

**News for the Pews**  
**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023**  
**Sunday: Palm Sunday**



**News and Views**

I have had a lovely time this week at the end of term Easter assemblies with all the schools. I have had beautiful bouquets, speeches and lovely cards. At St. Lawrence's assembly, we had the pleasure of the company of April Gold, the Diocesan Director of Education. At the Arc school in Napton, one class had composed a song for me and accompanied it on their recorders. Another had learnt a song to sing to me. The third class made me chocolate bouquets – all with handmade cards. The cards from Little Lawrence's came with bucket-loads of glitter! And, of course, I had the joy of sharing the Easter story with them all.

**Events for the week**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Napton's APCM at 11.45am in church  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – the baptism of Kiara at 2pm in Napton Church  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Priors Hardwick's APCM at 4.30pm in church  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Group Treasurers' meeting at 7.30pm in Stockton Church  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – final session of the Lent course at 7.30pm in Stockton Church  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Chrism Eucharist at 10.30am in Coventry Cathedral  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Maundy Thursday service at 7pm in Stockton Church (please let me know if you are coming)  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Journey to the Cross for Good Friday at 10.30am in St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April – the church at Lower Shuckburgh will be open for individual reflection from 2 – 4pm  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Journey to the Cross for Good Friday at 7pm in St. Lawrence's Church, Napton  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April – the wedding of Alex and Victoria at 1pm in St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston  
Each weekday there will be Morning Prayer for Passiontide at 9am in St. Michael's Church, Stockton and Evening Prayer for Passiontide (not on 7<sup>th</sup> April due to wedding rehearsal) at 5pm in St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston.

**Looking ahead**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Fair at St. John the Baptist Church from 2 – 4pm in Lower Shuckburgh  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Gillian's leaving party from 3pm in Stockton Church (please let Wendy Turner know if you can attend)  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April – The Gathering with the Bishop of Coventry at 10.30am in St. Michael's Church, Stockton

**Services next Sunday – 9<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday:**

5.45am – Dawn Vigil at St. Lawrence's Church, Napton – this will be outdoors so please come dressed for the weather! Followed by breakfast.  
10.30am – Easter Day Holy Communion at St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston  
5.00pm – BCP Evensong at St. Mary's Church, Priors Hardwick  
Bible readings for the week are: Acts 10:34-43 and John 20:1-18

**And finally**

Again, I encourage you to make space during the week to engage with the whole journey of Jesus and his disciples from the events of Palm Sunday through the week to the celebration of Easter Day. I believe you can't experience the true sense of joy, hope, forgiveness, peace and love symbolised by the empty tomb on Easter Day, without dwelling on the sadness, anger, terror, shame, emptiness and grief of the preceding days. Here is the 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."

God bless,  
Gillian

(For more details of events and diary dates, see our website: [www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk](http://www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk) or the parish magazines)