

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin

Great Shelford



Palm Sunday Parish Communion

9th April 2017 at 10.00am

A warm welcome to everyone who has joined us this morning to begin the celebration of Holy Week. Today we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem with great joy at the start of the week in which he was put to death.

Services for Holy Week:

9 Apr.	Sun	6.30pm	Evensong
10 Apr.	Mon	7.30pm	Reflective Holy Communion
11 Apr.	Tue	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
12Apr.	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

	Wed	7.30pm	Christian Passover Meal
13 Apr.	Thur.	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist, followed by The Watch
	Thur.	9.00pm	Compline
14 Apr.	Fri.	10.30am	Children's Service
	Fri.	1.00pm	Good Friday Devotions
	Fri.	2.00pm	Liturgy of Good Friday
15 Apr.	Sat	8.00pm	Easter Vigil
16 Apr.	Sun	6.30am	Joint Dawn Service on Magog Down
	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	Sun	10.00am	Parish Communion (CW)
	Sun	6.30pm	Evensong (BCP)

THE GATHERING

The president says:

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

Please hold up your greenery and palms to be blessed.

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die, bless these palms and greenery. Let them be for us signs of his victory; and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All Amen

The Gospel of the Palms: Mt. 21. 1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

'Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut

branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The president says:

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

OPENING HYMN - 509 *During the hymn, we process round the church.*

We pray together as the children prepare to leave for their activities in the Community Room:

All **Creator God, we thank you for giving us Jesus as our Saviour: he blessed the children who came to him, and welcomes those who come to him now. Look with love upon these children and protect them with your care. May they grow in wisdom, age and strength in your presence and in the sight of all. We ask this through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE COLLECT

We remain standing while the president introduces a period of silent prayer:

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ during this holy season
All **True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: 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**
Amen

Please sit for the readings

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50. 4-9a

The servant of the Lord said: The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God**

Short silence

SECOND 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.

At the end the reader says
This is the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Short silence
Please stand to sing

THE GRADUAL HYMN - 511

Please be seated for the reading of the Passion

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.
Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him
and given him the name that is above every name.

All Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

The Evangelist says

Hear the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

No response is made.

At the end

This is the Passion of the Lord.

No response is made.

We keep silence for a few moments, followed by a short sermon. Silence is kept after the sermon.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please sit or kneel to pray

At the end of each prayer

All Lord, have mercy.

At the end

All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

Please stand

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood,
for he is our peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN - 84

During the hymn, the gifts of the people are gathered and presented. If you are a UK tax-payer, please use a Gift Aid envelope to maximize the value of your offering, being sure to fill in your name and address.

The gifts of bread and wine and our offerings will be brought to the altar

PRAYERS AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself that the world might live,
let us share your death and passion:
make us perfect in your love.

All Amen

Please remain standing for

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now we give you thanks because for our salvation he was obedient even to death on the cross. The tree of life was made the tree of glory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

Sanctus/Benedictus:

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria, gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis, Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus, Benedictus qui venit in nomine,

In nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis, Hosanna in excelsis,

Hosanna in excelsis, in excelsis.

Please sit or kneel

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion, the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ, we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this, the duty and service that we owe. Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All **Amen**

A brief silence is kept

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup

All **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All **We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen**

Agnus Dei:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,

**Miserere, miserere, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere, miserere, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona nobis pacem, pacem.**
Settings: Richard Terry

If you are a full member of a Christian Church you are welcome to receive the Sacrament. If you would like instead to receive a blessing please come to the altar rail carrying this service book.

THE COMMUNION HYMN - 294

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

All Amen

**All Faithful God,
may we who share this banquet
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
our salvation, life and hope,
who reigns as Lord now and for ever. Amen**

SUNDAY CLUB FEEDBACK

We welcome the children from Sunday Club who have joined us for Communion and hear what they have been doing today.

After the notices, please stand to sing

THE FINAL HYMN - The Servant King (See Newsletter)

THE DISMISSAL

THE BLESSING

May the Father,
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to his eternal life.

