

Beacon



www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Light

Online

...linking the Beacon Parishes

Sunday 3rd April – Passiontide begins

10.00am	Painswick	Benefice Holy Communion
3.00pm	Painswick	Holy Baptism
6.30pm	Cranham	Evening Worship

*We ask you to please **wear a face mask in church**, unless you have a medical reason not to and **make use of the hand sanitiser** provided as you enter. Whilst face coverings are no longer legally required, this measure will help us keep our community safe. Good ventilation is part of covid precautions and our churches may be less warm as a result. Please dress accordingly.*

NOT THE RECTOR

As we begin to look towards Palm Sunday and Holy Week, we have a Gospel reading this Sunday which causes us to ponder God's gift of generosity and what that generosity means in our lives. The story of Mary anointing Jesus' feet is a story of extravagant giving – giving that made Judas just as uncomfortable as it might make us.

Perhaps the most uncomfortable part of this story for us comes when Judas speaks. He thinks that Mary is being wasteful, that the money that she spent on the oil would be better spent on the poor. Is there a moment here when we find ourselves precariously close to nodding our heads in agreement? "What a waste!" we might think. Perhaps it is not Judas' actual criticism that makes this moment uncomfortable for us, but how easily we find ourselves agreeing with the most notorious traitor in Christian history

Perhaps there have been occasions when we have found ourselves uncomfortable in the face of generosity, and criticized it in order to limit its power. We've also probably stood alongside Mary. We have allowed ourselves to give to our heart's content – to lavish our love on someone or something else – only to have our motive mocked or suspiciously picked apart.

Sometimes our culture – and perhaps our human nature – pressures us to only take measured risks, and of course, in many ways and in some situations this will be a wise course of action. But our God calls us to love without counting the cost. It would be a brave new Lenten discipline to live the final days of this season as Mary would: to love generously; to meet our impulse to give abundantly, just as our God gives, and embrace it.

Revd. Andrew

Readings

Collect

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
'The LORD has done great things for them.'
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

The Gospel according to John 12.1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

There is something disconcerting about Jesus' response to Judas, because Judas' question is one that many of us might ask. John makes it clear that even if Judas is saying the "right" thing, his motives are impure and Mary's actions are those of a true disciple. Where Judas uses the plight of the poor to enrich himself, Mary serves God through the abundance of creation and seeks a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Discipleship is about love and service to God, not saying the right thing in service to our own ends. When we are discerning how best to utilize the resources of creation or how we can best use our time, talents, and treasure to further the mission of God, we must examine ourselves as much as we examine what happens around us. As painful as this type of reflection can be, we take heart that the work of Lent and Holy Week culminates in the redemptive work of the cross and Jesus' resurrection – good news indeed.

- Reflect upon your Lenten journey so far. Have you identified any areas where there is a need for repentance and restoration? If so, what are they?
- Can you name a time where you have faced the difficult decision of how to use your own resources or those of your faith community?

Beacon People

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Rebecca Applebee-Crabb, Richard Garrett, Frauke Hankamer, Andrea Linsell and Jenipher Pritchard** . Pray for all those people, whether they are relatives or friends, who care for the sick and disabled in their own homes and for those undergoing cancer treatment at this time.

We pray also for all the charities which this benefice supports, including Christian Aid, GARAS, Marah, Sportily , Stroud Citizens Advice, Stroud Foodbank and The Vine Project and all from our churches and villages who work in the NHS and in care homes.

We also remember before God all who have died recently, as well as all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time. May they and all the departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

A memorial service for the late Jane Jennings Taylor will be held in the Church of Our Lady and St. Therese in Painswick on Palm Sunday (**April 10th**) at **2.30pm** followed by tea in St Mary's Rooms. Jane had many friends in Painswick and all are welcome.

Notices

Cranham Village Choir are going to be singing "**Olivet to Calvary**" by J H Maunder on **Palm Sunday evening at 6.30pm** in St. James's Church. Narrator: Nathan Drake, Piano: Beryl Berry. All are welcome.

