

HARBURY NOTICES

Morning Prayer we will be meeting in the Tom Hauley Room at 8.30am Tue-Fri. All Welcome.

Ponder in the Pub – Tuesday 24th March, Arrive 6:45 for 7pm, The Crown Inn. This month's topic: 'Is being good, good enough?'

Memorial Garden helpers Now that the new doorway has made the Memorial Garden accessible, would anyone be willing to help with garden maintenance? If you are interested or would like to find out more, please speak to Gillian Hare on 01926 614809.

Easter Experience – 29th March–5th April, anytime during church opening hours at Church: Interactive Easter "stations" prepared by Messy Church; all welcome to drop in.

Easter Sunday Volunteers Needed, 10.00–10.30 am at Harbury: Help serving hot drinks; please speak to Julie Batchelor, Ann Clucas or Bez Norton.

Easter Egg Donations – Please bring small wrapped Easter eggs for after the Worship for Everyone Service; give to Andy or Julie Batchelor.

Easter Sunday Services –

- 6.30 am Sunrise Service (Remembrance Garden, Harbury);
- 9.00 am Communion (Harbury) with refreshments at 10.00 am;
- 10.30 am Easter for Everyone (Harbury);
- 10.30 am Communion (Ladbroke & Chesterton).

Email: administrator@allsaintsharbury.org by Thur pm to include messages in the Pew sheet.

REFLECTION FROM THE RECTORY

The Fifth Sunday of Lent marks a profound shift in the liturgical atmosphere. In many traditions, this day begins the period known as Passiontide. The focus moves away from our personal Lenten disciplines and focuses our attention on the Cross.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus offers a hauntingly beautiful metaphor for what is about to happen: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

This is the central paradox of the Christian faith. Real life does not come through a self-centred approach, but through a generous giving of ourselves. Jesus is preparing his followers to understand that the death that awaits on Good Friday is not a tragic accident, but a necessary sowing.

True holiness isn't about following a set of rules or ticking boxes on a Lenten discipline chart. It is about being transformed by God's love, allowing our hard hearts to be softened and our stubborn wills to be moulded and turned to obedience.

Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus frequently says, "My hour has not yet come." But on this Sunday, the tone changes. He declares, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." The ingrained understanding of glory meant power, thrones, crowns, and applause. In Jesus' eyes, glory is about the Cross. It is the moment when the love of God is most visible because it is most sacrificial. As we move into this week, we are invited to reflect on the paradox that our King's coronation is also a crucifixion.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as we journey toward Calvary with You, let us see Your cross with new eyes. Remove the veil of familiarity that dulls our amazement at Your sacrifice. You loved us and gave Yourself for us. May this truth penetrate every corner of our being.

Harbury, Ladbroke, Ufton & Chesterton Churches



NOTICE SHEET

Sunday 22nd March 2026

Lent 5

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

9:00am	Holy Communion	Ladbroke
10:30am	Holy Communion	Harbury
6:30pm	Prayer Meeting	Harbury
7:00pm	Informal Service	THR

THIS WEEK

MONDAY 23RD MARCH (VICAR'S DAY OFF)

TUESDAY 24TH MARCH

8:30am	Morning Prayer	THR
7:00pm	Ponder in the Pub	The Crown

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH

8:30am	Morning Prayer	THR
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THURSDAY 26TH MARCH

8:30am	Morning Prayer	THR
10:00am	Holy Communion	Harbury

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

8:30am	Morning Prayer	THR
9:30am	School Service	Harbury
7:00pm	Lent Course	Harbury
7:30pm	Bellringing practice	Harbury

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH

10:00am	Coffee morning (Agnes Court)	THR
2:00pm	Wedding	Harbury

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH

9:00am	Holy Communion	Harbury
10:30am	Holy Communion	Ladbroke

Any safeguarding concerns please contact Rev Andy, safeguarding lead Amy Pedvin-Lewis 01926716520 or Jenny Rigby -01926259985 (Ladbroke)

CHURCH WARDENS

Bez Norton & Andy Dean - warden@allsaintsharbury.org
Susan Moore & Peter Rigby - ladbrokechurch@gmail.com

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Peter, Rosemary, Bruce, David, Caroline,
Kay, Nora, Karen, Barry, Maureen,
Nathan, Bryan, Sam, Joy.
All those who have lost a loved one.

BIBLE READINGS

Ezekiel 37.1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' ⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your

graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

John 11.1-45

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸ The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹ Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.'

¹¹ After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹² The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴ Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. ^[E] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷ She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and

deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

