

13th April 2025



Palm Sunday

At Christmas we often sing, 'Little Donkey'; today, Palm Sunday, may hold memories of, 'We have a king who rides a donkey'. While donkeys might go unnoticed, they certainly grab attention with their, "Hee Haw".

The donkey is often seen as a humble, willing animal, albeit with a stubborn streak. For thousands of years they have been domesticated as a beast of burden. Strong, sure-footed, and capable of carrying heavy loads over rough terrain.

On Palm Sunday one donkey played a starring role. And what a role it was, to carry the king into the capital city. On his back rode Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords! Please don't trip or stumble, little donkey.

What would a donkey make of being at the centre of such a spectacle: the cheers of the crowd, the palm branches under his hooves? Perhaps he just got on with his job: "I've got a king to carry."

But what sort of king is this riding in on a donkey? He's not even wearing a crown – yet.

As we reflect on the events of Palm Sunday, let's remember that the donkey is not the only one carrying a heavy burden. Jesus knows how the coming week will unfold. On Friday, Jesus will be walked through the streets carrying the very cross on which he will be executed. Such physical and mental cruelty. Cheers will become jeers; *Hosanna* twisted into *Crucify*. And yet, there was an even heavier load for him to bear, for in a reflection on Isaiah 53 St Peter writes: 'He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree' (1 Peter 2.24). Bearing our guilt, our punishment. For on his back he carried God's whole plan of salvation and our redemption. Can we ever understand the spiritual suffering he bore?

What a man, what a king!

At the start of this Holy Week may we be reminded of the love, the compassion, and the strength of Jesus. And his determination and commitment to see it through.

Finally, I'd like to ask, as we think of Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, what would you like to say to him?

Rod



Please pray for...



John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith, Jenny Wade, Christine Fish, Nita's grandson, Ben and Helen Sweet's son-in-law Alan Dean.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.

New Electoral Roll.

A new Electoral Roll is being prepared this year. If you wish to be on the new Roll, **you must** submit an application form **by 20th April** (Easter Day!), even if you are on the current Electoral Roll. New Electoral Roll forms are available at the back of the church on the welcome table. Completed forms should be put in the box also on the welcome table. If you have any queries, please talk to Pat Fox.

Easter Canal Towpath Outreach



We will be on the canal towpath **this weekend (12th-14th April)**, near Newcastle Road, Bridge 62 again this year, giving away hot cross buns and small Easter eggs, inviting passers-by to Easter services and running quizzes for families. Please pray for this event and invite people to come along. Donations of hot cross buns (well inside their best before date, please) and/or contribute to the costs gratefully received. Please bring buns to Bridge 62 or contact us to arrange collection. More details from Jan and John Halford. 07478 337188 Thank you.

Mother's Union



Many thanks to all those who bought produce and made donations to the Mothers' Union stall last Sunday. We were able to send £301.80 towards Parenting Projects in Somalia, Burundi and Uganda.



Our next meeting is on 14th April at 2.30pm in the Parish Rooms. We will be privileged to be led in a Holy Week meditation by Molly Lucas. A time of reflection and fellowship.

Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated.

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Palm Sunday Morning Worship

Readings **Psalm 118. 1-2, 19-end; Luke 19.28-40**

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

<https://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk/media>

Easter at St Mary's

Maundy Thursday 17th April

Holy Communion 7.00pm

Good Friday 18th April

Walk of Witness: meet at St Mary's at 10.00am TBC

Last Hour at the Cross 2.00pm

Tenebrae Service 7.00pm

Easter Day 20th April

Sunrise Service 5.45am

BCP Holy Communion 9.00am

CW Holy Communion 10.30am



Good Friday Service,

18th April, 2pm "Hour at the Cross"

If you will be attending the above Service and would be willing to read a passage of Scripture at that Service, will you please contact David Jones (01630 657152 or 07923 525211).



Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

Unfortunately the group will not be meeting in April but will resume next month

Moving House...again!

Please continue to pray for God's guidance and provision for Helen and if you know of any 2 or 3 bed rentals, please let Helen in the office know. Many thanks.

Foodbank Items

Needed

Stock Items urgently required.;

Tins/Cartons of Custard; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; Women's Shampoo; Men's Deodorant; Cleaning Products; Shower Gel; Toothpaste.

We have plenty of Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans

The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Weekly Giving Envelopes

Envelopes for the new tax year are ready for

collection at the back of church. If you wish

to change your stewardship method from envelope to direct bank deposit, please contact Avril Innocent.



Church Organ Fundraising Event

We are raising funds for a new electronic church organ and want to draw your

attention to a Social Evening in the Parish Rooms at 6:30pm on Saturday 3rd May 2025. This will consist of a quality evening dinner followed by entertainment which will include music, song, humour and conversation. We are charging £10.00 per person and all monies obtained will go to an organ fund. We are using our own talent and believe we can provide an entertaining and different evening to your usual activities. Please come; tickets will be available from mid-April.

Open Church

Due to the Lent course in church during Lent, the church will be open from **12.00pm – 2.00pm on**

Wednesdays. Normal time will resume after Easter.



Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Church Administrator: Helen Hughes

Phone: 01630 653505

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Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

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if you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.