All Amen

May Christ,
who accepted the cup of sacrifice
in obedience to the Father's will,
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross.

All Amen

May the Spirit,
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ
that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace.

All Amen

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

All **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen**

*You are warmly invited to join us for refreshments in the Community Room after this service.
(Turn right outside church door)*

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The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Great Shelford



The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

Palm Sunday

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Dramatis personæ:

- Evangelist: *the narrator*
 - Jesus: *the president*
 - Peter and the Centurion: *a reader*
 - Judas, Pilate, the High Priest and Bystander: *a reader*
 - Pilate's wife, first and second Servant girls: *a reader*
 - the Priests, witnesses and soldiers: *a small group*
 - the Disciples and the Crowd: *the congregation*
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Evangelist: Hear the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
(Matthew 26.17–27.end)

Evangelist: On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

Disciples: Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

Evangelist: Jesus said,

Jesus: Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'

Evangelist: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

Evangelist: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

Disciples: Surely not I, Lord?

(severally)

Evangelist: Jesus answered,

Jesus: The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

Evangelist: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Judas: Surely not I, Rabbi?

Evangelist: Jesus replied,

Jesus: You have said so.

Evangelist: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus: Take, eat; this is my body.

Evangelist: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Evangelist: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Evangelist: Peter said to him,

Peter: Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

Evangelist: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Evangelist: Peter said to him,

Peter: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

*Evangelist: And so said all the disciples.
Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,*

Jesus: Sit here while I go over there and pray.

*Evangelist: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated.
Then he said to them,*

Jesus: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

Evangelist: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

Evangelist: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus: So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Evangelist: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

Evangelist: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Evangelist: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

Evangelist: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

Judas: Greetings, Rabbi!

Evangelist: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Friend, do what you are here to do.

Evangelist: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?

Evangelist: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.

Evangelist: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Evangelist: Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

Witnesses: This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'

Evangelist: The high priest stood up and said,

High Priest: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Evangelist: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

High Priest: I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.

Evangelist: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Evangelist: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

High Priest: He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

Evangelist: They answered,

Priests: He deserves death.

Evangelist: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

Priests: Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

Evangelist: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

Servant Girl You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

1

Evangelist: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

Peter: I do not know what you are talking about.

Evangelist: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

Servant Girl This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

2:

Evangelist: Again he denied it with an oath,

Peter: I do not know the man.

Evangelist: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

Crowd: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.

Evangelist: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter: I do not know the man!

Evangelist: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

Judas:

Evangelist: But they said,

Priests: What is that to us? See to it yourself.

Evangelist: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

Priests: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.

Evangelist: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.'

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Evangelist: Jesus said,

Jesus: You say so.

Evangelist: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Evangelist: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Evangelist: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

Pilate's wife: Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

Evangelist: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

Pilate: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

Evangelist: And they said,

Crowd: Barabbas.

Evangelist: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Evangelist: All of them said,

Crowd: Let him be crucified!

Evangelist: Then he asked,

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Evangelist: But they shouted all the more,

Crowd: Let him be crucified!

Evangelist: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

Pilate: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

Evangelist: Then the people as a whole answered,

Crowd: His blood be on us and on our children!

Evangelist: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

Soldiers: Hail, King of the Jews!

Evangelist: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Crowd: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

Evangelist: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

Crowd: He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'

Evangelist: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

Evangelist: that is,

Jesus: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Evangelist: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Crowd: This man is calling for Elijah.

Evangelist: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

Crowd: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

Evangelist: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

Centurion: Truly this man was God's Son!

Evangelist: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

Priests: Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first.

Evangelist: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

Evangelist: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

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In this version, a few pronouns have been changed to the corresponding proper nouns for clarity in a dramatic reading. No other changes have been made to the text of the NRSV.

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ST. MARY'S GREAT SHELFORD – WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Hymn: The Servant King

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
Entered our world, your glory veiled;
Not to be served but to serve,
And give your life that we might live.

