

Dear friends,

I have recorded a reflection on the events of Palm Sunday called “Which procession are we in?”. If you’d like to watch it just click on this link. <https://youtu.be/cP5GVKs3Dkc>

Alternatively, if you’d prefer to read it you can do so on my Blog and just need to click on this link. <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2021/03/which-procession-are-we-in.html>

Most hopeful rumour of the week

The Dean of Exeter cathedral explained in the cathedral newsletter that they are delaying finalising the Easter services because they had heard that an imminent announcement was made on the subject of congregational singing. I’ve heard nothing yet but as soon as I know – you’ll know!

Since I wrote that paragraph there has indeed been a change in the guidelines but nothing as substantive as the Dean was anticipating I’m afraid. We sit and wait expectantly!

St. Peter’s were asked to donate Easter Eggs to the foodbank

And the response was magnificent – well done everybody!



Live streaming from East Budleigh

The link for the service is

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There will be three hymns sung; I'll also give the hymn book numbers used in East Budleigh. I'll be presiding and I believe that Louise will be part of the singing duo.

All Glory, laud and honour - 13

Make way make way - 436

Ride on ride on in majesty -567

Easter day at St. Peter's

Lucinda will be recording this service (April 4th) which, God (and Lucinda) willing will be available from Easter Monday on our website.

I don't normally do a "Thought for the day" on a Saturday but as we enter Holy week tomorrow I thought I'd include this reflection that was sent via the Exeter branch of the Prayer Book Society and was written by Rev. Paul Hancock.

Holy Week meditation 2021 The Prayer Book Society Exeter Branch.

From the Chairman Preb. Paul Hancock.

As Holy Week approaches we are still in lockdown and not able to gather as in the recent past to walk with Our Lord Jesus Christ the Way of the Cross. To enable us to have a point around which we can reflect on Holy Week, I offer the following meditation.

After World War Two, a survivor of the Auschwitz death camp drew a set of the stations of the Cross. Each station is a study of hands. First, Jesus' hands tied with rope as he stands before Pilate. Then the hands of Jesus lifting up the cross. Next, as he falls, Jesus puts out His hands to save Himself. Next, His Mother's Hands stretched out in agony towards Him. Then the strong hands of Simon of Cyrene as he eases the burden of the Cross. Then Veronica's hands as she attempts to wipe the sweat of Jesus from His brow. Next, His hands are nailed to the Cross, the fingers splayed out in pain. Finally, the caring and gentle hands of His followers as they lift Jesus' body from the Cross.

The hands of Jesus had been used to heal, to comfort, to encourage and to forgive. They had washed the disciples' feet and broken the bread at the Last

Supper. Now they were stilled, paralysed by the nails pinning them to the Cross. As the suffering intensifies so Jesus cries out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Followed by, "Father, into thy Hands I commit my spirit," recalling the lovely phrase in Isaiah, where God referring to His people states, "You are mine and I love you. I have engraved you on the palm of my Hands."

The empty Cross after Jesus' Body had been taken down reminds us that beyond Good Friday is Easter Day with its message of God raising Our Lord to new life, symbolizing that the dark forces which so often seem to hem us in and the forces of evil do not have the last word. When our Risen Lord came to the disciples it was His hands which He showed them, hands which were still marked with the marks of crucifixion. Those hands tell us more than words ever can, that the sufferings of this world are for ever etched on the heart of God Himself. He is a compassionate God who suffers with us which is what the word, "compassion" means. The Cross and Resurrection show that goodness is stronger than evil and life is stronger than death; that there is hope when the world appears to offer no hope. It is from the Cross that the healing power, forgiveness and love of God flows out into the world to touch the lives of us all, hands marked with the marks of the Cross. In the words of John Austin Baker, "The Crucified Jesus is the only accurate picture of God the world has ever seen and the hands that hold us in existence are pierced with unimaginable nails."

As we gather at the foot of the Cross this Holy Week may the hands of Jesus bring you comfort and may you know the joy of His Risen presence this Eastertide.

Rev. Preb. Paul Hancock.

Love and peace,

Martin

Please note my new email address is vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk