

Sunday 15th February 2026

Sunday next before Lent



Collect for the Week

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President and Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)

President and Preacher: The Vicar

Minister: Daphne Pilcher

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom

Lead: Wendy Anderson Link: Chris Bassett

Hymns: Meekness and Majesty
 Thank you Lord for this fine day
 Be thou my Vision
 How Lovely on the Mountains

Reading: 2 Peter 1. 16 - 21 (page 1222 NIV)

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)

Minister: Tim Harrold Preacher: Daphne Pilcher

Hymn: NEH 494 (tune 413) Christ is the world's true light

Psalm: 78 verses 1 - 12

1st Reading: 2 Kings 2. 1 - 12 Emma Hope

Magnificat: C

2nd Reading: Matthew 17. 9 - 23 May Graves

Nunc Dimittis: C

Anthem: My eyes for beauty pine - Howells

Hymn: NEH 178 Tis good, Lord, to be here!

Amen: 12

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY 16th February

- 9.00 am **Morning prayer at the Parish Church – the Vicar**
10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer
8.00 pm PCC at The Lodge

TUESDAY 17th *Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, martyr, 1977*
Parish Office closed

WEDNESDAY 18th Ash Wednesday

- 9.00 am **Morning prayer at the Church Centre – the Vicar**
9.00 am Playtime at St Paul's
10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer
8.00 pm **Imposition of Ashes with Holy Communion**

THURSDAY 19th

- 10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer
11.00 am Communion at Mount Ephraim House – May Graves
11.30 am **Holy Communion at the Church Centre- the Vicar**
12.30 pm Lunch Club at the Church Centre
7.30 pm Living Hope at the Sanctuary now weekly during Lent

FRIDAY 20th

- 10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer
12.30 pm Community Larder at the Church Centre
7.30 pm Full Choir practice

SATURDAY 21st

10.00 am – 4.00 pm Choristers Café

NEXT SUNDAY 22nd February 2026

First Sunday in Lent

- 8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
President and Preacher: The Vicar
10.00 am **Matins (BCP)**
Minister and Preacher: Tim Harrold
10.00 am **Family Service at the Church Centre +Zoom**
Lead: The Vicar Link: Viv Littlechild
10.00 am – 4.00 pm Choristers Café
4.00 pm **Taizé Service** at the Church Centre with Tim Harrold
6.30 pm **Parish Eucharist (CW)**
President and Preacher: The Vicar

NEWS AND NOTES

The Vicarage

Greetings and a very warm welcome to our services today, the Sunday next before Lent.

As we worship together and contemplate Lent, I pray that God will cleanse our hearts and enable us to always worship in spirit and truth.

Ash Wednesday 18th February 2026

Just a reminder that the service starts at 8.00 pm at the Parish Church.

Living Hope

The Living Hope Group that meets on a Thursday at the Sanctuary is now being held weekly during Lent.

Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon 22nd February 2026

Please be aware that the Langton Green Road will be closed from 9.45 am to 11.30 am. If you are arriving by car you will need to arrive early.

Daytime Lent Group

From Tuesday 24th February we will be starting a weekly daytime Lent Group. The group will meet at the Church Centre at 2 pm. It would be wonderful to see as many of you join us as are able as we journey through the Lenten season together. Sign-up sheets are available in both the Church and the Church Centre. Please see Tim Harrold for further details.

Choir Concerts

The choir will be holding several concerts throughout 2026, details of which will be in the next issue of the Parish Magazine. Their first will be what is possibly this country's favourite oratorio of them all - Handel's Messiah featuring the iconic Hallelujah chorus. This will be a ticketed event with all profits going to the Organ Repair Fund. Tickets are available on our website stpaulsrusthall.org.uk or direct via Eventbrite <https://stpaulshandelsmessiah.eventbrite.co.uk> or via the QR Code on posters.

Tickets purchased before the 1st March 2026 will receive a voucher for a free drink on the night. Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience the drama and the passion of Handel's Messiah. Tickets are selling fast.



The Altar flowers are given today by the Flower Team and Martha's for making our Church more inviting.

P CHURCH CAR PARKING P P

With a wonderfully growing congregation the pressure on the avenue for parking is ever increasing, particularly for our large services.

It is vital that emergency vehicles 🚒 should be able to reach the church with ease at all times. The PCC are therefore actively looking for two or three people who would be interested in managing the newly devised parking plans for these occasions. This is probably only four times a year plus large weddings and funerals and will carry remuneration each time. If you are interested, please contact either Helen in the Church Office or Chris Dobson Applicants must be over 18.

PILGRIMAGE - SAVE THE DATE

The date for our 2026 Pilgrimage will be Monday 13th July, when we will be tackling the second half of The Martyr's Way. As with last year, a weekday will give us the opportunity to visit the greatest number of Churches. This is a 5-mile route starting from the Tyburn Convent where we will be given a guided tour of "The Shrine of the Martyrs" by one of the Benedictine nuns from the Convent. 10 Churches and chapels later, the pilgrimage will conclude in Holborn and after sharing in a meal of fellowship in a building designed by Sir Christopher Wren and from where he drew up the plans for a certain Cathedral, we will bring the day to a close with a service of Evensong from his greatest masterpiece. To register your interest, sign-up sheets will be available in the Church and Church Centre. For any further information please see Tim Harrold.

CONTACTS

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