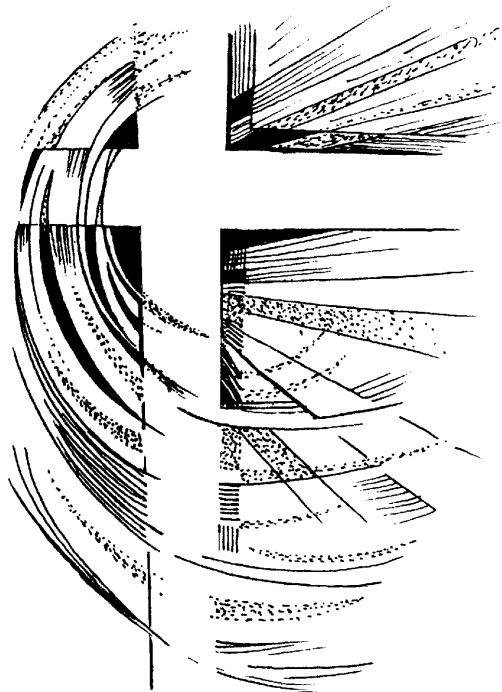


The service at **2.00 pm on Good Friday** is at **Great Witchingham**, and it will as usual include hymns, Passion readings from Isaiah and St John's Gospel, anthems sung by the benefice choir, intercessions at the foot of the stark wooden cross, times for silence and reflection, and a final simple act of Communion. It is a time not just to focus on the reality of Christ's death but to thank God for his love. Please be there if you can; and if you would like to receive Communion at the end of the service, **once again there is a list here and in all our churches; please just add a tick to indicate you will be taking part.**

The celebration of Easter begins with the **Paschal Vigil at 6.00 am** on Easter Day at **Weston Longville**. Our own rising to new life with Christ in Baptism forms the theme of the service, as the world around us comes back to joyful life at the start of a new day. Go on, be brave this year and be there - it is a wonderful experience! *(And there's breakfast afterwards...)*



Sunday 21 March 2010

LENT 5



Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ
hast delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through the same, Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

New Testament Reading: Philippians 3.4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing

I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: 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.'



All daily services this week will be at their usual times; additionally on **Wednesday evening** there will be a benefice Eucharist at **Great Witchingham at 7:30 pm for the Feast of The Annunciation.**

This week we pray particularly for those who work at **The Romantic Garden** in Swannington.

Please continue to pray for the sick & those in need:

Ian Akhurst; Shelagh Ashe; Jack Coxall; Osvaldo Ferreiro; Tony & Rosie Footitt; Peter Frost; Patrick Grant; Neita Harvey; Peter Hodges; Jo, James & baby Daniel; John & Linda; Guz Jones; Pauline Lomax; Wally; Paul McCoy; Peggy Nicholson; Pat Phipps; Annette; Mel Tuddenham; Val; Alex Williams; Freda; Colin Woods.

Events this week:

TODAY	6:30 pm	Deanery Evensong at Themelthorpe – Preacher, Bishop James
Wed	7:30 pm	Benefice Eucharist for The Annunciation at Great Witchingham
Fri	1:00 pm	Last Lent Lunch at The Rectory
Sat	9:30 am	Rehearsal for Palm Sunday Passion reading at Attlebridge
	3:00 pm	Baptism rehearsal at Great Witchingham

Next Sunday: PALM SUNDAY

*Full details of all the services and events of **Holy Week** are in the special leaflet delivered with the March Wensum Diary, Pilgrim and Ringland Runner. Please also note as below:*

If you would like to take part by playing a 'character' in the long reading of the Passion story on **Palm Sunday** morning (28th March, **Attlebridge church 10am**) then please just sign up against the character you would like to read on the list at the back of any of our churches. There will be a brief 'read-through' practice in that church at 9:30 am on Saturday 27th.

On **Maundy Thursday** night the Eucharist of the Last Supper takes place at **7:30 pm** at **Swannington**. It includes the traditional ceremony of the feet-washing, as we follow the example of Christ's humility. If you wish to be one of those taking part and having your feet washed, **please add your name to the list** at the back of any of our churches.

From the end of the Maundy Eucharist the **Watch of Prayer** continues in **Swannington church till midnight**. There are also lists in all our churches dividing this time into 20-minute slots. **Once again, please indicate when you could be 'on watch', by your initials or a simple tick.** Don't feel you have to come alone; arrange to come with someone and help build up the atmosphere of prayer as we watch with Jesus.