



All Saints' Church

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Sunday 24th March *Palm Sunday*

10 am Holy Communion led by Revd John Kirkby

Readings

Mark 11 vv 1-11
Philippians 2 vv 5-11
Mark 15 vv 21-41

Hymns

265 Ride on, ride on in majesty
262 All glory laud and honour
277 My song is love unknown
594 Lord Jesus Christ
272 From heaven you came

Dear All Saints',



Hello, hiya, How are you? 'Ey up! We greet each other in all sorts of different ways. Which greeting do you tend to use?

I remember going to Hemel in 2012 when the Olympic flame was being carried through on its journey around the country and hearing the cheers gradually come nearer and nearer as the crowds greeted the runner and the torch. Cheers are often the greeting for important people.

In the Palm Sunday reading we are told that the crowds in Jerusalem greeted Jesus with shouts of "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" They are shouts that reflect the hopes of the people as Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, reflecting the words of the prophet Zechariah - "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Hosanna, meaning something like

'save us', the links with King David and the phrase 'coming in the name of the Lord' all have messianic connotations and speak to us of the expectations of the crowds on this day. As we know however, many of those expectations related to a conquering king who would rule a great Israel as King David had done, but that was not the way of Jesus. Perhaps we could ask, how would we greet Jesus should he ride into Berkhamsted tomorrow? Would we also be putting our hopes in Jesus? What would we want to change? Would we expect Jesus to act in a particular way, talk to a particular group of people, go to a particular place?

The words, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" are words that we are used to saying in our communion services. As we recognise God's presence in our time of worship, so we echo the words of the crowd who greeted Jesus. It makes me think about how we greet Jesus, how we welcome God, at other times. As we share in our opening responses at the beginning of a service, as we sing our opening hymns, sometimes we are focussed on how we come into the space eg. 'Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here', but sometimes we are focussed on God, bringing to mind his greatness eg. 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation' and I think there are arguments for both. Ideally, both are balanced to enable us to focus on worship through focussing on the greatness of God. But what about in our every day lives? It's so easy to get caught up in our various things, household tasks, TV or radio programmes etc, do we take time to recognise God's presence with us in all that we are doing?

As we enter this Holy Week, as we reflect on the events of that first week and all that Jesus said and did and how the people responded, it is a time to remember all that Jesus did to meet with us, to greet us, to share his love with us. A simple 'hello' was not enough for him, and we give thanks for that, as we walk with him through this Holy Week, so that next Sunday we can share the joy of his risen life.

Blessings,
Rachael

Holy Week Services:

Monday 25th	8.45pm	Compline on Zoom (see below for link)
Tuesday 26th	8.45pm	Compline on Zoom
Weds 27th	8.45pm	Compline on Zoom
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Reflective Worship including Holy Communion led by Revd Rachael Hawkins
	8.45pm	Compline on Zoom
Good Friday	11am	Worship for Good Friday led by Revd Rachael Hawkins
Easter Day	10am	Holy Communion led by Revd Margaret Saunders

This is the **Zoom link for all four Compline services** in Holy Week:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78796371629?pwd=bxnDb5Rldy2LsJjDfKtYt41pnAai9A.1>

Meeting ID: 787 9637 1629
Passcode: 7Pj9pc

Morning Prayer at 9am and **Eucharist** at 9.30am continue on Tuesday morning.
Evening Prayer is on Friday at 4pm.

Everyone is also very welcome to the following:

there will be an **ecumenical gathering on Good Friday** at 10am in the High St near Waterstones.

there will also be an **Easter Day Sunrise service** at 7am in the grounds of Berkhamsted Castle.

“**Coffee, Chat and Toddlers**” will be meeting this **Tuesday morning** but will take a break on April 2nd and 9th. Everyone of any age is welcome to drop in to the hall anytime between 10 - 11am.

Friendship Club meets on Tuesday afternoons. This week will be their Easter service.

Revd Rachael will be talking about her **trip to Ghana on this Sunday (24th March)** at 3pm in the Lower Hall. All are welcome. Tea and cake will be served!

Easter Flowers: Rosemary Smith will kindly be arranging the flowers for Easter for the pulpit on **Saturday 30th March** at 10.30am. As happened at Christmas, please join with her, with your own flowers, to create decorations for the porch and around the church so the church can look beautiful for our Easter celebrations.

25 works from the **Methodist Modern Art Collection** will be at The Focolare Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City **until Sunday 7th April** on the theme of Lent and Easter. The exhibition is titled ‘Deepening the Mystery - unexpected treasures of art’ and will be open **Tuesday to Friday 11am-4pm** and **Saturdays and Sundays 2-5pm**. There is a car park at the Focolare Centre and it is easy to find. The paintings can also be seen online at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/life-and-faith/the-methodist-modern-art-collection/>

St Mary’s Church, Northchurch will be open from 10am - 3pm during Holy Week. All are welcome to come and spend time reflecting on The Stations of the Cross in this quiet space.

Linda Ezard sends her thanks to the All Saints’ family for the flowers and good wishes following her surgery and is glad to say she is now well on the road to recovery.

Prayer Requests:

For: Leslie; Ray and Jean Emsall; Margaret Harding; Sue and Tony Danbury; Penny Perry; Tara Ginn; the family and friends of Felicity's brother-in-law, Gavin, who has died; Marnie Taylor; Linda Ezard; Sarah; for Ida and all her family and friends on the death of her dear sister, Joan.

We pray for our neighbours throughout the world whose lives have been changed by the events in Israel and Palestine, and pray especially for all those who have lost loved ones and homes due to the conflict. We pray that this conflict may not escalate further into neighbouring countries.

We pray too for those who are caught up in war in other parts of the world, including Sudan and Ukraine and for those facing the threat of starvation in the ongoing hostilities;

We also pray for:

All who are refugees, especially those who are not receiving help to rebuild their lives in safety;

We pray that the issue of climate change may not be forgotten and all the nations may act to secure the safety of our world. We pray too for all whose lives have been badly affected by climate changes in the areas where they live.

We continue to pray for:

the children and their families of our church and town;

all who work in the NHS; Social Services and the charities who are supporting the sick or frail;

We pray for those who are helped by Embrace the Middle East, Karibuni Children; the Leprosy Mission; Phakamisa, DENS; the Way Inn with Open Door and for all those who work in these organisations.

We continue to pray for those whose need is ongoing:

Paul Sear and his wife, Peggy; Julia Wright; Corinne & William; Julie Murdock; Gary Andersen; Charlie; Chris Billington; Graham Rule; Clare Hancock; Heather Gifford; John Malcolm; Betty Harding; Valerie Ruddock; Jenny Wells; Jonathan and Ann Hayes; Martin Turner; Catherine Treves Brown; Sue Judd; Madeleine Brownell; Barbara Conway;

