



Reading and reflection in lent

Phoebe: a story by Paula Gooder: Questions to ponder whilst you read.

Story telling is a big part of how faith is shared in the story. What story of Jesus would you share? How would you be comfortable sharing it (a picture?... a tale?).

The Beatitudes – The blessings of the Gospel

Read Matthew 5:3-12. What draws you? What challenges you? How are these things a blessing?

Refresh, revisit, and reflect. 6 sessions exploring the Christian Way of Life – for all and particularly those wanting to prepare for confirmation - today 4.30pm via zoom.

Today: 18th April

The apostles Creed The Beatitudes

To join email office@beaconparishes.co.uk . Zoom password, email: rachelbelringer@gmail.com

Online Sermon for this Sunday: This week The Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Reverend Nick McKinnel, is preaching on the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem for Palm Sunday:

<https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

St Andrew's, Ipplepen - flower donations anytime on Easter Saturday. A request for donations of flowers/greenery in a container (to be dropped off ready, not to be arranged in the church please) for any window in church, similar to what we did for Harvest.

Floodlighting sponsors – St Andrew's, Ipplepen. The new email address for sending floodlighting donations to is ippleflood@beaconparishes.co.uk . For those placing floodlighting messages into the grey letterbox at St Andrew's Church Hall, please write 'Floodlighting' on the front of the envelope.

In Memory Rex Osborn

Easter Journey at Broadhempston

Christ's journey from Palm Sunday to the Cross. Sunday 28th March to Wednesday 7th April, 9am to 5pm: Easter donkey, pictures and poetry, music and flowers, Easter gardens.

Foundations in Christian Ministry Course. This course is a major component of formal lay ministry training in the Diocese of Exeter. For more information and an application form, contact the SWMTC programmes co-ordinator Belinda Speed-Andrews, admin@swmtc.org.uk. (01392) 272544.

Readings

Readings for this Sunday:	This week	Next week
First Reading	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Acts 10:34-43
Psalm	118:1-2, 19-29	118:1-2, 14-24
Second Reading	Philippians 2:5-11	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Gospel	Mark 11:1-11	Mark 16:1-8

Readings for the week ahead:	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
	John 12.1-11	John 12.20-36	John 13:21-32	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	John 18:1-End of 19	John 19:38-End

They can also be viewed/downloaded from <https://bible.oremus.org/>

Rector: Rev'd Andrew Down. Tel: 01803 813403 E: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com

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Office hours: Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri: 12 noon to 3pm. Thurs: 11am to 3pm

Tel: 01803 814178 E: office@beaconparishes.co.uk W: www.missioncommunity.org.uk

Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/

www.facebook.com/denburyworship www.facebook.com/Broad20/

Today's Sunday Services

9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	- At the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- At St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen
11am	Mission Community Morning Prayer	- Zoom
		For the Zoom password, email: rachelbelringer@gmail.com
4.30pm	Refresh, revisit reflect (see details overleaf)	
		For the Zoom password, email: rachelbelringer@gmail.com

Telephone support/chat following the church services: Sheila Sheldon is available to speak to following our church services. Sheila's phone number is (01803) 814227.

Morning Prayer

9am - 9.30am Monday to Thursday this week on Zoom

For the Zoom password, email: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com

Reflection

Our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week at the following times:

St Peter & St Paul's, Broadhempston	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Andrew's, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily

Please note, St John the Baptist, Woodland is currently closed for private prayer and reflection.

Mid-Week Services

Monday 29th March

10.30am Funeral and burial for Rex Osborn - St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Maudy Thursday - 1st April

10.30am	Cathedral Chrim Eucharist	- Cathedral Facebook page online
5.30pm	Holy Communion followed by Watch	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
7.30pm	Holy Communion followed by Watch	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Good Friday - 2nd April

10.30am	Reflecting on the cross	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
2pm	Reflecting on the Cross	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

Holy Saturday - 3rd April

8pm Easter Vigil - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

Next Sunday – Easter Day

9.30am	Holy Communion	- St John The Baptist, Woodland
9.30am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Thank you from SWMTC Dave Carrington from South West Ministry Training Course has sent his thanks to the parishes and all who contributed to Sarah Nicholls' recent placement with us.

Look out for the wonderful cards on sale to raise funds for our churches. Thank you to Robin and Pam Thomas for organising this. Fantastic picture Robin!



Reflection by Tessa Amies

Palm Sunday
Mark 11:1-11
Sunday 28th March 2021

This Sunday we celebrate Palm Sunday. The day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, at the beginning of what would turn out to be a very busy and intense week, including the dispersing of the stalls in the temple, a number of his major teachings, the Last Supper, his trial, Crucifixion and Resurrection. Maybe he had that slightly sinking feeling of a long week ahead. Maybe it didn't all happen in a week, perhaps the narrative got condensed that way.

Why did Jesus choose to ride a donkey? We hear of him walking rather than riding around Galilee. This is the only time a donkey or colt is mentioned in the Gospels. As a well-educated Jewish teacher, Jesus would probably have known the following passage from the prophet Zachariah:

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo!
Your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,
Humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

As a triumphant king, Jesus could have ridden a dashing, prancing white charger, with a comfortable leather saddle and decorated reins. The onlookers would have liked that, they were expecting the Messiah, a King, a great Leader. But Jesus chose to ride a donkey.

The accounts we hear in the first 3 gospels are in great detail. Jesus' actions and those of his disciples and helpers are carefully recorded. We are definitely told that it was a donkey, with a less comfortable saddle of a few cloaks strewn across the donkey's bony back. He must have deliberately chosen to ride a donkey. But why?

If we look back to that great piece of teaching called the Beatitudes or Sermon on the Mount at the beginning of his ministry we read;

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for their's is the kingdom of heaven,
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.,
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.*

Jesus was quite simply 'practicing what he preached'. This was the core of his message. He didn't need a prancing white charger - a donkey was quite sufficient. Maybe we don't need that big flashy car - a small family run about could be quite sufficient.

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem the onlookers watched and cheered. They liked a bit of a show (a few days later they would be watching Jesus walking to his Crucifixion). They threw palm leaves onto the road in front of Jesus and the donkey, they shouted 'Hosanna', a greeting, which translates as 'Help Us' or 'Save Us'.

In Messy Church we used to sing a song about this event. Sung to the tune of 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor'; the chorus went like this:-

*We have a king who rides a donkey,
We have a king who rides a donkey,
We have a king who rides a donkey,
And his name is Jesus.*

At first I thought it was a bit 'tacky', but then realised it summed up the feeling of the event so well.

This week's illustration comes from the monastery of San Marco in Florence. Part of the building is arranged around an open courtyard with the monk's cells opening off it. Each cell has a painting on the wall by Fra Angelico, a Renaissance painter of the early 1400s. He was a monk in the monastery and decorated each cell with a scene from Christ's ministry. This one shows Christ's entry into Jerusalem, followed by his disciples with a few onlookers. I particularly like the donkey's foal running alongside. (see Matthew's account in Ch.21.) (Lucky monk who got this one! The monastery is well worth a visit if you are passing).

