



## This week's service

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## This week's readings



Today's service for Palm Sunday is led by Debbie Patrick



Psalms 118: 1-9, 25-29  
Mark 11:1-11

### A thought from Debbie

As you read Mark 11... imagine being a part of that great procession into the city. How are you feeling? Hot.. tired.. excited? Maybe worried..

Explore what you would have been feeling if you were one of the crowd.

Repeat the words

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.

### Prayer for the week

Lord Jesus

As you entered Jerusalem on that day, would you enter my life.

As you walked out your plan would you walk your plan out in my life,

give me the faith I know I need to trust you with everything — the good and the bad.. everything life throws at me.

And deepen my love for you through it all.

Amen

### What is Palm Sunday?

- Why do churchgoers carry palm crosses?
- Why will there be processions through towns and cities on Palm Sunday?
- Why will donkeys be seen in churches and cathedrals?

Palm Sunday is celebrated one week before Easter Day. It marks the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, an event that is recorded in all four Gospels. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, while the crowds waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna!" (an exclamation of praise)

Palm branches were widely associated with victory and triumph during the time in which Jesus lived. People also laid their cloaks on the ground, a sign of respect and honour for someone of great importance.

To mark this, Palm Sunday is often celebrated with a procession through the streets near a cathedral or church, where congregations carry palm branches or other greenery, sometimes decorated with flowers. Some churches or cathedrals even involve a real donkey in their procession, to mark the role of the animal which carried Jesus.

The palm crosses are then often burned to make ashes for the following year's Ash Wednesday service.

Palm Sunday is a time of mixed sentiment because, although triumphal, it precedes the marking of events which led to the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. It is a time for Christians to reflect on their faith and to prepare themselves for the solemnity of Holy Week, which culminates in the celebration of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus.

## Church diary for the next month

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

**7pm PCC meeting**  
at Emmanuel Church Hall

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

**10:30 Coffee and Conversation**  
at Goseley Community Centre

### Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

**10am Swadlincote Walk of Witness**

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March

**6am Easter Dawn Service**  
in Gresley Church's Churchyard

**10:45 Easter Sunday Service**  
with Rev Patrick Douglas

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April

**10:45 Morning Worship**  
with Sean O'Toole

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April

**10:45 Morning Worship**  
with Rev Patrick Douglas

## Cleaning Rota

Please clean the church before the date marked.

Please swap with someone else on the rota if you cannot clean during your week.

**The toilets will be cleaned weekly by Sean & Sandra**

31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Jane
7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Bill
14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Brian Redfern
21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Val & Andrew
28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Christine
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Deb P
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Jane

## Refreshments Rota

It's a real blessing to be able to spend time chatting with one another after the service. We have a rota for serving tea & coffee.

Please swap with someone if you cannot do a particular date.

Please bring the milk. Thank you

24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Deb W & Alicia
31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Carol
7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	James
14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Maxine & Jane
21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Christine
28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Deb W & Alicia
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Carol
12 <sup>th</sup> May	James

## Good Friday Act of Witness in Swadlincote Town Centre

This year there will be three acts of worship and witness at different points along the High Street and at the Delph, each one following on from the other. These will take the form of a 'Flash Mob' gathering. This is where one or two people start a song and others just emerge from the surrounding area to join in.

At each gathering (detailed below) one or two musicians will arrive and start to play then everyone else comes in to create a crowd and start to sing the chosen song. Song sheets will be available beforehand.

At each spot after the song has been sung there will be a bugle fanfare and a reading of a short scripture. After this everyone disperses silently into the street, then moves to join in the next 'Flash Mob'.

**You can join us at any of these meeting points:**

**10.00am Hill Street end of High Street.** Song: Amazing Grace ...

**10.30am bottom of Morrison's steps on High Street.** Song: I danced in the morning...

**11.00am Centre of the Delph.** Song: When I survey...

We will be joined by singers from Gresley Male Voice Choir, Leaside Singers and Boundary Singers



## Spring clean and recycle for Alzheimer's Society

If you're having a spring clean, please remember that Gwen is collecting a range of items to send off to raise funds for Alzheimer's Society. These include:

- **Gadgets - mobile phones, iPods, satnavs, games consoles, games, tablets, cameras and video cameras**
- **Jewellery - gold, silver, costume jewellery, watches, broken and damaged items (like odd earrings or snapped chains)**
- **Unwanted currency - old and new, UK and foreign banknotes & coins; including all the pre Euro notes which are now worthless**
- **Stamps - loose/single used stamps, albums, first day covers/presentation packs, collections**

Have a word with Gwen if you can help.

Thank you

