



Dear Friends,

Did Jesus know exactly what was going to happen? What were the disciples thinking? What motivated Judas? All these questions, and more, are relevant to the events of Holy Week, leading up to the crucifixion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to die in Jerusalem, but they don't believe him. Jesus knew Judas would betray him, but we can only speculate why Judas did it. Each day, from Palm Sunday to Easter, the disciples must have wondered what was going to happen next.

One year ago, as we experienced the first lockdown and were prevented from commemorating Holy Week together, we had no real knowledge of what would happen next. The letter from Rev Ken in the second Bulletin said: "*The BBC reported on Monday, it will be six months before things return to normal in the UK! Seriously, do we really want to go back to what the world considers normal?*" Well twelve months on we are still not 'back to normal' and we know now that we are likely to never be the same again. As a Church we face hard questions about our future: how many people will ever return to worship in a building, indeed how many churches will never reopen? Harold MacMillan, reflecting as the Prime Minister who lived through the Suez crisis and the Profumo scandal, said that his greatest political challenge was "Events, dear boy, events". I'm sure Boris Johnson, and all PMs before him could say the same. As would I as a minister - you never know what is going to happen next, what the next phone call or email will say (just ask Rev Ken and Chrissie, whose life journey this year has taken such a sudden turn!). The events of Holy Week were unexpected but perhaps also inevitable.

On Palm Sunday, the great entry into the Holy City of Jerusalem, Jesus is heralded by the crowd who were waiting for a Messiah: "Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna". Events take over, the plot thickens, the disciples are completely bewildered by it all, they don't know what to do next and all end up disloyal to Jesus in one way or another. We can let events overwhelm us (and understandably that has been true during the last twelve months) or we can remember Jesus said "*do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the troubles each day brings.*" Matthew 6:34.

Let us press on with faith, worship and serve God to the best of our ability, and leave the rest in Jesus' hands. God bless **Rev Peter**



## LENT 6 March 28

**Mark 11:1-11**

**Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

Jesus, who has journeyed  
with us during the past year,  
We will journey with you this week,  
as we remember your obedience  
as the suffering servant.

Give us courage  
for the week ahead:  
Courage to stick with you  
and not run away,  
Courage to say we love  
and serve you,  
Courage to face death,  
Courage to find life,  
Courage to be your disciple.

Jesus, walk with us  
the way of the cross,  
Amen

## CONTACT:

**Revd Peter Sheasby**

7 Pinfold Garth

Malton

YO17 7XQ

[peter.sheasby@methodist.org.uk](mailto:peter.sheasby@methodist.org.uk)

01653 692173

**Revd Ken Gowland**

[gowlo@hotmail.com](mailto:gowlo@hotmail.com)

01439 770300

**Deacon F & Revd T deBoltz**

01751 430750

**Revd J Pickering**

01653 668628

**Ann Thomas (Admin)**

[ryedalemethodists@gmail.com](mailto:ryedalemethodists@gmail.com)

# A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

25 March - 1 April

adapted from a  
Roots Lent calendar  
www.rootsontheweb.com

During ongoing COVID-19  
restrictions, ensure that contacting  
others is done in a safe way.

## THURSDAY

Keep focused on God – think before you  
speak and act.

## FRIDAY

Think about your relationships with  
others – put right any disagreements.

## SATURDAY

Ask someone to pray for you and  
your intentions. Pray for them too!

## SUNDAY

Make a cross to go outside  
your home this week

## MONDAY

Jesus prays with his disciples.  
Pray for your friends today.

## TUESDAY

Hold a cross and commit yourself  
to carry it for Jesus this week

## WEDNESDAY

Spend some quiet time in prayer  
to build your spiritual energy for the  
special days to come

## Ryedale Methodist Churches opening for Worship with social distancing, face coverings, no singing, no mingling

Allerston	Worship from 18 April, Anglican service on 25 April
Appleton	At the recent circuit meeting Appleton requested to cease to meet
Ebberston	Sunday services from Easter Day
Hartoft	Return for Easter Day with Revd Ken then hope to return on 2nd and 4th Sundays from May
Helmsley	Continuing with weekly Sunday services
Hovingham	Services weekly from Easter Day
Kirby Misperton	Service on 18 April
Kirkbymoorside	Services on Sundays from Easter Day.
Kirkdale	Anglican Easter Day service and Revd Ken on 11 April
Leavening	Weekly Sunday services
Malton	Weekly Sunday services
Middleton PC	Easter Day service with Revd Brian Shackleton
Norton Bethel	Weekly services from Easter Day
Norton Trinity	Aiming to open in May
Pickering	Sunday services from Easter Day
Rievaulx	Continuing with some Zoom and some services in the chapel
Scagglethorpe	Alternate Sunday services from 11 April
Sinnington	Sunday services from Easter Day
Slingsby	Weekly services from Easter Day
Thornton Dale	Easter Day and fortnight later on 18 April



**Flourish plans** Reluctantly the District has agreed that the wisest and safest decision is to defer Flourish from this September. We have such wonderful and enduring memories of Flourish in 2019 and we want our next event to be as equally inspiring and positive.

We are now planning our way ahead as follows:  
Saturday 18 September will instead be the Autumn Synod.

We will have a particular focus on:  
reflecting on all that we have travelled through during this pandemic, and committing ourselves with renewed faith to fulfilling all that God has for us in the future.

We will now seek to agree a new date for Flourish – **now Flourish 22** to be, we anticipate, in September / October 2022.

All things considered this seems to be the preferable time of year, with the best opportunity for a really successful event which includes all ages as fully as possible.



ryedalemethodists@gmail.com

<https://www.ryedalemethodist.org.uk/events.html>  
For further information and service material for Sundays



47