

## 29<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026 HOLY WEEK – NEWSLETTER

*'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'* (Matthew 21:37b)

Dear friends,

This week, we have witnessed a **historic event of significance to The Church of England and the Worldwide Anglican Communion, and the nation of England.** It represents a development in the religious and institutional life of the Church that many believe to have God's blessing and favour. It testifies to the way God calls people to share in His loving work and purposes in the world, and (as I write) yesterday **The Most Rev'd and Rt Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally was enthroned as the 106<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury** and installed as the Diocesan Bishop of Canterbury, the first woman in the role even as she had been the first woman in her previous role as Bishop of London.



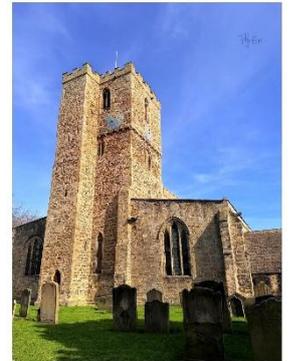
*'For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.'* (Ephesians 2:10 New Living Translation) We continue to pray for her to lead us into the new things that God has placed on her heart and will enable and resource.



Meanwhile, our hospitality of **Lent Lunches** has concluded in Gainford St Mary with **£265.60 for Darlington Assistance for Refugees (DAR) from the 2 Churches Together in Gainford Lent Lunches** and Cakes.

**Winston St Andrew's raised £882 for MND** at our coffee morning and **£352 for MIND** at the Lent Lunch.

Despite a cold spell this week, our churches are blessed by the Spring sunshine. **This will be an active Holy Week, with all our schools in our churches** to experience afresh the Lord's journey to the Cross and the Resurrection. Please pray for our young people, their teachers, and their families, that this may be more than an annual event. God has shown favour to our schools and this will be my last services with them. Pray for Paula Kirkup, Sarah Fells, and me as we lead these services.



### SERVICES ON PALM SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

9.30am	Winston St Andrew	Holy Communion	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop with Peter Craig
10.45am	Gainford St Mary	Holy Communion	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop with Peter Craig
11am	Staindrop St Mary	Service of the Word	Lay Led by Staindrop's Worship Group and Sarah Fells
	Ingleton St John		<b>at Ingleton St John</b>

### HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> March; 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026

**Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 6pm at Ingleton St John the Evangelist Church**  
led by Peter Craig and Sarah Fells

### MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

5pm	Staindrop St Mary	Last Supper, Washing of Feet, and Stripping of the Altars
7pm	Gainford St Mary	Last Supper, Washing of Feet, and Stripping of the Altars

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

*All services led by Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop except at Gainford with Fr Thomas, at at Staindrop, a lay-led service*

9.30am Winston St Andrew; 11am Churches Together in Gainford; 2pm Ingleton St John; 3pm Staindrop St Mary

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

## NOTICES:

Please pray for

- † **OSCAR GEORGE RAW**, who is **BEING BAPTISED** on **EASTER Sunday** at **Gainford St Mary's Church** during the **Easter Service at 10.45am**. Pray for his parents Simon and Sophie, and Edward's Godparents Clair, Kevin, Megan, and Craig, who will be making promises to guide him to know and follow their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and his sister Isabelle (who had been baptised in 2023).

## SCHOOL SERVICES:

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 1.15pm GAINFORD Primary in Gainford St Mary**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 9.15am STAINDROP ACADEMY in Staindrop St Mary**  
**1.15pm INGLETON Primary in Ingleton St John**  
**1.15pm STAINDROP Primary in Staindrop St Mary**

## EASTER DAY COMMUNIONS

<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Winston St Andrew</b>	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Gainford St Mary WITH BAPTISM</b>	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
<b>2pm</b>	<b>Ingleton St John</b>	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
<b>4pm</b>	<b>Staindrop St Mary</b>	Rev'd Canon Alec Harding

### **EASTER MONDAY 2pm Staindrop St Mary's EASTER WALK and Tea**

Please do encourage anyone you know who would enjoy a walk through Raby Castle's Deer Park in areas specially opened to us by kind permission of Lord Barnard.



## COLLECT for PALM SUNDAY

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his  
patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a  
servant,  
and in obedience died on the cross for our  
salvation:  
give us the mind to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

## **First Reading – PALM Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.’ <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup> ‘Tell the daughter of Zion, look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’ <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

## **The PASSION Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54**

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Jesus said, ‘You say so.’ <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, ‘Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?’ <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, ‘Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, ‘Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.’ <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release for you?’ And they said, ‘Barabbas.’ <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, ‘Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ All of them said, ‘Let him be crucified!’ <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Let him be crucified!’

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.’ <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, ‘His blood be on us and on our children!’ <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ <sup>30</sup> They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

<sup>38</sup> Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son.'" <sup>44</sup> The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' <sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'