

Sunday, 6th March	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Nunton
Lent 3	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion	Britford
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Service	<u>Charlton</u>
Sunday, 13th March *	9.30 a.m.	United Communion	Odstock
Sunday, 20th March	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion	<u>Charlton</u>
Passion Sunday	11.15 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Nunton
Sunday, 27th March	9.30 a.m.	United Communion	
PALM SUNDAY	10.00 a.m.	Visit from the Bishop of Ramsbury	Nunton
Thursday, 31st March	7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	Britford
MAUNDY THURSDAY			
Friday, 1st April	10.00 a.m.	Family Service	Nunton
Good Friday	2.00 p.m.	Devotional Hour	<u>Charlton</u>
Sunday, 3rd April	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Britford
EASTER SUNDAY	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion	Odstock
	11.15 a.m.	Parish Communion	<u>Charlton</u>

* Sunday, 13th March is MOTHERING SUNDAY

Mid-Week Lent Meetings: 3rd: 10th: 17th: 24th: 29th March. All at 7.30 p.m. Please phone Rectory for Venues.

There will be a HUNGER LUNCH in aid of Tear Fund at the Rectory on Saturday, 19th March from 12.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Soup, bread and cheese will be available.

There will be a PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION with donkey from the Nunton Bus Shelter to Church before the 10.00 a.m. United Communion. If you wish to join this please meet at the shelter by 9.30 a.m. at the latest.

R.H.

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Robert Hollingshurst Tel: 330628
Editor: Mrs. Angela Moules, Old Mill Cottage, Odstock 329785

Dear Friend,

The Passion of our Lord is of course a reference to his great suffering both at his crucifixion and in the events leading up to it. It is nothing much to do with the passion of strong emotions. Here on the cross hung one who had done nothing to deserve death, let alone the worst possible type of execution. As he hung there he cried out:

"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means
"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

The fact that the Gospel writers preserve the saying in its original language and then translate it for us, suggests that the memory of that cry, as it sounded out across Calvary's hill, lingered long and deep in the minds of those who were there. Here is a cry of dereliction from the Son of God himself. It is not a quiet reflective or even polite prayer such as we have made the Lord's Prayer to be. It takes issue with God - "why have you?" It is both an invitation for us to be honest with God ourselves and to understand that God himself, in Jesus, cries out for, and on behalf of, all humanity in its predicament.

However, this agonising and haunting prayer is not one of unbelief in God. There is no room here for the type of thinking that says 'because there is so much suffering and wickedness in the world there is no God'. It is far better for us to take God by the scruff of the neck and remind ourselves of the strength of our relationship with him... "My God, My God... why?" Jesus did not let go of his heavenly Father with the result that He (Jesus) found that he had not been deserted and that His Father raised him from the dead.

The Christian faith is not cosy escapism, its truth is most often worked out and experienced as we work our way through the darkness into God's marvellous light.

Why not make a point of joining us for our services this Holy Week and Easter as we mark and celebrate our Lord's Passion and discover its meaning for us and our world? We plan to get off to a good start on Palm Sunday when the Bishop of Ramsbury will be with us for the 9.30 a.m. Communion.

10.00
Yours,

Robert.

FROM THE EDITOR

Most of you will have heard of the death of Bishop Laurence Brown who was our Priest-in-Charge for 8 years. Our sympathy goes to his wife Florence and to Jill and her sisters Elisabeth and Petrena. He was a friend to many of us and will be greatly missed.

I was amazed and delighted when Mrs. Clare Penny of Azalea Cottage, Chapel Lane, Charlton-All-Saints (tel: 0725-22369) offered to take my place as Editor. Clare and John have 2 small daughters, Isabelle and Emily. Please send anything for News & Notes to her from April.

EASTER LILIES Will anyone wishing to give a lily (or a donation for these) in memory of loved ones please contact Grace Barker (335209) for Nunton or Barbara Taunton (329773) for Odstock as soon as possible, please.

THE COMMUNITY GROUP & FRIENDS are organizing a Buffet Lunch party to celebrate Faith Hawley's 90th Birthday on March 12th, 12 noon - 2.00 p.m. at the Radnor Hall, Bodenham. Will anyone wishing to join in this celebration please contact Carole Stratton by March 5th at Matrimony Farm House (329720).

There will be a Coffee Morning for World Wildlife Fund at Faith Hawley's Amber Cottage, Bodenham on Saturday, March 26th at 10.30 a.m. All welcome.

BODENHAM POST OFFICE AND STORES Pete and Anne Wadey have had a letter from Wilts Constabulary about the number of crimes committed at rural Post Offices in our area, and would be very grateful if anyone noticing any suspicious person/s or vehicles at any time of the day or night would please phone our local Crime Prevention Officers: Sgt. Keith Bowman or Martyn Jones, tel: 0725-41444, ext. 481. (Burglars are very happy when ladders or wheelbarrows are left outside!)

CHARLTON-ALL-SAINTS Mrs. Ann Simmons wants to thank everyone for their good wishes and kindness during her recent illness. Happily she is making a good recovery.

ODSTOCK/NUNTON ROAD SAFETY & SPEED RESTRICTION There is now some positive progress, reports Julian Johnson, your County Councillor and member of the Transport & Highways Committee. Work on the footway from Odstock crossroads to the school should start in March, subject to the consent of one remaining landowner; this work will be combined with a drainage scheme.

A report on the all-important speed limit is also due by end March from the consultants. There are many other similar requests being investigated but a positive response is anticipated for Odstock & Nunton. The next thing will be to press for an early implementation and signing.

Finally, work on an improved layout of the dangerous A338/C12 junction will start in March and inevitably there will be some road closures and traffic disturbances between 1st and 31st March. Anything to make this junction of the Nunton Road and Bodenham Bypass safer must be worth some temporary inconvenience.