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The **Christian Aid** committee will hold **Lent lunches** of soup, bread and cheese in St. Mary's Church rooms from midday to 1.30pm on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 13th April. Proceeds will go to Christian Aid's Ukraine appeal. **Attention all Gardeners** During Christian Aid week, 15-21 May, there will be a bring and buy garden shop on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21st. If any keen or budding (pun intended) gardener would like to grow plants for the shop or is dividing some clumps it would be greatly appreciated. Information on the salmon supper, lunches and cream teas will be available closer to the time.

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The Gloucester Diocese has recently awarded a faculty, for work on **the flower garden, in St. Mary's Churchyard**, to continue. A paved area has been established, to facilitate the use of the new compost bins and a yew hedge has been planted, which in time will screen these bins. Some additional planting has contributed to enhancing the area, which looks particularly attractive, at present. Many of those, who use the footpath through the churchyard, have remarked on how pretty it looks. If, when you are walking past, you spy a weed, do feel free to pull it out! As the garden will need continuing care, to maintain it, in good order: extra volunteer gardeners would be welcomed, as well as contributions of plants and money. If you are able to help in any way, do please contact the Garden Committee, care of the office at the Lych gate.

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Thank you all for contributing yet again despite the awful wet weather, to our collection for **Stroud Foodbank**. We were able to send two car loads. Our **next collection** will be on **Wednesday 13 April 10am -12noon in Stamages Lane car park and at the stocks** by the church. Items needed Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Potatoes, Fruit Juice, Long Life Milk, Jams and Spreads, Sweet and Savoury Treats, Coffee, Laundry Liquid/Powder. They have plenty of cereal, pasta and tea. Thank you once again. *The Foodbank committee*

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PAINSWICK MUSIC SOCIETY'S 76 th Season of wonderful concerts all take place in St Mary's Church on Saturday afternoons.

9 th April at 3pm - Jess Gillam (saxophone) and James Baillieu (piano). Programme includes works by Telemann, Poulenc and Piazzolla

30 th April at 4pm – Voces8. Programme: Choral Music Celebrating Regeneration

14 th May at 3pm - Iyad Sughayer (piano). Programme includes works by Haydn, Schubert, Schumann, Sibelius and Helen Ottaway

Memberships and tickets can be bought online at: www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk All ticket and membership enquiries to Edward Bowron: tickets@painswickmusicsoc.co.uk or 07789 006006

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**Cranham Community Response Team:** *The initial contact for Cranham residents is: [nigelrobincooper@gmail.com](mailto:nigelrobincooper@gmail.com) Tel: 07973 340227*

**The Painswick Community Support initiative** provides community support for Painswick. If you need support, please contact 07956 203087

[painswickcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:painswickcommunity@gmail.com)

**Painswick Community Hub** Tea, coffee and home-made cakes in the Town Hall every Friday 9.30-11am. All are welcome.

## **Weekday Worship**

**Wednesday weekly:** 9.00am Benefice Prayer time via Zoom

*The weekly Zoom invitation will be sent out with Beacon Light each week. Lindsay Gardiner ( [lindsay.gardiner@icloud.com](mailto:lindsay.gardiner@icloud.com) ) Karen Riding ( [kriding07@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kriding07@yahoo.co.uk) )*

**Thursday weekly :** 9.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom from Sheepscombe

*If you would like to join in or would like a copy of the service sheet please email Karen Riding [kriding07@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kriding07@yahoo.co.uk).*

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month:** 10.30am Holy Communion at Richmond Village

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month:** 11.00am Holy Communion at Resthaven

## Services next Sunday - 10<sup>th</sup> April - Palm Sunday

|         |             |                   |
|---------|-------------|-------------------|
| 9.30am  | Painswick   | Holy Communion    |
| 9.30am  | Pitchcombe  | Morning Prayer    |
| 11.00am | Cranham     | Holy Communion    |
| 11.00am | Sheepscombe | Morning Worship   |
| 6.30pm  | Cranham     | Olivet to Calvary |

### Contacts

Rector: Revd. Janet Turville

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Website: [www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk)

Information for the next Beacon Light Online to [ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com) by **Tuesday 5pm at the latest**, please.

### And Finally...

Seen in a pewsheet: "At the service last Sunday, the preacher spoke briefly and delighted the congregation. "