



Willen Church Newsheet
Palm Sunday

IN MEMORY OF
LIEUT. ARTHUR WHITING R.N.V.R.
KILLED AT SEA
AUG. 1917

**Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
St Mary Magdalene Willen
Sunday 13th April 2025
Palm Sunday**



Today: Palm Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion led by Revd. Canon Chi Okpala

Thank you Chi for leading us this morning

11.00am Holy Communion at Cross & Stable led by Rev. Dr. Sam Muthuveloe

4.00pm - Reflections for Holy Week. A service of words and music led by Revd Canon Chi Okpala with music sung by **Quorum**. For this service Quorum has chosen penitential music by Italian 17th century composers Palestrina, Croce, Ingegneri and Anerio. Please speak to Margaret if you are happy to do a reading at this service.

Service details for SEP churches are on SEP website and in monthly newsletter

This week

St Mary Magdalene church is open for private prayer or quiet reflection on Mondays from 9.30am until c.3.00pm. Also open on Sunday until 4.00pm if volunteer available to close church – please sign rota in church foyer.

T.T.T.T (Third Tuesday at Twelve Thirty) Pop along to St Mary Magdalene Church and be entertained by **Rolling Home on Tuesday April 15, 12.30-1.15**

ChatterboxMK at Cross & Stable each Wednesday 10.30am to 12.30pm. All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - chat. Come and meet others.

The **volunteer gardeners** have started their weekly Saturday morning 10.00 to 12.00 work in the Garden of Remembrance. Please come along. No special skills needed. Lesley, Sharron and Harold would be most welcoming.

Next week

Good Friday 2.00pm – 3.00pm April 18th a quiet, meditative service in Willen Church led by Margaret Moakes

Easter Sunday, April 20th

9.30am Holy Communion at Cross & Stable led by Rev. Dr. Sam Muthuveloe

<p>Pastoral contact: Revd Canon Chi Okpala Tel. 07916 347570 E.: chi@willenchurch.org Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe Email: sam@willenchurch.org</p>	<p>Margaret Moakes Licensed Lay Minister Telephone: 01908 237915 Margaret@willenchurch.org Church website: www.willenchurch.org</p>
<p>Churchwardens Brad Stone Janet Hawkins. To contact about weddings funerals and baptisms and other enquiries please call 01908 382458; or E. warden@willenchurch.org</p>	
<p>Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership: www.stantonbury.net and Facebook Please email short succinct notices to notices@willenchurch.org by 5pm on the preceding Thursday</p>	

The Collect of Palm Sunday

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. *Amen*



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a (NRSV)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

- ⁴ The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
- ⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards.
- ⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.
- ⁷ The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
- ⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
- ⁹ It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING

Luke 22: 14 – 23: 56 (NRSV)

Hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke

Glory to you O Lord

¹⁴ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. ²²For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!' ²³Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

²⁸ 'You are those who have stood by me in my trials; ²⁹and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, ³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

³¹ 'Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, ³²but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.' ³³And he said to him, 'Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!' ³⁴Jesus said, 'I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.'

³⁵ He said to them, 'When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?' They said, 'No, not a thing.' ³⁶He said to them, 'But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, "And he was counted among the lawless"; and indeed what is written about

me is being fulfilled.’ ³⁸They said, ‘Lord, look, here are two swords.’ He replied, ‘It is enough.’

³⁹ He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he said to them, ‘Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’ ⁴¹Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.’ [[⁴³Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]] ⁴⁵When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, ⁴⁶and he said to them, ‘Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, ‘Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?’ ⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, ‘Lord, should we strike with the sword?’ ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus said, ‘No more of this!’ And he touched his ear and healed him. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, ‘Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!’

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house. But Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, ‘This man also was with him.’ ⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, ‘Woman, I do not know him.’ ⁵⁸A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, ‘You also are one of them.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I am not!’ ⁵⁹Then about an hour later yet another kept insisting, ‘Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.’ ⁶⁰But Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are talking about!’ At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.’ ⁶²And he went out and wept bitterly.

⁶³ Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; ⁶⁴they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, 'Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?' ⁶⁵They kept heaping many other insults on him.

⁶⁶ When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. ⁶⁷They said, 'If you are the Messiah, tell us.' He replied, 'If I tell you, you will not believe; ⁶⁸and if I question you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.' ⁷⁰All of them asked, 'Are you, then, the Son of God?' He said to them, 'You say that I am.' ⁷¹Then they said, 'What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!'

²³ Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. ²They began to accuse him, saying, 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.' ³Then Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He answered, 'You say so.' ⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.' ⁵But they were insistent and said, 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

⁶ When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. ⁹He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

¹⁸ Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' ¹⁹(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' ²²A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.' ²³But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." ³¹For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?' ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴²Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

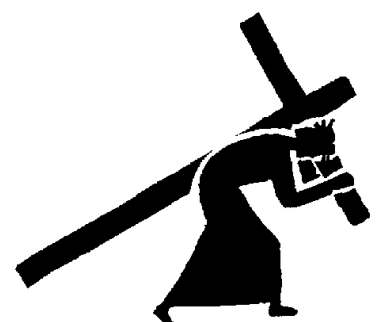
⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' ⁴⁸ And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

⁵⁰ Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, ⁵¹ had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.



NOTICES

Membership of St Mary Magdalene Church Willen. This year all members have to renew their six year membership for the years 2025 - 2031. Lyn Coppendale will leave copies of the blank form to fill in at the back of the church. Once completed please give them to Lyn in church or you can leave them with David Preston at anytime.

The position of Treasurer was not filled at the AGM no new members were appointed to the **Congregation Leadership Team**. If you would like more information about joining CLT or the role of Treasurer, please speak to David

FOR YOUR PRAYERS - Please pray for

- Relationships and Marriage: Please pray for all those in long term relationships; for those who find themselves alone after the loss of a loved one; for those who struggle with difficult relationships, and for those who work with the
- As energy and other costs rise, pray for all struggling to make ends meet
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide, which supports those around the world facing injustice because of their religion or belief. See csw.org.uk

Sick: Louise Folley, Mark & Janice Earls, Fr Edmund Wheat SSM, Lyn Coppendale, Alison Read, Gill Farrow, Cindy Williams, Liz Halliwell, Norma Bowden, Lynda Phillips

World Prayers: For the people of Myanmar and Thailand and those working to help people affected by the earthquake. An end to the wars in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Yemen and all areas where there is conflict. For all who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods. **Apr. 14** World Chagas Disease Day

Good Friday Prayer: Lord God, Jesus cried out to you on the cross, "Why have you forsaken me?" You seemed so far from his cry and from his distress. Those who stood at the foot of the cross wondered where you were, as they saw Jesus mocked and shamed and killed. Where were you then?

Lord God, we, too, ask where you are when there is trouble and suffering and death, and we cry out to you for help. Be near to us and save us so that we may praise you for your deliverance. Lord God, we wait, on Friday, for the resurrection of Sunday. And sometimes our lives seem a succession of Fridays and we cannot see what is "Good." Teach us to call your name as Jesus did. Make us to trust in you like little children. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Rachel Marie Stone

Prayer for the week God of love, as we travel to Jerusalem, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Help us to truly become your servants and to glorify you with our lives. This we ask in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. *Canon Robert Townsend*

HYMNS - Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New

- 14** All glory, laud, and honour
- 738** When I survey the wondrous cross
- 54** At the name of Jesus
- 583** Ride on, ride on in majesty!

