



## REFLECTION

“The affairs of men rarely allow for a simple choice between good and evil, light and darkness. Whatever you choose to do is wrong because the whole of our nature is wrong; there is a profound distortion at the root of things which makes all our choices corrupt to some degree. And this was Pilate’s dilemma. He was in an appalling situation. If he released Jesus he would provoke a riot, many would be killed and reports would be sent to Rome. His own usefulness in a tense situation would be compromised. On the other hand Jesus is innocent, and he knows it, and the whole genius of Roman law was, in theory, for the protection of a man’s rights. How was he to act? Jesus, we read, recognized his dilemma and had compassion on him, compassion because he was in a position of power. ‘You would have no power over me, unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin’ (John 19:11). The Christian by this word is called upon to feel compassion for those in power; to sympathize with them in their dilemmas.

Pilate made the inevitable decision, the only decision he could make. He sacrificed one innocent man for the sake of maintaining peace. Churchill and Poland. Pilate and Christ. What other decision was humanly possible? We would have done the same. And yet, we know both decisions were wrong. What is this tragic flaw in humanity that forces us to make these decisions? And we have all made decisions like this. We have turned our backs on the needs of others, on the demands they make on us, because we have other responsibilities. We have families, we have jobs, we have unavoidable obligations. We live in the midst of excruciating dilemmas. *I am Pontius Pilate. Every day I make the unavoidable decision to hand over Christ. He suffered under Pontius Pilate. I am Pontius Pilate, and he allows himself to suffer at my hands. These are some of the most momentous words in history.*”

*The Killing, Meditations on the Death of Christ, Richard Hollway*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> (Red Nose Day!)

**11.30** Grove Court Communion

**12.30-14.00** Second Lent Lunch in **SMH**  
(with donations in aid of Kagera)

### SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup>

**09.00** Morning Prayer via Zoom

**09.30-12.30** Church Spring Clean

**10.30** 'Messy Church' in **SMH**, followed  
by shared lunch – 'taste and see'

### SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> (5<sup>th</sup> of Lent; Passiontide begins)

**08.00** BCP Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

**10.00** Parish Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

*Our guest preacher will be Rev'd Bill  
Herbert from St Andrews', Bredfield, and  
there will also be a presentation by the  
Church Recorders' Society afterwards of  
all their volumes of great work at St  
Mary's*

**10.30** Morning Prayer, **Great Bealings**

**17.30** Passion Sunday Evensong with the  
Jubilate Singers, **Woodbridge** (with  
*Charles Stanford's choral music, to mark  
his centenary*). Please support.

### MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup>

**10.30** Lent House Group I

**19.30** 'Open' Meeting about new Citizens  
Advice office planned for Woodbridge,  
**Octagon Room, Methodist Church, St  
John's Street** – tea, coffee & cake  
available from 7pm. All welcome.

### TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> (St Joseph)

**10.00 – 14.30** Poppy's Pantry, **SMH**

**10.30** Morning Prayer at **Seckford Chapel**

**17.00** Christian Meditation, **SMH**

**19.00** PCC Meeting, **SMH**

**19.00** Bellringers' practice

### WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> (St Cuthbert)

**15.00** Lent House Group II

**18.30** Friends' AGM, **SMH**. All welcome.

### THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup>

**10.00** Said Eucharist, **Woodbridge**,  
followed by coffee at the west end

**18.30** Choir rehearsal, **in church**  
(**Woodbridge**)

**19.00** Lent House Group III

### FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>

**11.30** Grove Court Communion

**12.30-14.00** Final Lent Lunch in **SMH**

**18.00** Final 'Stations of the Cross',  
**Woodbridge** (with meditation by the  
Archbishop of York)

### SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>

**09.00** Morning Prayer via Zoom

**10.00** Lenten Plenary Session (to discuss  
Lent Book: 'Tarry Awhile'), **SMH**. Coffee  
provided.

### SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday & beginning of Holy Week)

**No 8AM service**

**10.00** Blessing of Palms, Procession &  
Joint Benefice Eucharist, **Woodbridge**

**10.30** Morning Prayer, **Great Bealings**

**17.30** Pilgrim Cross Meditation & Song,  
by candlelight, **Woodbridge**. All welcome

## NOTICES

**NO VEHICULAR ACCESS TO THE CHURCHYARD (WOODBIDGE)** during the period **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**, whilst tree root testing is carried out for the 'piers project.' We apologise for any inconvenience.

**PILGRIM CROSS** - Members of the Essex Leg will be joining us for a short service in church around **5.30pm on Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March** and then we shall offer a cooked two-course supper in St Mary's House. To make that work, the following are needed, please:

- 4 offers of practical help - setting tables, cooking, serving, clearing up, etc.
- a fruit bowl – approx. 20 pieces of fruit - apple, bananas, oranges
- 5 puddings/desserts for 6 people
- cash donations for main courses, etc.

Please sign up for these at the back of the church on **10th or 17th March!**

**STEWARDING IN CHURCH** - We are looking for a few more volunteers to be stewards in the church during April to September. The main duty is to welcome visitors to our lovely old church. Two-hour slots, morning or afternoon, Monday to Friday are available. Please contact Peter Shipley (Choir), or via email [Peter.shipley2467@btinternet.com](mailto:Peter.shipley2467@btinternet.com) for more information, or leave a message with Linda in the church office. Being a steward is both interesting and enjoyable and if you volunteer to help we will appreciate your support.

**'WATCH & PRAY' PLENARY SESSION** - A chance to discuss (with Fr Nigel over coffee) The Archbishop of Canterbury's recommended Lent Book **'Tarry Awhile'** by **Selina Stone** on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** at **10am** in **SMH**, even if you haven't been able to join a house group this year!

