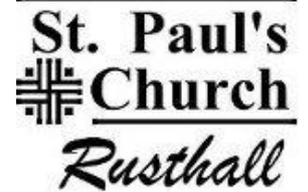


Sunday 1st March 2026

The Second Sunday in Lent



Collect for the Week

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent,
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
may we come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 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
- Hymns: I, The Lord of Sea and Sky
 When I needed a neighbour
 The Lord's my shepherd
 You shall go out with Joy
- Readings: John 3. 1 - 17 (page 1065 NIV)
- 6.30 pm** Compline
Minister and Preacher: The Vicar

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY 2nd March *Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, missionary, 672*

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

TUESDAY 3rd

Parish Office closed

2.00 pm Lent Group at the Sanctuary with Tim Harrold

WEDNESDAY 4th

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 5th

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
6.00 pm The Church Youth Council at The Lodge
7.30 pm Living Hope at the Sanctuary, weekly during Lent

FRIDAY 6th

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 7th *Perpetua, Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, 203*

10.00 am – 4.00 pm Choristers Café

NEXT SUNDAY 8th March 2026

The Third Sunday in Lent

8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
President and Preacher: The Vicar
10.00 am **Parish Eucharist (CW)**
President and Preacher: Reverend Nicholas Burton
Minister: The Vicar
10.00 am **Family Service at the Church Centre +Zoom**
Lead: Daphne Pilcher Link: Viv Littlechild
10.00 am – 4.00 pm Choristers Café
6.30 pm **Choral Evensong**
Minister: The Vicar

NEWS AND NOTES

The Vicarage

Greetings to you all, and a warm welcome to our services today, the second Sunday in Lent. Please note that we will be having light non-alcoholic refreshments after our 6.30 pm service (Evensong) today. I Hope you will join us for the service and stay for refreshments afterwards.

As we journey through the season of Lent, I pray that we will all be aware of the Holy Spirit within our hearts and around our lives, and feel bolstered to always walk with Christ.

EXCITING NEWS - "I am Mark" Production

It is with great excitement and anticipation that we can announce that 2026 will see an inaugural Shirley Barter Memorial Production. On 18th July we will be presenting "I am Mark", a daring new staging of the Gospel of Mark. Re-enacted by one person, "I am Mark" takes us through all the stories and drama in Mark's Gospel and presents it in the same way that the very first Christians would have experienced it. Performed in front of sell out audiences at both Rochester Cathedral and Edinburgh Fringe Festival, this is an event not to be missed. Tickets are now on sale - see posters in the Lodge, Church and Church Centre for details. We expect tickets to sell quickly so please make sure you book yours soon.

The Church Youth Council

The Youth Council is busy, fun and flourishing. New members are always very welcome. We are also looking for enthusiastic and committed helpers. Please contact Angela (07779098026) or Jean (jeankerr@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk).

Future meetings:

Thursday. 5th March.

'BEETLE DRIVE' with Rusthall Bonfire

OUR APRIL MEETING WILL BE A TREAT! To be announced.

Thursday. 7th May

Talk by Anne Krisman Goldstein. The story of The Beacon

Thursday 4th June

Inspirational Talk 'Nothing is impossible!

Saturday 6th June.

We are helping at the Commons Fun Day

6 pm to 7.30pm in The Lodge. All children of secondary school age welcome.

Please don't feel shy - we are very welcoming and love meeting new friends!

Daytime Lent Group

From Tuesday 24th February we will be starting a weekly daytime Lent Group.

The group will meet at the Sanctuary at 2 pm and not at the Church Centre.

"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."

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.

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

CONTACTS

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