

# Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

**21 March 2021**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**



Click on the logo for some music  
while you read the news sheet

This Sunday we enter the season of Passiontide.

It is still uncertain when Christians first began to make an annual (as opposed to a weekly) memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ. This Pascha (a word derived indirectly from pesach, Hebrew 'Passover') was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification. Over time, the Pascha developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter. Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning. The procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the reading or singing of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated. Maundy Thursday (from mandatum, 'commandment', because of the use of John 13.34 in the Antiphon) contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

After keeping vigil ('Could you not watch with me one hour?') Thursday passes into Good Friday with its two characteristic episodes. The veneration of the Cross is older; the sequence of meditations and music known as the Three Hours' Devotion was introduced into the Church of England in the nineteenth century. The first is now sometimes incorporated into the structure of the second. It is a widespread custom for there not to be a celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday, but for the consecrated bread and wine remaining from the Maundy Thursday Eucharist to be given in communion. The church remains stripped of all decoration. It continues bare and empty through the following day, which is a day without a liturgy: there can be no adequate way of recalling the being dead of the Son of God, other than silence and desolation. But within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near.

This solemn season preserves some of the oldest texts still in current use, and rehearses the deepest and most fundamental Christian memories. At the same time, the services and ceremonies of Holy Week have in the course of Christian history been the occasion of, or have actively encouraged, hostility towards the Jews. The 'Ioudaioi' of St John's Gospel have all too easily been identified with 'the Jews' as a whole, or more specifically those Jews who were neighbours of a Christian church. This places a double responsibility on those who lead the keeping of Holy Week today: to be faithful to the act of collective memory, but also to be sensitive to the ways in which an unreflecting use of traditional texts (like the Reproaches) can perpetuate a strain of Christian anti-Semitism.

This year our Passiontide services will be influenced by the pandemic, but these themes are still at the heart of our Christian faith and tradition during this season.

Rev'd Neil

## Collect and Post Communion Prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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 have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Worship in the Group

Sunday	11am	Eucharist	Live on <a href="#">Facebook</a> and later on <a href="#">YouTube</a>
Everyday	9pm	Lent Compline	Online (contact Neil for details)
Wednesday	10.30am	Lent Study Course	Online (contact Neil for details)
(until and including 31 March)			

## Please pray for...

### From our prayer list

Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Fay Finch, Judith Gentleman, Sue Grainge, Nora Green, Clive Hall, Annie Hersey, Tim James, Arthur Jeffries, Imogen Matthews, Neil Morgan, Tim O'Riordan, John Rowntree, Maggie Sharman, Jose Stokes, Alan Tosney, John Weatherspoon, and for any others whom we name in the silence of our hearts.

We give thanks for those on the road to recovery.

We also remember the souls of Ken Exton, Joan Coupland and all the faithful departed may they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we also pray for those who mourn their loss.

### The Diocesan Prayer diary

The intentions of the following parishes, groups and deaneries: the Deanery of Haverstoe; The Abbey Group; Holton-le-Clay, Tetney and North Cotes; Humberston, the Immingham Group

The intentions of all those from outside our diocese but listed in the prayer diary, including the Church of the, and churches in the Diocese of the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands (West Indies); the Diocese of Bakaru (Nigeria); the Diocese of Ballarat (Australia); the Diocese of Bangor (Wales); the Diocese of Banks & Torres (Melanesia); the Diocese of Barbados (West Indies)

**NB a full copy of the diocesan 'Sharing in Prayer' guide can be found [here](#)**



## Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

[Jeremiah 31.31-34](#)

[Hebrews 5.5-10](#)

[John 12.20-33](#)

Click on the reading to  
link through to the text

### Readings for Morning Prayer for this week

<u>Monday:</u>	Psalm 73	Jeremiah 21.1-10	John 11.28-44
<u>Tuesday:</u>	Psalm 35	Jeremiah 22.1-5, 13-19	John 11.45-end
<u>Wednesday:</u>	Psalm 55	Jeremiah 22.20-23.8	John 12.1-11
<u>Thursday:</u>	Psalm 111	1 Samuel 2.1-10	Romans 5.12-end
<u>Friday:</u>	Psalm 19	Jeremiah 24	John 12.20-36a
<u>Saturday:</u>	Psalm 23	Jeremiah 25.1-14	John 12.36b-end

### Please support your church

A huge thank you to everyone who is using the online giving pages to support the work of our churches.

For all churches, donations will help keep much loved churches open and serving their local communities in regular worship and milestone life events.

Please give as generously as you are able. If you usually give a donation through the plate collection, please consider contributing online. All our churches are struggling to meet their regular outgoings, which unfortunately do not stop just because the doors are closed for physical services.

St Andrew, Haconby has an online giving page which can be found [here](#).

St. John the Baptist Church, Morton has an online giving page which can be found [here](#).

St. Mary and All Saints, Kirkby Underwood has an online giving page [here](#). .

### Easter in the Ringstone in Aveland Group, 28 March – 4 April

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	11am	Eucharist	Rippingale
<b>Monday</b>	7pm	SoW	Zoom (contact Revd Neil for a link)
<b>Tuesday</b>	7pm	SoW	Zoom (contact Revd Neil for a link)
<b>Wednesday</b>	7pm	SoW	Zoom (contact Revd Neil for a link)
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	7pm	Eucharist	Morton
<b>Good Friday</b>	10am	Stations of the Cross	
			Zoom (contact Revd Neil for a link)
	2pm	Last hour at the Cross	Dunsby
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	7pm	Easter Liturgy with vigil	Kirkby Underwood
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	11am	Eucharist	Haconby

**Due to Covid restrictions, if you wish to attend any of the church services please let Sue know at least 1 day before the service, on 01778 570846 or**

**<mailto:ringstoneoffice@gmail.com>**

### **Pray for persecuted Christians worldwide – Libya**

There are approximately 34,500 Christians in Libya – 0.5 per cent of a population of 6.7 million. But the number of Libyan Christians (rather than migrant workers from other countries) is very small – only about 150 believers.

There is no freedom of speech, no freedom of religion, and no possibility of public church life in Libya. The tiny number of Libyan Christians from a Muslim background face violent and intense pressure from their family and the wider community to renounce their faith. They are also vulnerable to abduction, murder or sexual assault by Islamic militant groups and organised crime groups.

Sharing your faith publicly is illegal in Libya, and those who try to share their Christian faith with others risk violent opposition and arrest. Without a central government, the country is effectively in a state of lawless anarchy. There is little chance of legal justice when Christians are attacked or killed.

Christians migrating from sub-Saharan Africa are also vulnerable to being held in detention centres or handed over to persecutors by those trafficking them. Believers are often then forced into intense labour or prostitution

#### **Let us pray...**

Lord, we ask for Your blessing on Libya and those who follow You there. Please give strength and perseverance to those who cannot publicly praise You or have any semblance of church life. Protect them from violence and kidnapping, and change the hearts of those who persecute Christians. Amen

If you would like to find out more about the persecuted Christian community, and how you can support them, please go to <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>

### **Thank you...**

**Thanks to your generosity, according to our records the Ringstone in Aveland group has donated over 1 metric tonnes of goods to the Food Bank.**

**Your support continues to be vital, so thank you for all you have done, and for your continued support for those most in need in our community.**

### **Communication**

[www.ringstonegroupchurches.org](http://www.ringstonegroupchurches.org)

If you have items to be included in the news sheet, please let Sue know by emailing [ringstoneoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ringstoneoffice@gmail.com) before Tuesday, 10am.