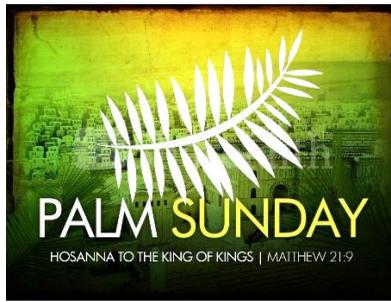




Parish of Christchurch



We welcome you to St George's Church  
this Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017,  
as we celebrate PALM SUNDAY.

We welcome our President for today,  
Rev Eric Johnson.

Rev Dorrie Johnson is unwell and so is unable to be with us  
today.

A COLLECT FOR 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

TODAY'S READINGS:

First Gospel Reading:	Matthew 21; 1-11
Old Testament:	Isaiah 50; 4-9a
New Testament:	Philippians 2; 5-11
Second Gospel Reading:	Matthew 27; 11-54

Our Second 'Unsung Hero of Christianity':

As well as being Palm Sunday, the Church today celebrates the life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was ordained into the Lutheran Church. Opposed to the philosophy of Nazism, he was one of the leaders of the 'Confessing Church', a group which broke away from the Nazi-dominated Lutherans in 1934. In 1943 he was arrested and later he was murdered by the Nazi police in Flossenbergl concentration camp on this day in 1945.

PALM SUNDAY is not always celebrated on the same day throughout the Christian Church. The Eastern Churches sometimes are quite different to us in the Western Church, but this year we are all celebrating on the same day.

In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. They were often depicted on coins and important buildings. Solomon had palm branches carved into the walls and doors of the temple (1 Kings 6:29). Again at the end of the Bible, people from every nation raise palm branches to honour Jesus (Revelation 7:9).

Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9), when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.

The Jewish feast of the Passover (Pesach) coincides with Easter this year and our Jewish friends will be celebrating Passover from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April all the way through to Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>. Passover is a time when Jews who do not normally keep a kosher kitchen will make the effort for the Passover week.. There are many regulations regarding kosher food, and I know from my time in the dairy industry, that at Passover, dairies in predominantly Jewish areas of the UK call in the local Rabbi to bless specially processed kosher milk.

### AN APPEAL

Rev Eric Johnson, who is leading us today will also be leading the worship on **GOOD FRIDAY** here at St George's (2.00pm) and would like volunteers to read at that service. If you would like to volunteer (before we twist your arms) please see Eric as soon as possible. Some people choose not to come to the Good Friday service for a number of reasons, but this year it will take the form of a meditation with some Taizé prayers and worship songs, so why not have an early lunch and come along?

**DID YOU KNOW** that traditionally, the ash used during the Ash Wednesday communion service is made by burning the previous year's

palm crosses? In our old church the Priest-in-Charge tried doing this, but very nearly asphyxiated himself in the process as the smoke generated was, to say the least, copious and pungent!!

Once again may I ask anybody who has NOT received an envelope and leaflet about 'Funding the Vision' to see Bob TODAY. Thank you.

A POEM FOR PALM SUNDAY:

**Palm Sunday**

Astride the colt and claimed as King  
that Sunday morning in the spring,  
he passed a thorn bush flowering red  
that one would plait to crown his head.

He passed a vineyard where the wine  
was grown for men of royal line  
and where the dregs were also brewed  
into a gall for Calvary's rood.

A purple robe was cast his way,  
then caught and kept until that day  
when, with its use, a trial would be  
profaned into a mockery.

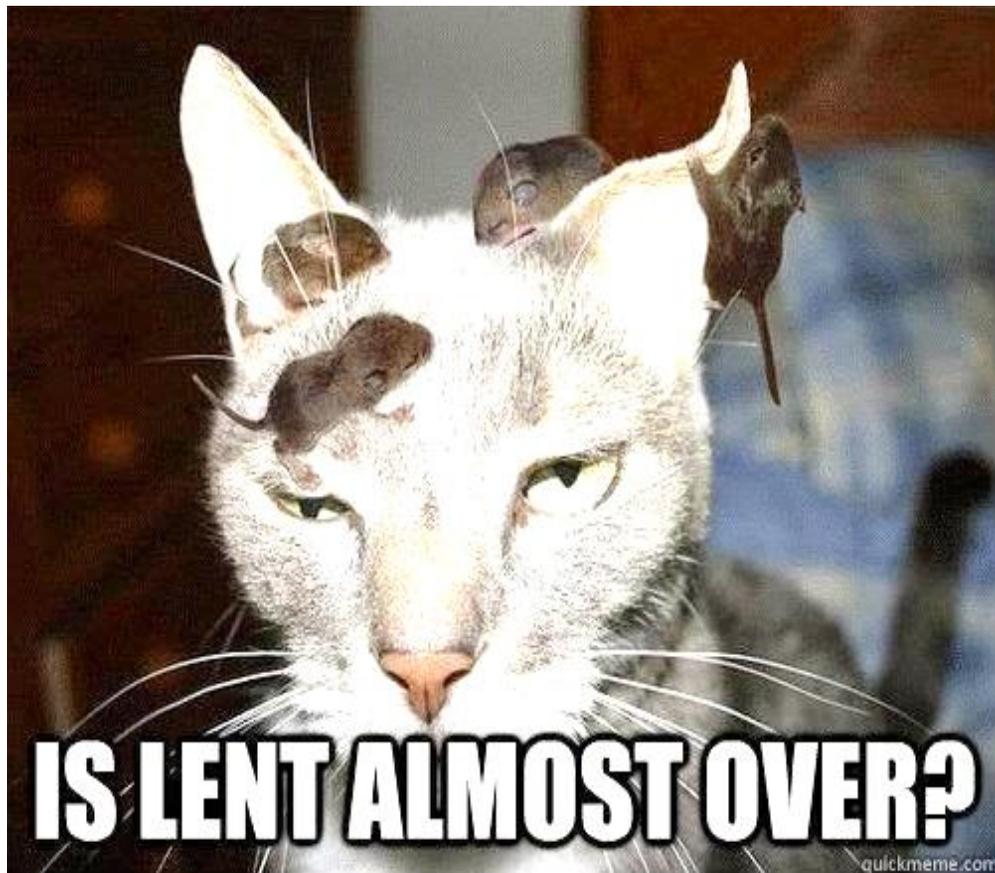
His entourage was forced to wait  
to let a timber through the gate,  
a shaft that all there might have known  
would be an altar and a throne.

MARIE J. POST (1919-1990)

I would be very grateful if a few ABLE-BODIED MEN (or strong ladies) would make themselves available for a few minutes after today's service.

Following the sale of Priory Hall we have inherited a number of useful items which we have to find storage space for. Some of it will have to go into the loft above the hall, and the staircase is quite precarious so a 'chain gang' would probably be the easiest way to get it up there. It is currently stored in the choir vestry. Many thanks!!

AND A FINAL SMILE FOR LENT:



A special 'Get Well Soon' goes to Dorrie Johnson who was due to share the leadership of today's service with Eric. Get well soon, Dorrie; we look forward to having you back with us!!

Any articles for inclusion in the next St George's News must be in by Friday evening please to Bob Savage at: Breezy Corner, 1 Hampshire Close, Fairmile, Christchurch, BH23 2TH. Telephone 01202 255431

Email: [StGeorgesNews@gmx.com](mailto:StGeorgesNews@gmx.com)