

## Pastoral Letter March 2021 — Rev Sue Cooper writes:

Dear Friends,

Throughout March the Church is celebrating Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday. Mothering Sunday has its roots in our Parish Churches links with our Cathedrals, or “the Mother Church” as they were known, but more recently its roots go back to when many people were in Service and they were given a day off on Mothering Sunday to go home and visit their Mums.

It was a lovely tradition, as most folk love to have a special day to thank their Mothers and to show their appreciation. Some of us have, or had, great Mum’s, while sadly others didn’t! But Mothers matter, and every child deserves a good start in life. Carrie O’Regan our lay reader is collecting for a Charity called Baby Basics, and she makes this appeal:

*“Each year on Mothering Sunday St George’s Church Evenley supports Baby Basics, a county based charity who works with mothers and their new babies. When families are referred to Baby Basics they receive a Moses basket of essential items for the birth of their baby. Mothering Sunday is 14th March this year and we will again be doing our collection. The charity particularly needs the following, so if you wish to donate please either deliver items to Carrie at 15 Church Lane, Evenley, or there will be a box in our Churches from 8th March. Items: nappies from birth to 3 months, baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby talc, baby clothes from birth to 3 months, also items for Mum such as shampoos, shower gels, shampoo, conditioner, body lotions, and sanitary products. For more information please contact Carrie on 01280 702300. Thank you’.*

As you can see, this is a very worthy cause. Please support this if you can.

The other date we are celebrating in March this year is Palm Sunday. This is the beginning of Holy Week for the Church and it commemorates Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on a donkey on his way to the events that led to his death on the Cross. His entrance was one of great celebration: people were cheering and waving palm branches and celebrating Jesus as the one who would save them from their Roman oppressors; however, just a few days later many of this same crowd had turned on Jesus and were crying out for him to be crucified!

Following the crowd has been a human trait since time began. How often in our own time do we see a politician, or sports hero or celebrity held up and put on a pedestal, only to see a short while later that they are torn down again by the media or on social media, and the opinion polls tell us that they have lost their popularity. Jesus fell foul of this kind of popularity culture in Jerusalem, but it did not deter him. Jesus had been controversial from the moment He began His ministry and He wasn’t worried about his reputation or how others viewed him, He was determined to show to the people that God was doing a new thing in their time, and it had been a long time coming. Jesus’ core message was that in him God’s Kingdom had begun, and the things He did proved this. Everything Jesus said and did was scrutinised or criticised by the people of his day. This led some to believe and follow, and others to scoff and turn away. Jesus loved people, but He wasn’t a crowd pleaser. His message was the same with everyone He met, and some folk believed him and became his followers, while others didn’t.

It’s the same today, the message of the good news of God’s love and salvation found in Jesus hasn’t changed and we can either take it, or leave it. My prayer is that you would take a fresh look at Jesus, leaving aside what everybody else may think about Him, and open your heart and mind to believe that what He said and did is true; and that God’s Kingdom of love, joy, justice and peace began, and continues, in him. God bless you,

With love

Rev Sue. (01869 810903)