



**29th March 2026.**  
 We extend a warm welcome to  
 Rev Philip Turner, and to all  
 our members, friends and visitors



**For meditation:** *Generous God, your grace takes the tangled threads of our lives and weaves them into stories of beauty and hope. In the silence of our hearts, you create space for grace—a sanctuary where your love can make all things new. May our lives echo your redemptive love. Keep us rooted in you, and guide us ever closer to your heart.*  
*Leslie M Newton, Chair, Yorkshire North & East District*

**NEWS AND VIEW**

Today is Palm Sunday –we celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey to signify that he came in peace. This is being commemorated in churches with processions – without the donkey at St Christopher’s this year (he died!)- and by the distribution of palm crosses, as is our custom. Pax cakes or biscuits, stamped with the image of the Paschal Lamb and the words ‘God and Good Neighbourhood’ have been distributed to congregations in Herefordshire at the end of the Palm Sunday service, since 1570. The sharing regarded as a good way to settle any differences within the church congregation!

**FOR PRAYER**

**Palm Sunday– study material**

The Methodist Church has prepared study/worship material for the whole period of Lent; this week we are invited to **let go of violence and embrace gentleness.** We place a coat at the foot of the cross. A symbol of power, protection and pride. We recall the day when coats and palm leaves became a royal carpet, an act of honour for the Prince of Peace. You came riding on a donkey, not a warhorse. Not with force, but with peace. O Lord our God, on this Lenten journey, clothe us in gentleness and teach us the way of peace. Amen  
*We are praying this week for the congregation at Farrington Gurney and for their minister, Rev Christine*

**LECTIONARY READINGS – 5<sup>th</sup> April**

- Jeremiah 31: 1 -6
- Psalms 118: 1 -2, 14 -24
- Colossians 3: 1 -4
- John 20: 1 -18

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in the very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross!  
 Philippians 2: 5 – 8

**DIARY**

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**  
 Café + Soup 9.30 – 1.30pm  
 The meal will be served around 12 noon. All welcome
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Sunday)**  
Morning worship 11.00am  
 (including Holy Communion) led by Rev Katy Thomas
- Family Friendly Worship 4.00pm  
 led by Helen and team. All welcome
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April**  
Leadership team meeting 11.00am

Lord God,  
 in Jesus, you came in the body:  
 flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone....  
 We thank you that you did not remain  
 an idea, even a religious idea,  
 but walked, wept, and washed feet among us.  
 By your love,  
 change our ideas, especially our religious ideas,  
 into living signs of your work and will.

**Through our lives and by our prayers,  
 your kingdom come.**

Lord God,  
 in Jesus your body was broken  
 by the cowardly and the powerful.  
 The judgement hall of Pilate  
 knew your silence as surely  
 as your critics knew your voice.  
 In word and silence,  
 take on the powerful of the world today:  
 those whose word sentences some to cruelty  
 or unmerited redundancy;  
 those whose word transfers wealth or weapons  
 for the sake of profit and prejudice;  
 those whose silence condones the injustice  
 they have the power to change.

O Saviour of the poor, liberate your people.

**Through our lives and by our prayers,  
 your kingdom come.**

Iona Community 1989

