

Vicar's Blog

April 2017

Hope and Joy this Easter

The first Palm Sunday, was a joyous time, full of hope. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the streets were crowded, people longing to see the man they had been hearing about, believing things would change for the better, their hopes would be realised. Then in the days that followed, the joy faded, replaced by disillusionment and anger, leading to the execution of Jesus and a wave of despair.

This Palm Sunday, 9 April, we will be remembering the first Palm Sunday as we process with Palms from the Village Hall to the Church and hold our Palm Sunday service at 10.15. There will be joyous singing and prayers of hope, for ourselves, for others and for the world as we look forward to Easter Day and the hope it brings to us all.

During the afternoon of Palm Sunday, there will be another joyous gathering and journey for all those who take part in the Easter Bunny Hunt. Individuals and families will walk around Longlevens to find Easter bunnies that mark the way. There will be refreshments and time for conversation in the Church Hall and I believe there may be a giant Easter Bunny and Easter Chicken visiting us as well!

The joy of the Easter Bunny Hunt is a time of joy that also brings hope. Hope for Finlay, who will be having an operation in May. Hope that through that operation and a painful and very lengthy period of physiotherapy, he will be able to enjoy improved mobility.

Jesus suffered pain so that we could have new life. Out of the darkness of his death and suffering came the unexpected joy and hope of the Easter Resurrection – new life.

As we celebrate joy and hope on Palm Sunday, may we all remember, pray for and be part of helping others, not least Finlay, find hope that is realised. Our times of pleasure and joy can help transform the lives of others.

Jesus said: I have come that they may have life and live it to the full. John 10.10

Gwyneth