Newsletter - Sunday 3rd April



#

# First Reading

# Isaiah 43:16-21

# New International Version

**16**This is what the Lord says—
    he who made a way through the sea,
    a path through the mighty waters,
**17**who drew out the chariots and horses,
    the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
    extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
**18**“Forget the former things;
    do not dwell on the past.
**19**See, I am doing a new thing!
    Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
    and streams in the wasteland.
**20**The wild animals honour me,
    the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
    and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,
**21**    the people I formed for myself
    that they may proclaim my praise.

# Second Reading: John 12: 1-8

### Jesus Anointed at Bethany

**12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.2Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3Then Mary took about a pint[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+12%3A+1-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26584a)**] of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.**

**4But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5“Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+12%3A+1-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26586b)**]”6He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.**

**7“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8You will always have the poor among you,[**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+12%3A+1-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26589c)**] but you will not always have me.”**

**Sunday 3rd April. 9.30am St Mary’s Holy Communion – Baptism.**

**11am Holy Trinity Matins**

**6.30pm Choral Evensong**



**Sunday 10th April Palm Sunday**

Important information. Hartfield High Street will be closed all day on the 10th April. Access will not be possible between Jib Jacks Hill and Anchor Pub. If you want to attend St Mary’s for Palm Sunday you will have to allow for a longer journey via the Hammerwood Road. We are hopeful you can use the school car park.It might mean the Rector is also late arriving at Holy Trinity!

**9.30am St Mary’s Morning Worship with Palm Procession**

**11am Holy Trinity Holy Communion with Palm Procession.**



**Holy Week**

**Compline night prayer with short reflection**

**Monday 11th \_ in Holy Trinity Church**

**Tuesday 12th \_ Wednesday 13th \_ St Mary’s Church**

**7.-7.45pm**

**Maundy Thursday**



14th April St Mary’s Church 7pm

A service of quiet reflection with music, readings and Holy Communion



**Good Friday 15th April**

10.30am All Age service at St Mary’s in church and grounds. Prayer stations and making of Easter Garden.

Hot cross buns to follow with coffee.

 2.00pm Service of choral meditations at the cross at Holy Trinity Church. A service with music and readings.



**Sunrise service on Easter Morning**

A few years ago some of us gathered on the Forest as the sun came up on Easter Morning. It was good to be there together. We are going to do the same this year.

It was held at the triangulation marker which is in 'Four Counties' car park. This is the first car park on the right after the turning to 'Kidds Hill. If we meet in the car park, we can walk together to the marker stone.  Meet time 5.30am. We will sing and pray and share a hot drink together as we welcome in Easter Day.

Rev Julie



**Easter Day 17th April**

8am St Mary’s BCP Holy Communion

9.30am  St Mary’s All Age Easter celebration with Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Trinity All Age Easter Celebration with Holy Communion.



**Please pray for all those who have been bereaved in recent days.**

* Family of Michael Watkins. Service to take place on Monday 11th April at Holy Trinity Church at 2pm. This will be. Memorial service.
* Family of Anne Higgins. Service to take place on 21st April in St Mary’s Church at 12.30pm. This will be a memorial service.
* Family of Bryan Purves. Service will take place at Wealden Crematorium on 22nd April at 1pm
* Family of Anne Hodson. Service will take place on 27th April at 2pm. This will be a memorial service.
* Family of Joan Mercer. Service not yet arranged.
* For all who are undergoing tests and waiting for results.
* For Rosie Hewson as she continues her chemotherapy and for Tom as he supports her.
* **We pray for our wedding couples and baptism families.**
* **Pray for all our Easter services and our witness to the community.**
* **Annual Parochial Church Meetings.**

**Holy Trinity - 25thApril in Church 7.30pm**

 **St Mary’s – 26th April in church 7.30pm**

Please put the dates for the APCM in your diary.

