michael's please contact Oliver Nicholson at virtualsaintmichaels@gmail.com and he can add you to that weekly mailing.

Your Prayers are asked for...

Please remember those who are suffering including:

Charlotte, Paul and Grace; Maggs Bedford; Monica Darch; Andrew Francis; James Ibbetson, Dan Newman, Liz Rimmington; Anne Smith; Grace Tointon; Mary Tout; Pam Smith; Iris Sutton; Bessie Wilkins; Caroline, Cliff and Stephen, Andy, Avis, Becky, Kate, Debs and Rob

Please remember those who have died recently including:

Diane Susan Evans

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Local cafés and coffee shops and pubs; all who work in hospitality in our parish.

Please also pray for:

the people of Ukraine and all those injured, bereaved and made homeless by the invasion;
refugees from Ukraine and elsewhere, and the response to their needs;
for peace negotiations between Russia and Ukraine to be productive;
members of our community to consider standing as church and chapel wardens or assistants and PCC members;
purposeful follow-up from the COP26 conference;
those being severely impacted by rising costs of living in this country;
those suffering in Afghanistan through lack of food and medical facilities and the young women being denied education;
the people of Yemen and Ethiopia facing continued conflict and famine;
those in the NHS and education struggling to keep services going in the face of many Covid infections;
those suffering from Covid and long-Covid around the world.

With every blessing,
Nigel Guthrie

Prayers, Readings and Address for Palm Sunday, 10 April 2022

Palm Gospel – Luke 19: 28-40

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it." ' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!'

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

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.

First 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.

Passion Gospel – from Luke chapter 22 & 23

Address by Nigel Guthrie for Palm Sunday 2022

The events which we remember on Palm Sunday not only set the scene for Holy Week and Easter but also give us a clear insight into what Jesus was really about and indeed how he wants us to live as his followers. It is still possible to visit towns and cities in Europe and see triumphal arches which have been left by the Romans. When a victorious general returned from a battle or campaign he would ride

through such an arch on fine horse or chariot as a sign of the glory and wealth which he and his forces had acquired through their conquests.

And up to a point the story of Palm Sunday reflects such events. Yet the significance of Jesus entry into Jerusalem was very different from that of a victorious general returning from war. There were certainly people in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus who would have liked him to be the leader of a popular rebellion against the Romans. And when the crowd shouted 'Hosanna to the Son of David', some of them may have had golden memories of King David in their minds - the great king who defeated the powerful enemy Goliath and helped to unite the Hebrew peoples. But Jesus didn't come into Jerusalem on a charger, or in a chariot, but on a humble ass, a beast of burden, which was associated with a king coming in peace to a city.

Jesus was entering Jerusalem as a king, but as a servant king. And when our Maundy Thursday services include the foot-washing, they remind us that Jesus came 'not to be served but to serve and to give up his life as a ransom for many'. The foot-washing which is recorded in St. John's gospel is an example of how all Christian leadership should be exercised. It should always be based in a spirit of service of others not of domination or self-importance. When priests and bishops are first ordained it is as deacons, the order which is based on a practical ministry of service. They remain deacons whatever subsequent responsibilities they are given.

And this same principle should underlie all our relationships and responsibilities. If we are entrusted with any task we should not only ask 'what can I get from this' but also 'who can I serve through doing this'. Religion has all too often been used, or rather 'abused', as a way of getting power over others. History is littered with the disasters and conflicts which that abuse has caused. But the Christian faith should always be about looking for opportunities for service, especially of those in need or distress.

The reality of Christian service can be draining or frustrating as well as joyful and rewarding. But nevertheless, it is the ideal set before us by Jesus who entered Jerusalem as a servant king. Jesus was coming to claim a throne but it was not the throne which victorious generals had in prospect. It was the throne of the cross on which his life was poured out for us all. But his throne is also a throne in the hearts of men and women who receive him into their lives. Jesus went up to Jerusalem to

prepare a way for us to come to God. Let us enthrone him afresh this Holy Week as our king and resolve to serve him, and those around us as, he has served us.

Post-Communion Prayer

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

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