

Our Easter Celebrations

Our **Easter celebrations** this year will be simple and informal. The wooden cross from the church will be erected by Oxford Road near to the pond. You are invited to leave posies of flowers at the foot of the cross any time over the Easter weekend

GOOD FRIDAY 10:30am - 11:30am - Church open for prayers, music and quiet contemplation

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16

EASTER DAY 10:30am – A short family celebration of the risen Christ outdoors in the churchyard - weather permitting - otherwise in the church

We believethat Christ died for our sins..... and he was raised on the third day **1 Cor.15:3-4**

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory;
give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord
and King,
to the glory of God the Father.*

Amen

Preventing Homelessness in Aylesbury

This is a recent interview with Karen Warner the manager of AHAG (Aylesbury Homelessness Action Group). It is well worth watching as she explains the work they do. It was recorded by Sustainable Aylesbury. There are other interesting articles on their site as well.

[Tackling homelessness in Aylesbury with Aylesbury Homeless Action Group | Sustainable Aylesbury](#)

Give the World a shot

The Diocese is backing UNICEF's Vaccinaid campaign. As you give thanks for a vaccine received you can give your global neighbour a shot too <https://www.vaccinaid.org/>

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Wychert Vale Benefice
www.wychertvale.org



Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Churches of: St. John Baptist, STONE; Ss Peter & Paul, DINTON; Assumption of St. Mary the Virgin, HARTWELL

www.stonedintonhartwell.com

St. John the Baptist STONE

Sunday 28th March

PALM SUNDAY



You are welcome to join us for a zoom service every Sunday at 10:30.

Login by using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88617212701?pwd=UHpnS1hXRIAvRHFLS0RTaTg1ZXPgdz09>

You can also phone in on these numbers: **020 3901 7895** or **0131 460 1196** (You do not need to set a participant ID)

Meeting ID: 886 1721 2701

Passcode: Service



EASTER ACTIVITY PACK

You can bring a little joy and hope to the village this Easter by decorating your house with whatever you can, and if you send in pictures of what you have done you may even win a prize! Details are on the website where there is an exciting Easter Activity Pack for all the family to enjoy.

<https://stonedintonhartwell.com/easter-activity-pack-2021/>

CHECK - HAVE YOU REMEMBERED TO MOVE YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD BY AN HOUR ?



BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Palm Sunday reflection – Mark 11:1-10

11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.

⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it.

⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.

⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted “Hosanna”

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

¹⁰ “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”



When someone mentions Palm Sunday, what image comes into your mind? Perhaps a procession into church in the spring sunshine with daffodils gently swaying in the background, or a picture of Jesus sitting on a donkey with children cheering him on – a brief sunny interlude before the dark days of Jesus’ trial and crucifixion.

The fact that all four gospel-writers give a detailed account of Palm Sunday tells us that this was a pivotal moment in Jesus’ ministry. It was actually a dangerous and politically explosive moment from which there could be no going back. Before Palm Sunday, it was possible to be undecided about who Jesus was and what he represented. His words and his miraculous signs certainly disturbed or delighted those who came into contact with him and they sometimes led him into confrontation with the religious authorities, but there always seemed to be room for uncertainty. Jesus’ disciples asked each other: “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him” (Mark 4:41). Jesus later asked his disciples: “Who do people say that I am?” (Mark 8:27) – and received a range of answers.

Israel at the time of Jesus’ ministry was firmly under Roman control, but had a degree of autonomy with the Herod family as puppet rulers. The worship of God was allowed

and the temple had been rebuilt in Jerusalem, yet any sign of rebellion against Rome would invite a brutal crackdown and a return to direct rule.

No wonder the religious establishment did not want to rock the boat. Their position was not helped by the fact that there was widespread expectation that the promised Messiah would emerge imminently and restore God’s kingdom, evicting the hated Romans in the process.

The prophet Zechariah had written several hundred years earlier that the Messiah would announce his arrival by entering Jerusalem on a young donkey before taking up his throne (Zechariah 9:9-10). When Jesus rode the borrowed donkey into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday, everyone who saw this knew exactly what it meant – the blue touch-paper had been lit. From that moment onwards, nobody could be neutral about Jesus. He was either the Messiah or a dangerous impostor. With the Passover a few days away, the religious authorities, who had already made up their minds, had little time left to limit the damage (as they saw it) and restore order by whatever means necessary.

As we prepare to enter Holy Week and take our first few tentative steps out of lockdown, this is a good time to remind ourselves that Palm Sunday is a moment of opportunity to make up our minds about who Jesus is – the Son of God or an impostor. As we follow his journey to the cross this week, may we understand more about what his kingdom and his glory means.

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Dear Friends

In our [online service for Palm Sunday](#) we think about the hope that inspired the celebration of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Jesus knew that there was a difficult road ahead. As we emerge from the pandemic we see signs of hope and we know that victory is inevitable, but we also know that there are difficult paths in front of us. This is our Palm Sunday.

If you can’t get a Palm Cross this year, there are instructions on how to make one in our [Easter Activity Pack](#). You may want to share the pack with your family

The service is also on Red Kite Radio at 12 noon on Sundays **107.2fm**

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

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