This is a significant moment in the life of the church. It is a time of thanksgiving as we look back and give thanks to God for all that He has been doing in the life of our churches and community. It is a time to focus on the present, what are the blessings and challenges. It is also a time to look forward, to pray for the coming year with vision and hope. The church is like any family. All ages, different skills and gifts all growing and praying together.

Please make this meeting a priority and pray for the mission and growth of our Benefice.

*Rev Julie*

**Palm Sunday written by Malcolm Guite.**

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,

The seething holy city of my heart,

The Saviour comes. But will I welcome him?

Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;

They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,

And think the battle won. Too soon they’ll find

The challenge, the reversal he is bringing

Changes their tune. I know what lies behind

The surface flourish that so quickly fades;

Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,

The hardness of the heart, its barricades,

And at the core, the dreadful emptiness

Of a perverted temple. Jesus come

Break my resistance and make me your home.

**Praying for our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine**

I am writing with some important information regarding the situation with supporting and sponsoring refugees from the Ukraine.. First of all I am really pleased that we are going to be part of a combined parishes initiative. Each village can offer a church/hall/school/transport/meals/housing but it does need a group of people to co-ordinate this. I am posting below the recent information from Withyham. We have been asked to join this group to strengthen our support and welcome.

If you feel this is something you would be willing to be part of as our link people for Hartfield/Colemans’ Hatch, please could you let me know on 01892 770436.  It would mean any families who stay in our villages will find a wider connection and welcome.

Ukraine Hosts

Withyham, Groombridge & Hartfield Area Welcome Group

A small group of people from Withyham, Groombridge and Hartfield have begun to consider how we can welcome refugees from Ukraine. We are hoping that we can offer a variety of hosting options so that families and friends can stay close to each other across our area.  We hope that doing this together we can support each other as well as those we welcome here.

We have created a Facebook group to connect with us: ‘Ukraine Hosts in Withyham, Groombridge and Hartfield Area Welcome Group’. We are also placing information about this group in the FB community groups, shops, Post Office and Doctor’s Surgeries.

If you would like to host or if you’d like to offer help with transport and other practical things or in any other way do join the Facebook group or contact us by email or phone:

Sue Obbard sueobbard10@gmail.com 01892 863658

or Mary Campbell 01892 770069.

 Please also consider signing up to host on the Government website and joining with us if you are already registered. Immediate next steps:

1.    Make your pledge to be a sponsor here: [https://sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk](https://clicks.eventbrite.com/f/a/NqMRb2eti-QLH7oR-wTagg~~/AAQxAQA~/RgRkFCVxP0QiaHR0cHM6Ly9zYW5jdHVhcnlmb3VuZGF0aW9uLm9yZy51a1cDc3BjQgpiKvHxMmI89hdaUhdyZXZqdWxpZXNlYXIxQGdtYWlsLmNvbVgEAAAAAA~~)

2.    Register your interest on the government website here [https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk](https://clicks.eventbrite.com/f/a/sTpOHYLRgm7PbOcRJt595Q~~/AAQxAQA~/RgRkFCVxP0QoaHR0cHM6Ly9ob21lc2ZvcnVrcmFpbmUuY2FtcGFpZ24uZ292LnVrL1cDc3BjQgpiKvHxMmI89hdaUhdyZXZqdWxpZXNlYXIxQGdtYWlsLmNvbVgEAAAAAA~~)

**Prayer Resources**

If you would like some resources to help you as you pray, there are two prayers for Ukraine below, and 24/7 Prayer have created a 60 minute prayer guide, specifically for people to use as they pray for peace in Ukraine

**Some prayers for Ukraine**

Loving God,

your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.
Today, we weep over Ukraine.
We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives. We weep for those cowering in basements.
We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.
We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.
We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.

We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.
We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.
May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

**Amen.**

Holy and Gracious God
We pray for the people of Ukraine
and the people of Russia;
for their countries and their leaders.
We pray for all those who are afraid;
that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.
We pray for all those who have the power over life and death;
that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.
We pray for those who choose war;

that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.
We pray for leaders on the world stage;

that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.
Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine. And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son. Lord have mercy.

**Amen.**