

Sunday 22nd February 2026

The First Sunday of Lent



Collect for the Week

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.

- 8.00 am** **Holy Communion (BCP)**
President and Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am** **Matins**
Minister and Preacher: Tim Harrold
- 10.00 am** **Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom**
Lead: The Vicar Link: Viv Littlechild
- Hymns: Forty days and forty nights
 Abba Father
 What a friend we have in Jesus
 I'll go in the strength of the Lord
- Readings: Romans 5. 12 - 19 (page 1132 NIV)
 Matthew 4. 1 - 11 (page 967 NIV)
- 4.00 pm** **Taizé** Tim Harrold
- 6.30 pm** Parish Eucharist **(CW)**
President and Preacher: The Vicar

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY 23rd February *Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, c. 155*

9.00 am Morning prayer at the Parish Church – the Vicar
10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer

TUESDAY 24th *St Matthias, Apostle and Martyr*

Parish Office closed

2.00 pm Lent Group meeting in the Church Centre

WEDNESDAY 25th

9.00 am Morning prayer at the Church Centre – Tim Harrold
9.00 am Playtime at St Paul's
10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer

THURSDAY 26th *Ember Day (BCP)*

10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer
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, weekly during Lent

FRIDAY 27th *George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633*

10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer
12.30 pm Community Larder at the Church Centre
6.30pm Junior Choir practise
7.30 pm Full Choir practise

SATURDAY 28th *Ember Day (CW)*

10.00 am – 4.00 pm Choristers Café

NEXT SUNDAY 1st March 2026

The Second Sunday in Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
President and Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)
President: The Vicar
Minister and Preacher: Daphne Pilcher

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre +Zoom
Lead: Tim Harrold Link: Rosemary Romano

10.00 am – 4.00 pm Choristers Café

6.30 pm Compline
Minister and Preacher: The Vicar

NEWS AND NOTES

The Vicarage

Greetings and a very warm welcome to our services today, the First Sunday of Lent.

As we worship together and journey through Lent, I pray that almighty God, through the Holy Spirit, will equip us in every way and enable us to bear witness to his amazing and enduring love.

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.

"This year's theme is Life-Giving Habits for Lent" and each week we will focus on a different topic. This week will be on the topic "Sharing in Prayer". Open discussion is a vital component of faith and our Lent Groups are a safe environment where open discussion is encouraged and the warmest of welcomes will be extended to anyone able to join us. Sign-up sheets are available in the Church and Church Centre. If anyone requires transport to the meeting please contact Tim Harrold."

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**. The performance will be on **Saturday 4th April at 6.30pm**.

Tickets are available from the Parish Office at a cost of £10 or can be purchased online via our website www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk, Eventbrite <https://stpaulshandelsmessiah.eventbrite.co.uk> or via the QR Code on posters at a cost of £10 plus booking fee. All proceeds go towards the Organ Restoration Fund."

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 Church's Youth Council

The CYC bookcase is proving to be a wonderful success and a delight for many. It does, however need constant replenishment in order to keep everyone reading and puzzling!

If you have enjoyed a book or jigsaw and are happy to donate them to the CYC we would be delighted and very grateful. There are boxes at the back of the Parish Church, in The Lodge and at the Church Centre. Thank you everyone for your ongoing support for our efforts. St.Paul's Youth Council

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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