**LENT LUNCHESES** – Third and final lunch in **St Mary's House**, at **12.30pm to 2pm** on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**. Please join us, and bring along friends and neighbours!

**BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL** – Kagera booklets are available in both our churches, and in the Church Shop. Personal donations to be made at Easter either by going online or sending a cheque to the address provided. Children's boxes to be returned to Church on Easter Sunday. Thank you.

**ST MARY'S SHOP** - From 'cockerels in wellies' to porcelain 'bunnies' and pretty bird plant stakes to cute fluffy sheep, these are just a few of our new Easter and spring range. Of course, we also have Easter cards and Fairtrade chocolate too. Browsers very welcome!

**CHURCHES TOGETHER WOODBRIDGE AREA 'WALK OF WITNESS'** - SINGERS WANTED for a scratch choir for the open-air service on **Good Friday, 29th March**. Please come along to the rehearsal on **Saturday 23rd March at 10am** in **St John's Church** if you would like to take part. All welcome. For more information contact Lyn on [lynspall@gmail.com](mailto:lynspall@gmail.com)

**EASTER LILIES** - There is the opportunity again this year to remember loved ones with a 'named lily'. They will cost £4 each, and you can ask for one or more names to go on one lily. Please order as follows:

Place cash in an envelope and seal it. On the outside, please print clearly:

FROM: (Your own name);

CONTACT TEL NO. or MOBILE or E-MAIL;

IN MEMORY OF: (Exact name of the person or people remembered);

CASH ENCLOSED: £(Amount)

Please push your sealed envelope well into the Shop letterbox **by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**. If you cannot deliver it yourself, please let Linda know, and arrangements will be made to collect it from you.

**VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED AT WOODBRIDGE FOOD BANK** – Can you help with the food bank at the Salvation Army Hall on **Wednesdays or Thursdays 9.30am to 1pm**, and/or **Kitchen on Wednesdays 9.30am to 1.30pm**? Please contact Major Alan Hill, Corps Officer, on 07562 007125 or email: [Alan.Hill@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:Alan.Hill@salvationarmy.org.uk)

**LAST TUESDAY'S BURGLARY AT ST MARYS, WOODBRIDGE** – sadly we were professionally targeted for cash (from our donations chest) and damage to the stained glass window shows the point of entry, picked up by our CCTV cameras. The police and forensics team are working hard together, and special thanks go to Darren, Simon, David, Fr Nigel and Linda for their kind assistance.

**GOOD NEWS!** Hugo Alexander Benedict Wade was born at 10.54am on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Congratulations to Stuart and Rachel!



Rev'd Gail Minter, Fr Nigel, and Liz with all the children on Mothering Sunday... photos courtesy of Janice Poulson

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

(please [click here](#) for the Diocesan Prayer Diary)

Give thanks for our own heroes and heroines of the Christian faith who continue to inspire and challenge us...

Pray for our Diocese and Deanery preparing for Holy Week and Easter, and for new Christians to be baptised and new vocations serving the Church, nurtured

Today we especially thank our Church Recorders who have laboured long and hard at St Mary's and, under Julia, worked so well as a team...

For all helping to get urgent aid to the peoples of Gaza, food for the hungry

For the peacekeepers of the world and an end to persecution involving race, colour, or creed...

### COLLECT

#### (PRAYER FOR THE WEEK)

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and  
resurrection of your Son Jesus  
Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who  
suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of  
his victory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our  
Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
AMEN

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of  
our brothers and sisters  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of  
others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for  
us,  
but are alive and reign, now and  
for ever.  
AMEN

**TODAY'S Readings**  
**Sunday 17th March**  
**(4th of Lent)**  
**Hebrews 5. 5-10**  
**John 12. 20-33**

### Readings for NEXT WEEK

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
**(Palm Sunday)**  
John 12. 12-16  
Isaiah 50. 4-9a  
Philippians 2. 5-11



## **HOLY WEEK ‘shopping list’ (from Fr Nigel)**

### **Palm Sunday**

Wrap up warm, & bring your brollies for our Procession following “Orlando”, the donkey – palm crosses will be blessed outside the Shire Hall.

### **Monday to Wednesday**

Compline is like spiritual ‘Horlicks’, so come along for some at 8pm

### **Maundy Thursday**

Feet needed! List available for kind volunteers. Please make every effort to tarry awhile after our 7.30pm Eucharist

### **Good Friday**

3pm ‘Music to die for’. Meditations led by Fr Nigel, Readings by Choir & Congregation.

### **Holy Saturday**

7.30pm Bonfire at Great Bealings. Bring along a wind instrument for ‘The Gloria’ – trumpet, horn, whistle, bells – anything you like to make a triumphant noise!

## **PLEASE TAKE AWAY A HOLY WEEK POSTER**

“So how do we celebrate these services? Well, we go for broke, or as Mae West put it: ‘If you’ve got it, flaunt it!’ This seems to me to be a good approach to liturgy. In the services of Holy Week, we have most certainly got it – a beautiful and compelling set of services – but we don’t always flaunt it. Our offerings are sometimes pinched and mean. We need, rather, to revel in the sensuous and very hands-on re-enactment of liturgical drama. Think of Holy Week as an opera (an art form which is itself a heady blend of poetry, drama and music), and think of Palm Sunday as the overture. “  
(Archbishop Stephen Cottrell)

**Please contact the Benefice Office for all Baptism, Wedding and Funeral enquiries, and enquiries regarding bookings for the church or St Mary’s House, on 01394 388820 or [parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org](mailto:parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org)**

**THIS WEEK:** Benefice Office Opening Hours are Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9am to 4pm.

[www.stmaryswoodbridge.org](http://www.stmaryswoodbridge.org)

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