

## **Palm Sunday.**

This Sunday in the church's calendar we celebrate Palm Sunday at beginning of Holy Week leading up to the wonderful celebration of Easter Day next Sunday

There is a story about two young friends called Sam and George, and one of the things they had in common was a love of cricket which they played whenever they could. As they began to get on in years they would talk about heaven and what it might be like, and they agreed that whoever went first would come back and tell the other all about it. Sadly Sam was the first to pass it on. One night George was asleep and he heard a voice;

"George, George, wake up, it's me Sam, I need to talk to you"

"It can't be Sam, I'm just dreaming things" thought George, but Sam goes on, "George it really is me, I said I'd come and tell you all about heaven."

"Oh Sam it is you" says George, "Go on then, what's it like?"

"I've got good news and bad news" says Sam.

"What's the good news?"

"Heaven is really great, and guess what, you can play cricket every day. And it NEVER rains. The sun is always shining and the umpires always right. And no one ever gets injured. And the teas are just brilliant..."

"So what's the bad news" says George.

And Sam says "you're down to bowl on Tuesday."

Actually if heaven is really that great then maybe it wasn't all that much bad news. But I'm using that little story because I think that Palm Sunday is a good news/bad news sort of a day, for Jesus anyway.

Today he rides into Jerusalem to great acclaim and joy, it's a grand entrance, a hero's welcome, and the King has come – its good news.

And next Sunday, in the early morning light, he will meet a woman in a garden and give her a message that will change the world for ever – it's very good news.

But in-between comes one of the saddest stories ever told – very bad news indeed.

The story of Jesus' being betrayed by one of his disciples, tried and found guilty, suffering and dying on the cross and then being denied by another of his disciples.

But then we have the joyous news when the two Mary's visited Jesus' tomb, find it empty and immediately realise the wonderful news of his resurrection and go and spread the news to his disciples.

This entire story begins with a very humble entry of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a lowly donkey being greeted by crowds waving palm branches.

You can read the whole of this good news/bad news story in the bible – I suggest Mark's Gospel chapter 14 and 15.

*A Prayer for Palm Sunday;*

*Loving Father, as Christ entered Jerusalem,  
Humbly on a donkey,  
Let him enter our lives,  
That he may rule in our hearts,  
And that we may offer our love and lives to him;  
Through the same Christ our Lord, who offered his life for us,  
And reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God world without end,  
**Amen.***

**We are delighted to be re-opening our churches this week (with of course all the correct precautions required) and look forward to welcoming congregations back into our churches for services. Please do join us, if you feel able, for our services in Holy Week and on Easter Day.**

**Our Service this Sunday will be at 10.30am. (Don't forget to put your clocks forward!) at St. Mark's, Flecknoe when I will be blessing and distributing Palm Crosses.**

**Please do let me know if you are unable to attend the service but would like to have a blessed Palm Cross, and I will arrange for one to be delivered to you.**

### **Leam Valley Benefice Services for Holy Week and Easter.**

**Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup>. – 10.30am. - St. Mark's, Flecknoe, Palm Sunday blessing of palm crosses and Holy Communion.**

**Maundy Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>. April – 7.30pm. at St. Peter's, Grandborough. Holy Communion**

**Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>. April – 2pm. At All Saints, Leamington Hastings. Reflective service of readings and music.**

**Easter Day 4<sup>th</sup>. April**

**9am. Holy Communion – St. Peter's, Grandborough**

**10.30am. – Holy Communion – St. Mark's, Flecknoe**

**11am. – Holy Communion – All Saints, Leamington Hastings**

**12noon – Holy Communion – St. Nicholas, Willoughby**

**More details on [www.leafvalley.churches.co.uk](http://www.leafvalley.churches.co.uk)**

*With my love, prayers and blessings for Holy Week and for a joyous Easter Day.*

*Barbara*

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