

Thought for the Day


'Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may give thanks to the Lord!' cries the writer of Psalm 118. In this morning's New Testament reading, that image from the Jewish Scriptures becomes reality as Jesus rides into Jerusalem. The gates of the city open, and the waiting crowd lay down their cloaks and palm branches, welcoming the King who comes in the Lord's name. What the psalmist had longed for hundreds of years earlier now arrives in person, humble and gentle, seated on a donkey.

Psalm 118 celebrates rescue after trouble: 'I shall not die, but I shall live.' Matthew shows us that the road Jesus must take to save us will lead him through pain. Celebration lies on the far side of suffering. The ecstatic crowd cries 'Hosanna' (literally, 'Save us, please!'), not realising that their Rescuer's path leads through rejection and execution, a death to which they will contribute. The 'stone that the builders rejected' is right there before them, celebrated for now but soon to be cast aside. Only later will he be recognised as 'the cornerstone' of the church God intends to build.

Both passages express the same insight: this is the Lord's doing. The rejected stone becomes the foundation of something new, something marvellous. The words of the psalm, 'This is the day that the Lord has made,' point towards Easter morning, when God's joy finally breaks through despair. Before then, on this Palm Sunday, we witness the beginning of that story, where celebration, suffering, and salvation meet in one extraordinary day. D. Ash

Please Remember in your prayers:

Mason Green, Paul Cowley, Siobhan and Darlene, June McCoy, Pauline Wells, Joyce Hancock, Maureen Black, Steven Fearon, Greta Lacey, Gabriella Young, Matthew Coulter, Margaret Roper, Eddie Matthews, Mary Barnes, Kate Charalambous, Donald Bullas, Kath Baylis, Angela Brady, Don and Family, Lorraine Langdon, Darcey, Annette Dickers, Byrnice McMullen, Claire Phillips, Thelma and Neville Mitchell and Dinah O'Flaherty.

Those Who have died and those who grieve for them: John Dempster, Fiona Fendick, Valerie Smith, Francis McLachlan and Lyn Taylor 

Notices

PRAYER MINISTRY – Will be available after the service in the Lady Chapel on 29.3.26. If you would like prayer at other times, please approach one of the Ministry Team.

PARISH OFFICE – Please Note that the Parish Office will be closed from 3rd April-10th April and will reopen on 13th April.

BROKEN JEWELLERY - Last call for unwanted/broken silver and gold items for fundraising for the church heating. All donations are being kept securely offsite and will be taken to the jewellery quarter after Easter.

THE RETURN OF KINGS NORTON FESTIVAL

On Saturday 11th July we will once again be holding our church festival. The aim is to have a traditional church fete and raise funds for our heating appeal.

We are looking for people to help run stalls – everything from plants, tombolas and cakes to refreshments and games. What could you do? Please speak to Pauline, Sylvia or Cate if you would like to get involved and put the date in your diary.

HOT CROSS BUNS – You are invited once again invited to join us for hot cross buns after the All-Age service on Good Friday at about 11.15/11.30 am. Mark Sandilands.

B30 AND SOUTH BIRMINGHAM FOODBANK -Our stock levels remain very low – with us buying at least 50% of our needs each week. Aldi Kings Norton is becoming a very important partner as we work with them on bulk ordering. **Our most urgent needs** are rice (500g), tinned soup, jam/honey, tinned spaghetti and soap (bar or liquid)

EASTER FLOWERS - donations towards the cost of the Flowers would be much appreciated.

Please hand to me at the end of the 10.30am service or place in an envelope and hand to Cate in the Parish Office. Alison

THIS WEEK	HOLY WEEK
SUNDAY 29TH MARCH	9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (Rev Dele Sotonwa) 10.30 am United Service (Rev Jenny Tomlinson & Pauline) 6.00 pm Celtic Worship (Steve W & Mervyn McGowan)
MONDAY 30TH MARCH	10.00 -12.00pm Churchyard Team 2.30-3.30 pm Handbells in Old Grammar School. Please speak to Sylvia if interested 7.30 pm Compline
TUESDAY 31ST MARCH	6.00 -8.00pm Junior Choir (Please speak to Sylvia if interested) 7.30 pm Compline
WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL	10.00am-12.00pm Open Church 10.00am-12.00pm Knit & Natter @ Hawkesley Church B38 9TR. 11.00 Lent Group in Old Grammar School 7.30 pm Compline
MAUNDY THURSDAY 2ND APRIL	9.00-11.00am Tiny Tots 10.00-12.00pm Churchyard Team 6.00pm Lent Group on Zoom 7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service
GOOD FRIDAY 3RD APRIL	10.30 am All Age Worship 12.30 pm Stations of the Cross 2.00 pm Tenebrae 7.15-8.30pm Adult Choir Practice (please speak to Sylvia if interested)
SATURDAY 4TH APRIL	10.00 am – 12.00 pm Open Church 7.30 pm First Communion of Easter
EASTER SUNDAY 5TH APRIL	9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (Rev Hugh Houghton) 10.30 am Holy Communion (Rev Rob Morris) 6.00 pm Taizé Prayer (David Ash)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 10th April 2026 First Friday Hymns in the Old Grammar School
Saturday 11th July 2026 Kings Norton Festival

29th March 2026 St. Nicolas, Kings Norton

Palm Sunday

Incorporating Hawkesley LEP
Part of the Church of England



READINGS TODAY

Psalm 118: 19-24 p.576

Matt 21:1-11 p. 21

NEXT WEEK

Acts 10:34-43 p 126

John 20:1-18 p 111

Collect for the Week

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and
love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

QR To Donate! Alternatively, donate at the back of church or using our donation boxes!



Contact Details

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Office Hours: Mon – Thurs 10 – 2 pm Closed on Fridays