

5th April 2020

Burdens

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Bible, Galatians 6:2

Today is Palm Sunday, the beginning in what is known in the Christian tradition as Holy Week, as we share the journey with Jesus in the events of the final week of his life, through the Cross, to the glory of Easter morning. It begins with a strange journey, with Jesus – in a local parody of a Roman Triumph – coming into the Jerusalem riding on a donkey.

Because of the restrictions on us at present, many will struggle not being in our churches to celebrate and re-enact this amazing scene. We can’t sing our “Hosannas”; march around the church or our community; wave our branches; distribute our palm crosses. So, I suggest you close your eyes for a moment today, and take yourself back to a Palm Sunday event that’s been important to you; think of the songs; feel the excitement; picture the smiling faces – and you *will* be there to celebrate.

But might I also suggest something else? Take a moment to spare a thought for the donkey. No donkey, no means of transport for Jesus; no donkey, no re-enactment of a Triumph; no donkey, no Palm Sunday story. A “beast of burden” had done what needed to be done. That’s all. It carried its passenger, and made it all happen.

There are many people carrying burdens for us today, particularly our Health Service staff, called on when needed, caring for us, carrying us, doing what needs to be done. *They* give us our triumph on Palm Sunday 2020. Thank God we have them to bear us where we need to go.

A prayer for today

Thank you for the people who carry my burdens today.

And if I’m called on to carry someone else’s,

give me strength for the journey,

and give me humility to keep doing what needs to be done. Amen

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