

# St. Peter's Church, Swettenham



## **EVENSONG** **29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015** **PALM SUNDAY**



*A very warm welcome to the community here at St. Peter's where worship has been offered on this site since Saxon times. The present Church building has its origins in the late 13<sup>th</sup> Century and has been the place of worship for the village of Swettenham since then.*

*There will be a collection taken during the Offertory Hymn for the Ministry, Mission and upkeep of this beautiful Church building that costs £2,417 month to maintain. Please use one of the Gift Aid envelopes in the pews as this adds 25% to the value of your offering. Thank you.*

Today the Church remembers Christ's entry into Jerusalem. Six days later he was to be betrayed and to die. In this liturgy we find the mix of joy at his triumphal arrival and distress at what was to come. This is announced in the receiving and waving of Palm Crosses and in the Passion Gospel.

Today is the first action of Holy Week. We carry palms to remind us of the first Palm Sunday. We sing the praises of Christ the King who will reign on the cross. We join with him, ready to take up our cross and follow, as we walk with him to suffering and death. We also recall that those who cry 'Hosanna' today may shout 'Crucify' on Good Friday.

The Passion Gospel introduces us to Holy Week. The week's services are shaped by the story of the events of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. But they are also a reflective celebration of the victory over sin and death that he won for all humankind.

### **The Donkey's Tale**

If only I could speak! I have a tale  
to tell that would encourage all whose lot  
it is to bear another's burden. Hot  
and weary worn-out patiently I trail  
along the long and dreary thoroughfares  
of money-making men. Some years ago  
it happened in the dead of night. The snow

lay thick and silent yet these hairy ears  
so crude and clumsy heard within the stall  
an infant's cry, and gazing round I saw  
where beasts should lie a baby in the straw –  
a crossroad child, I thought (I now recall).  
Today I bear Him burdened to a tree.  
I am His coach that rides to victory.

*Harry Wiggett*  
*from Collected Poem 1970-2006*

*Welcome and Introduction Minister*

*Minister* Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord:

**All      Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

*Minister* Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*THE BLESSING OF PALMS*

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing ourselves to celebrate our Lord's death and resurrection. Today, we come together to begin this solemn celebration. With these palms we recall how Christ entered his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us now go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

**All hold up their palm crosses.**

O God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die, bless these palms to be for us signs of his victory; and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GOSPEL: Mark 11.1–11

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**All    Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All stand to sing the Hymn: 61 Ride on, ride on in majesty*

*The services continues in the prayer book with the opening responses*

*Please remain seated to say Psalm: 118 1-2, 19 - end*

*All sit for THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MARK*

*Hear the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*

**Evangelist:** As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

**Pilate:** Are you the King of the Jews?

**Evangelist:** He answered him,

**Jesus:** You say so

**Evangelist:** Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

**Pilate:** Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.

**Evangelist:** But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

**Pilate:** Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews? For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

**Pilate:** Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?

**Evangelist:** They shouted back,

**All**            **Crucify him!**

**Evangelist:** Pilate asked them

**Pilate:**        Why, what evil has he done?

**Evangelist:** But they shouted all the more,

**All**            **Crucify him!**

**Evangelist:** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

**All**            **Hail, King of the Jews!**

**Evangelist:** They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the

purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

**All**            **Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!**

**Evangelist:** In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

**All**            **He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.**

**Evangelist:** Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

*Please stand*

**Evangelist:** When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

**Jesus:**        Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

**Evangelist:** which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'  
When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

**All**            **Listen, he is calling for Elijah.**

**Evangelist:** And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

**One:**            Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

**Evangelist:** Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

**Centurion:** Truly this man was God's Son!

**Evangelist:** There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses, saw where the body was laid.

*All remain standing for a short period of silence after the recitation of the Passion.*

*All remain standing for a short period of silence after the recitation of the Passion, after which we will sit to sing the Nunc Dimittis.*

*The Service continues with the Apostles Creed*

*All stand for Hymn: 246 Just as I am without one plea*

ADDRESS

*All stand for Hymn: 63 My song is love unknown*

PRAYERS

THE BLESSING:

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*All stand for Hymn: 60 All glory laud and honour*

*All remain standing. THE DISMISSAL:*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### **This Week**

**Good Friday** 11.30am Devotional Service

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

#### **Easter Day**

11.15am Family Communion

6.30pm Evensong

*Donations towards the  
Easter Lilies would be  
appreciated and  
can be given to  
Mrs Dorothy Smith  
Thank you*



For more information on St. Peter's Church, please visit the website  
[www.stpeterswettenham.org.uk](http://www.stpeterswettenham.org.uk)

# Services during Holy Week at St Peter's, Swettenham

Good Friday  
11.30am  
Devotional Service



Easter Day  
11.15am Family Communion

6.30pm Evensong



**SNAIL RACING  
AT THE  
SWETTENHAM CLUB  
SATURDAY  
APRIL 25TH**



START 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

For more information  
on runners & gliders please contact  
Phil Gregory 01260 224900