

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**First Sunday of Lent**

- 10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion with Children's Church  
12.00 noon Lent Lunch  
4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church with Holy Communion

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**Collect for Today**

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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**Service Readings**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (*p.188*), Romans 10:8b-13 (*p.156*) and Luke 4:1-13 (*p.58*)

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**Please pray for**

... Carole Bookham, Anne Bradbeer, Andrea Fairbairn, Mark Knott, Llew Parry (Alison's Dad), June Simmonds (Lara's Mum) and Roger Young.

... the family and friends of Dick Henderson, Mary Louise Trigg, Sheila Banks and Arthur Arni whose anniversary of death is at this time.

... those who live and work in Bannisters Road, Beechcroft Drive, Benbrick Road and Bray Road.

... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

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**Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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**Financial Giving**

We take a collection during our services. If you don't give regularly by standing order or the envelope scheme, please put your donation in the bag, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

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## Dear Friends

I wonder what thoughts are generally at the fore-front of your mind? Maybe your thoughts are on small details of tasks needing doing, people to see, upcoming events. Perhaps your mind is remembering the last film you watched, book you read, or what has just come up in the news. Maybe your thoughts are more anxious, with worries about the family, or work, or the situation in Ukraine or Gaza. Maybe your mind wanders from one idea to another, without any particular rhyme or reason.

Our Gospel reading for today (Luke 4:1-13) demonstrates that Jesus' mind was filled with the Scriptures. At the end of forty days in the wilderness, Jesus is subjected to mental and psychological testing of a particularly vivid kind. And each time he responds, 'It is written' – i.e. 'It is written in the Scriptures'. His mind and spirit were immersed in the words and truths of the Hebrew Bible – the books of the Law, and the first five books of our Bible. When life was tough, his mind was full of God's promises, his wisdom and his truth; that was his great defence.

How full are our minds with the truth of the Gospel, conveyed to us through the Scriptures? And can those truths be our defence in troubling times? We'll be exploring this in our service today.

Wishing you every blessing as the season of Lent begins.

**Beverly**

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## Mission Focus for March: The Koens Family

Please pray for Clare and Andrew Koens and family, based in Ukarumpa in Papua New Guinea. One of the things they find hard is the frequent movement of people, as families come and go, some going on home leave for a year or so, some returning to their home countries permanently. Therefore, friendships can be transient which is unsettling, especially for the children, and Clare and Andrew have to be flexible in their work roles, in helping out to fill gaps when others leave. Please read more about them in the magazine, and come and support them at the Lent Lunch on March 9th.

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## Notices

**Lent Lunch:** Please join us at 12 noon today for a soup lunch in the hall. Everyone is welcome. Donations will be taken for the Koens family.

**Tea-time Church Lent Communion:** at 4pm in the Reading Room we'll be offering an informal communion service sitting in the round.

**Lent Course 2025:** Our Lent course starts this Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm. We're meeting in person at the Vicarage for 5 Wednesday evenings in a row. We will be studying the Archbishop's Lent Book for 2025, 'Wild Bright Hope'. If you'd like to come, please purchase a copy of the book and let Trish know.

**Annual Report & Accounts:** The Annual Report & Accounts for 2024 are now available online ([allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk/about-us/annual-report/](https://allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk/about-us/annual-report/)). If you would like a printed copy, let Trish know and she will prepare one for you.

**APCM:** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 11.15am in church. We're still seeking a new churchwarden and a couple of PCC members. Please let Beverly know if you'd like to serve All Saints by taking on one of these roles.

**Carbon Fasting for Lent:** The Women's Bible Study group are carbon fasting for Lent. Maybe you'd like to give this a go?

[climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/](https://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/)

**Baby & Toddler Group URGENT HELP:** Is anyone able to help on a Friday morning (term time only) from 9am-10am to get the toys out ready. Or, to come and help with refreshments between 10.15am and 11am. These jobs can be on a rota basis.

**Carolyn & Peter:** We'll be holding a leaving service, followed by tea, at 4pm on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Please put this date in your diary. If you'd like to make cakes for this, please let Trish know.

**Bonhoeffer:** Guildford Odeon are showing the new film 'Bonhoeffer', a biopic of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran pastor. One review says: "An inspiring, faith-filled story...Bonhoeffer's courage remains as provocative and powerful as ever"- Nathanael Smith, Premier Christianity magazine It's on today (Sunday) at 5.30pm and during the coming week at 2.30pm

**Holy Week & Easter:** dates for your diary

***Palm Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April***

10am: All-Age Communion  
6.30pm: Choral Meditation on the Passion

***Maundy Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April***

9.30am: Family Communion  
8pm: Holy Communion with Foot Washing  
9-10pm: The Vigil

***Good Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April***

10.30am: 'Walking with Jesus to the Cross' on the field followed by hot cross buns.

12-1pm: 'The Watch'

***Easter Day, 20<sup>th</sup> April***

5.15am: Sunrise Service followed by breakfast at the Vicarage  
10am: All-Age Family Communion followed by Easter Egg hunt

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## Diary for the Coming Week

**Morning prayer Mon, Tues and Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and Zoom. Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.**

Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Pastoral Team Meeting, Vicarage, 10.00am Women's Bible Study, 16 West Meads, 12.30pm
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	PCC Meeting, Vicarage, 7.15pm
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup>	Eco Gold Preparation Meeting, Reading Room, 10.00am Wednesday Lunch Group, Wilders, 12.30pm Lent Course - week 1, Vicarage, 7.30pm
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am Choir Rehearsal, Church, 8.00pm
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Baby & Toddler Group, Church, 10.00am Friday Group, Reading Room, 3.00pm
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	BCP Communion, Reading Room, 8.00am Morning Worship with Children's Church, 10.00am APCM, Church, 11.15am Tea-time Church, Reading Room, 4.00pm Youth Group, Church Hall, 5.30pm

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## Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Ps. 98, Jeremiah 4:19-end, John 5:1-18
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ps. 44, Jeremiah 5:1-19, John 5:19-29
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ps. 6, Jeremiah 5:20-end, John 5:30-end
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	Ps. 42, Jeremiah 6:9-21, John 6:1-15
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ps. 22, Jeremiah 6:22-end, John 6:16-27
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ps. 63, Jeremiah 7:1-20, John 6:27-40

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## Service Readings for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Philipians 3:17-4:1 and Luke 13:31-end

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## Contacts

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