

# The Parish of Darfield

All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton

## Good Friday Special

### From our in town correspondents

#### Passover: The feast of Un-leavened Bread.

Jerusalem has been awash with visitors as they make their annual pilgrimage to the city to commemorate the escape of their forefathers from slavery in Egypt. Passover remembers the Israelites' escape from Egypt when the blood of a sacrificed Lamb protected them from the tenth plague inflicted on Egypt by the LORD.

#### Reports of the death of Lazarus are proved incorrect! - A Miracle in Bethany!

Last week, the town of Bethany was shocked to hear of the death of Lazarus, one of their citizens. His sisters, Martha and Mary, seeing how ill their brother was, had sent a message to their friend Jesus. By the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days, but, on a command from Jesus, Lazarus was seen to emerge from the tomb, fully alive.

A similar event is said to have happened near the Sea of Galilee when a 12-year-old girl was brought back to life by Jesus.

#### Betrayal - by a friend?

It is thought that one of Jesus of Nazareth's closest friends, named locally as Judas, betrayed him to the Chief Priests and set in motion the trial of Jesus for blasphemy. A trial which ultimately led to His death on a cross.

A body has been discovered close to the city which has been provisionally identified as this Judas Iscariot.

#### The Way to the Cross - Via Dolaroso

The route from the Roman Praetorium in Jerusalem to Golgotha was once again thronged with sightseers as three condemned men were forced to carry their own crosses to the place of their execution.

One of them, identified as Jesus of Nazareth, seemed too weak to continue. A member of the crowd, Simon of Cyrene, was dragged out by the Roman guards to carry the cross for Jesus.

#### Weather Report

In an totally unexpected event, darkness fell over Jerusalem from the sixth hour to the ninth hour.

At the end of the darkness the curtain in the Temple was torn in two and the earth shook.

We can confirm that this coincided with the death of Jesus on the Cross at Golgotha.

#### A Centurion's View

The Centurion in charge of today's Crucifixions would have seen many such events in his career in the Roman Army.

He and his soldiers were moved by the day's events to comment... [Mark 15: 39]

**"Truly this was the Son of God"**

#### Sunday—what a day

The road from Bethphage and Bethany to Jerusalem saw a tumultuous reception for the itinerant preacher, Jesus of Nazareth.

The roads were covered with cloaks and palm branches as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowd were chanting **"Hosannah, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord"**.

The street cleaners took an age to remove the remains of the branches and collect up all the cloaks. The local environmental group were concerned that the palm trees would take a considerable time to recover from their mutilation

#### The Temple in uproar

The Temple is the focus of religious activities in Jerusalem where visitors come to make the necessary sacrifices. A small industry had built up in the outermost court of the Temple to supply the necessary doves and animals for the sacrifice and to change money into the special Temple coinage.

One of the better-known preachers, Jesus of Nazareth, visited the Temple this week and single-handedly cleared all the traders and money-changers out of the temple apparently quoting the words the Lord spoke to the Prophet Isaiah [56:7] **'My house shall be called a House of Prayer'** and accusing the traders as being thieves and robbers. We understand from one of his followers that Jesus had done the same thing on a previous occasion.

#### Denial

A solitary figure was seen in the courtyard of the High Priest during the trial of Jesus. He was challenged three times that he had been seen with Jesus.

In a broad Galilean accent, he denied each accusation. He was last seen leaving the courtyard in a distressed state shortly after hearing the cock crow.

#### How to: Wash your Hands

Follow the example of Pontius Pilate, who towards the end of the trial of Jesus, took a bowl of water and demonstrated to the crowd by washing his hands that he took no responsibility for the death of Jesus. We were unable to see if soap was used or whether the twenty-seconds Government inspired ruling was obeyed.

#### Land for Sale ;

#### The Potter's Field

A once in a lifetime development opportunity.