Refrain: *This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load he chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said. **Refrain**

**Come, see his hands and his feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice,
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered. *Refrain***

**So let us learn how to serve,
And in our lives enthrone him;
Each other's needs to prefer,
For it is Christ we're serving. *Refrain***

Today - Palm Sunday – Holy Week begins and we start our journey towards Easter by marking Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Golden Palm crosses are available, but we have also invited you to bring along green or flowering shrub branches to carry in the Parish Communion procession. This is a long tradition in mainland Europe and is in effect our 'local' spring palms.

During Holy Week we shall be offering services every evening – please see leaflet – and a special Family Service in the morning of Good Friday, as well as an afternoon devotion.

On Wednesday in Holy Week, we will have a Christian Passover celebration at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Room. This will require a ticket (£2 each - **please sign up today**) to cover costs and is limited to 30 people. The celebration will help us to understand how our Christian Eucharist developed out of the 'Last Supper' Jesus celebrated the night before his death.

Holy Week & Easter Services: Leaflets are available at the back of church explaining our services for Holy Week and Easter. Please take one home and also distribute to neighbours.

Lent Activities 2017:

Count Your Blessings this Lent with Christian Aid

Celebrate the good things in your life this Lent with a thought-provoking Count Your Blessings calendar. This Lent, reflect each day on the blessings in your life and join in giving thanks. Be inspired by daily opportunities to give, act and pray for communities in need. Enjoy Count Your Blessings as a personal journey or share it with family or friends. Leaflets available for both adults and children at the back of church today.

Lent Breakfast

The final Lent breakfast took place today. Many thanks to those that have enabled these breakfasts to happen.

Lent Course - ' All Loves Excelling '

The Lent group met for 5 weeks and shared together bible reading from Philippians, and discussed Paul's advice to the early church and how we should respond to it today. We appreciated music and hymns, accompanied by Margaret, and are grateful to Doreen for hosting 4 of the 5 sessions. We shared prayer at the beginning and end. A big thank you to all who led, for their individual contributions and helping us all increase our understanding and faith.

Cambridge City Foodbank: The organizers have asked for their thanks to be expressed to everyone who contributed to our parish collection last week. As always, our donations are very much appreciated. Our next collection takes place on Sunday 7th May.

Centering Prayer: An Introductory Workshop will take place on Saturday 22nd April from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at St. James' Study Centre, Wulfstan Way, Cambridge. Please see notice for further details or email www.contemplativeoutreach.org.uk

Alms Giving 2017: The alms on the first Sunday of each month are donated to Shelford School. The alms for the remaining Sundays in April will be going to The Leprosy Mission. Alms can be gift aided provided your giving is in an envelope marked 'Alms' and with your PIN. Alms not in envelopes should be placed in the alms bowl as you come into church. This stands on the offertory box at the back of church, near the back pew.

Today

18:30 Evensong

Please see Pew Sheet for details of service throughout Holy week

Sunday 16th April, 2017

06.30 Joint Dawn Service on Magog Down
08:00 Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 Parish Communion
18:30 Evensong

Priest in charge:

The Rev'd Simon Talbott

simon@thetalbotts.co.uk

01223 847068

Assistant Curate:

The Rev'd Monica Cameron

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01223 630074

Churchwardens:

Mrs. Dianne Fraser

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01223 832290

Readers/Licensed Lay Ministers:

Mrs. Maureen Dobson

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01223 840076

Mr. Nigel Pett

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01223 843278

Parish Administrator:

Mrs. Katharin Page

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07710518220

Pastoral Services Co-ordinator

Mrs Frances Simms

francesisimms47@gmail.com

01223 845895

Children's work contacts:

Gillian Pett

gillian.pett29@gmail.com

Joanne Staines

Joanne.staines@gmail.com

Applications for baptisms, marriages and the calling of Banns of marriage should be made please to the Parish Administrator

09/04/17