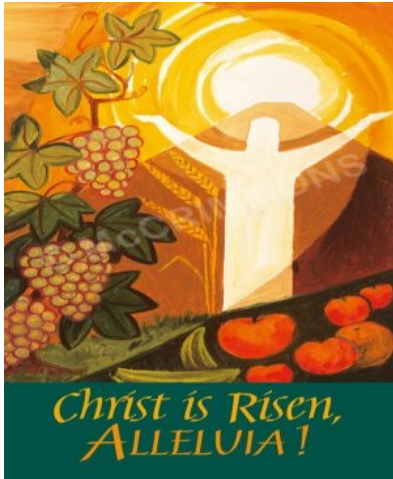


# Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

## Sunday 9th April 2023



### Easter Day

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains  
of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen



### Readings this week:

Acts 10: 34-43

Psalm 118: [1-2] 14-24

Colossians 3: 1-4

John 20: 1-18

### Reflection...

Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, was there ever a week so filled with emotion?

We begin with Palm Sunday. This is the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem; he rode into Jerusalem to challenge the power of death, rode in to fight evil with good, rode in to die for love of us.

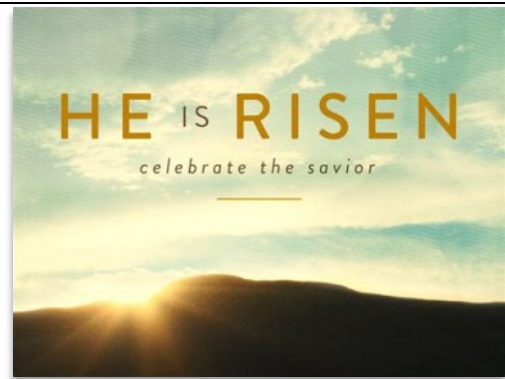
The people were ecstatic; their King was coming to conquer the Romans and set them free. The Jewish authorities were furious. Who did he think he was – King indeed! He rode in on a donkey. Well, today, you might cause a stir if you rode down the Mall on one but then it was a fairly common mode of transport - except that Jesus was coming to establish his kingdom and everyone knew how you did that! By force, with power, with an army! Leaders of armies rode horses and not donkeys. But nobody really minded. They waved their branches, threw their cloaks down, sang and cheered, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna!”

By Thursday Judas had betrayed him and the disciples had run away.

By Friday the cheering had turned to jeering. The cries of joy turned to shouts of hate. “Crucify! Crucify him!” The crowds turned against him. Peter betrayed him. Jesus was rejected by all.

I always hoped that, if I had been there, I would have stood up for him; so much for my pride.

A village I lived in some time ago was informed that some waste ground was to be made into a travellers’ site. The anger and hatred was immediate. Travellers were scum of the earth and much worse. I was horrified that people I had thought kind were so vicious; after all the travellers were people, too. My friend and I went to



the protest meeting; it was loud and very, very angry. But I did not stand up. I covered in my seat and said nothing and then I knew I would have been like the disciples and would have run away.

Friday! The trial. Pilate had the power to release Jesus. He admits that Jesus is innocent but his career is more important than justice. Jesus is sent to be crucified.

So amid all this hatred Jesus hangs upon the cross held there by our sins. He looks down upon those he came to save and does he judge them? No, he forgives them. He says, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do”. In the midst of all the hate, the betrayal, the fear and confusion Jesus cuts through it; he says, “Father forgive them”.

I imagine Saturday must have been such a day of regret and anguish, a day of ‘if only’. We have all wished that we had done things differently, things we should have done and things we wish we had done.

But joy of joys on Sunday the Light of the World by darkness slain burst forth in glorious light! Jesus is alive and he has forgiven them, as he forgives us. All those who betrayed rejected and deserted him, all of them he still loves, as he loves all of us. Alleluia!

May you all have a blessed Easter. Alleluia!

~June Cutting~

**Let us continue to support and strengthen each other**

- ◇ Daily, by saying The Lord’s Prayer together, morning and evening
- ◇ Lighting a candle at home 10.00am on Sunday if we are unable to come to church

**Our Services:**

<b>Good Friday</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b>	<b>10:00am   The Way of the Cross and Creation</b>	<b>Topcroft Church</b>
	<b>10:00am   The Way of the Cross and Creation</b>	<b>Shelton Church</b>
	<b>2:00pm   Family Service and the Easter Story</b>	<b>Hempnall Church</b>
	<b>2:00pm   The Way of the Cross</b> <b>Zoom link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86093377396?pwd=a0RGM2xqMFdoMWlQUzF2VVh2anVUUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86093377396?pwd=a0RGM2xqMFdoMWlQUzF2VVh2anVUUT09</a></b> <b>Meeting ID: 860 9337 7396   Passcode: 965048</b>	<b>Via Zoom</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>9<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b>	<b>6:30am   Lighting the Easter Candle</b>	<b>Morningthorpe Church</b>
	<b>9:00am   Group Easter Eucharist</b>	<b>Bedingham Church</b>
	<b>10:00am   Family Service and the Easter Story</b>	<b>Topcroft Church</b>
	<b>10:00am   Family Service and the Easter Story</b>	<b>Hardwick Church</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> Apr 2023</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>10:00am   Morning Prayer in the Iona Tradition</b>	<b>Topcroft Church</b>

**This week we pray for:**

- ◇ In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- ◇ The people of God, that they may proclaim the risen Lord
- ◇ God’s creation, that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care
- ◇ Those in despair and darkness, that they may find the hope and light of Christ
- ◇ Those in fear of death, that they may find faith through the resurrection
- ◇ Prisoners and captives
- ◇ In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs

**FOOD BANK**

Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during this difficult time.

Our next collections will be on:

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Any items can be left at Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm. Please phone before arrival – 01508 498157**

**URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS**

UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND HAS LEFT THE FOOD BANK CRITICALLY LOW IN SOME AREAS. WE ESPECIALLY NEED:

**PASTA SAUCE and TINNED**

**WE REMEMBER:**

Martin, Molly, Ian

**Hempnall:** Lesley and family, Phillip, Sophie, Ross, Claire, David

**Bedingham/Woodton:**

Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris, Barrie, Carolyn, Kath, Bruce, Pat, Anthea, Harry, Sally, Kath, Richard, Susan

**Topcroft:** Gerald

**LONG TERM CARE:**

**Bedingham /Woodton:**

Dennis, Shirley, Jacob

**Fritton/Morningthorpe:** Beryl



**RECENTLY DIED:** Michael Soanes, Diana Sowerby, Basil Walpole

**Please ring us if you need:**

**The Revd Lynn Chapman—Priest in Charge**

**01508 558479**

[chapman.lynn@btinternet.com](mailto:chapman.lynn@btinternet.com)

**Group Office: Mon-Thurs 9am-12.30pm**

**01508 498157**

**Email: [hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com](mailto:hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com)**