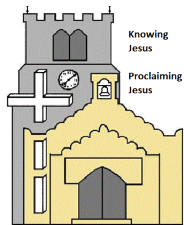
**Guide Price:** 30 Pieces of Silver

Would suit burial ground or similar

**Joint Agents:** Jeremiah 11 12 13

Matthew 27 03 10

Don't forget to read the Legal Pack -



# The Parish of Darfield

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## Easter Sunday Special

### From our in town correspondents

## Alleluia! Christ is Risen: He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

### A Burial

Our court correspondent reports that, after being assured by one of his Centurions that Jesus was really dead, Pontius Pilate allowed Joseph of Arimathea to remove the body of Jesus of Nazareth from the cross and bury His body in an unused rock tomb. Joseph is a member of the Sanhedrin, the Court of Jewish Spiritual Leaders. He was assisted by Nicodemus, a fellow Sanhedrin member who had openly insisted that Jesus should have a fair hearing at his trial [John 7: 50-51]

### An empty tomb

Reports are coming in that the tomb of Jesus of Nazareth is empty. Some of his followers went to the tomb earlier this morning and found that the stone had been rolled away and that the body of Jesus of Nazareth was no longer present and that angels had told them that Jesus had risen from the dead. One of the women claimed to have seen and talked to Jesus.

### The Emmaus Road.

We met up with two men late in the day as they were rushing to Jerusalem. They answered our queries by saying that they had seen Jesus and were on a mission to tell the disciples what had happened. Apparently, they had been walking to Emmaus and had met up with an unknown man who had explained the Scriptures relating to the coming of the Messiah. He had revealed himself as Jesus in the breaking and sharing of bread.

### Celebration

The Prophets pointed to the coming Messiah "A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel" [Simeon in Luke 2: 32]. Let us listen again to the Biblical records of that first Easter and determine OUR part in the tasks set before us. Those first Disciples appeared defeated until Our Risen Lord appeared to them and, with the promised Holy Spirit, re-ignited their desire to spread the Good News of Salvation, a desire that should continue in us today!

### Reliable Witnesses to the Truth

In the New Testament we have details of thirteen different appearances of Jesus between His Resurrection and His Ascension, a period of 38 days. Around 520 individuals saw Jesus during this period.

On the day of Pentecost about 3,000 were added to the numbers as the early church, the group of people, began to expand and to take the message of Salvation to the World in response to the last command of Jesus.

What must we do? Accept the promise of Jesus as we respond to His call and work to spread the Gospel where we are.

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [John 3: 16]

### Security

The High Priests had had the tomb sealed and persuaded Pontius Pilate to mount a guard so that the disciples could not remove the body of Jesus, hide it, and claim that the Resurrection had taken place.

On the Day of Resurrection, Matthew reports that the guards trembled and became like dead men when the tomb was opened by an Angel of the Lord.

Eventually, some of the guards reported the events to the High Priests and were given a sum of money to spread the fake news that the disciples had removed the body.

It is not clear if the guards were Roman soldiers, but if they were, the consequences of the tomb being opened whilst they were on guard were severe.

### Behind locked Doors

A reliable source has told us of more events in Jerusalem. Apparently, the disciples of Jesus were in the locked room for fear of their own safety.

Jesus joined them in the room. He was able to convince the disciples that He was not a spirit by allowing them to touch His body and to eat some of their food.

### Special Profile: Mary Magdalene

Mary was born in Magdala, a port on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. She is reported to have been cured of possession by seven demons [Luke 8: 2] and, with other women, joined with and supported Jesus and his disciples as they moved around the country. Mary continued to support Jesus and was a witness to His Crucifixion and watched over the tomb where Jesus was laid. She returned to the tomb after the Sabbath and was heart-broken to see the stone rolled away and the body of Jesus removed. 'They have taken away MY Lord' was her emotional response to questions from two angels in the tomb. [John 20: 13]. Another figure whom she took to be a gardener identified Himself as Jesus by just saying her name. Mary obeyed the command to go and tell the disciples.