

A Thought about donkeys

- Revd John Marshall

Looking through our Christmas cards I noticed some donkeys. They have become part of the Christmas story, Mary and Joseph helped on their way to Bethlehem and with Jesus, Egypt.

A remarkable donkey belonged to the prophet Balaam, who was beating her, when she stopped; The Lord God opened her mouth and she complained, then Balaam's eyes were opened and he saw the terrible danger she had saved him from. You can read about it in Numbers 22.

Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, and the donkey is prominent in carrying the injured man.

But Zechariah says, "Behold your King is coming to you;

He is just and having salvation,

Lowly and riding on a donkey

A colt the foal of a donkey.

We remember the events of Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

G.K Chesterton's poem The Donkey

When fishes flew and forests walked

And figs grew upon thorn,

Some moment when the moon was blood

Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry

And ears like errant wings.

The devil's walking parody

On all four footed things

The tattered outlaw of the earth
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour
One far fierce hour and sweet!
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms beneath my feet.

Remember most donkeys are marked with the cross of Jesus.
Are we carrying our cross and following Jesus.