



GRAPEVINE

Palm Sunday

29th March 2026

Prayer for the Day *by Revd Canon David White*

Then today,
Him and my little donkey! Ha – laugh? –
I thought I'd kill myself when he first started.
So did the rest of them. Gave him a cheer
Like he was Caesar himself, only more hearty:
Tore off some palm-twigs and followed shouting,
Whacking the donkey's behind...Then suddenly
We see his face.
The smile had gone, and somehow the way he sat
Was different – like he was much older – you know –
Didn't want to laugh no more.

Palm Sunday begins the most solemn week in the Church's year – Holy Week, when we remember the final days of the life of Jesus and his death on the cross on Good Friday. Palm Sunday has a bitter sweet feel to it as Jesus heads the parade into the city that is destined to kill him. It feels puzzling, not only to go voluntarily to the place where your innocence will not protect you, but also to enter the arena of your own execution in the midst of song and acclamation. The

City is in turmoil and the people ask, 'Who is this?'

This poem by the Tasmanian poet Clive Sansom is offered for mediation and reflection. It catches the seriousness of what is happening in spite of all the excitement, as he imagines the owner of the donkey who yesterday had seen Pilate and his entourage come bouncing along the same road with armour shining. The entry of Jesus is humble, profound and serious.

By the end of this week Jesus will lead a very different procession of condemned criminals on their way to their place of execution. That will be a shabby, sordid affair made up of those who have to be there and the curious who can never be mistaken for disciples. Imagine yourself in the crowd watching both processions; what do you see and feel?

SERVICES & OPEN CHURCHES FOR THIS WEEK

Sun. 29 th	10.45am	United Holy Communion	Collingham St John the Baptist
	10am-noon	Open Church	Collingham St John the Baptist
	10am-4pm	Open Churches	Besthorpe and Girton
	11am-4pm	Open Church	Thorney
Tues 31 st	10.00am	Pause for Thought	Collingham St John the Baptist
Thurs. 2 nd	7.30pm	Holy Communion & Stripping of Altars & Vigil	Collingham All Saints
Fri. 3 rd	10.00am	Good Friday All Age Activities	Collingham All Saints
	10.30am	Activities for Children	Thorney
	12noon	The First Hour at the Cross	Harby
	2.00pm	The Final Hour at the Cross & Holy Communion	Girton
Sat. 4 th	10.30am	Children's Activities	Besthorpe
	7.00pm	Service of Light & Holy Communion	Winthorpe

NOTICES

Churches Together in Collingham: The two regular Housegroups normally held every other week in Collingham will resume after Easter. Everyone is welcome, so if you are interested please contact Duncan Smith on 07394 325675.

SERVICES & EVENTS DURING HOLY WEEK

- **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion**, stripping of the altars & vigil will be held at Collingham All Saints on 2nd April at 7.30pm.
- **Good Friday Activities** will take place on 3rd April at **Collingham All Saints from 10am** and at **Thorney from 10.30am**. There will be lots to do for all the family. All are welcome.
- **The First and Final Hours at the Cross** will be marked on Good Friday, 3rd April, with services at **Harby at noon**, and **Girton at 2pm**. The service at Girton will include Holy Communion and there will be refreshments afterwards including hot cross buns.
- **Children's Easter Activities at Besthorpe on Saturday 4th April from 10.30am**. Easter Egg Hunt and egg decorating and much more. Refreshments. All children and adults welcome.
- **The Group Service of Light with Holy Communion on Saturday 4th April at 7.00pm**, will take place at **Winthorpe** when we first light the Easter Candles from all the churches in the East Trent group. Followed by light refreshments. Everyone is very welcome.

OPEN CHURCHES IN HOLY WEEK

Every day: 10am-4pm, Holme & Langford.

Every day: Collingham All Saints, whenever the "Church Open" sign is displayed.

Thurs. 17th: 1.30-3.30pm, Winthorpe.

Sat. 4th: 10am-4pm, Besthorpe & Girton.

NEXT SUNDAY 5th April – Easter Sunday

10.00am	Holy Communion	Thorney
10.00am	Joyful Noise	Collingham All Saints
10.00am	Morning Worship	Holme
10am-4pm	Open Churches	Besthorpe and Girton
11am-4pm	Open Church	Thorney

Readings for next Sunday:

Jeremiah 31.1-6; Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 28.1-10.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- ❖ On Palm Sunday - as we commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, so we pray for the peace of that city and for all people of faith who see it as a spiritual home.
- ❖ Peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia and all other countries where there is conflict.
- ❖ Christopher Steeples, whose funeral is at 12.30pm on 1st April at Collingham All Saints.
- ❖ In our year's mind – Pip Burton, Neville Armitage, Sheila Senior, Bryan Thompson, Frank Rogers, Norma Newman, Roy Baker, Alice Williams, Allan Wayment, Dilys Candeland, John Dale.

CONTACTS

PASTORAL ENQUIRIES ~ Please contact your church warden(s).

SAFEGUARDING – Val Watson (07815 644236) or Sally Lee (01522 778691).

ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES, INCLUDING WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS, AND ITEMS FOR GRAPEVINE ~

Please contact the East Trent Group Administrator, Mrs Christine Hasman:

Telephone: 01636 679105

email: admin@easttrentchurches.org.uk

GRAPEVINE ONLINE:

<http://www.easttrentchurches.org.uk/community/east-trent-churches-7910/grapevine>