



Notices for 9th of March 2025

A warm welcome to everyone

The First Sunday of Lent

Please come into the hall for refreshments after the 09:30 service.

Collect:

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.

Hymns:

- 555** Praise my soul the King of Heaven
- 254** For the fruits of his creation
- 547** Oft in danger oft in woe
- 279** And now O Father mindful of the love
- 612** We have a gospel to proclaim

Although there is no formal collection during the offertory hymn, please feel free to make a contribution to the work of St. Mary's either in the Treasury box at the back of church, or using the card reader, also at the back of church. Thank you.

Readings:

Romans 10:8b-13

But what does it say?

'The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart'

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Luke 4:1-13

The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." '

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him." '

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you",

and

"On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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.

Vacancy News – Peter & Dan

Peter and Dan would like to thank everyone who helped welcome the candidates to the parish on Monday 3rd March, including the afternoon tour of our activities, and the evening social with PCC members. Please help us by respecting the confidentiality of those involved.

8am SERVICES will be held only once a month on the first Sunday of each month. Any questions please talk to Dan or Peter.

Dates for your diary

Deadline 9th March. This year the **Electoral Roll for St. Mary's** needs to be fully revised and, hence, everyone currently on the Electoral Roll will need to complete a new Electoral Roll form. Electoral Roll forms, and an explanatory letter, are available for everyone on the existing Electoral Roll at the back of Church. **These should be returned by 9th March.** For those who are not on the existing Roll but would wish to be included blank Electoral Roll forms are available at the back of Church. ***Kind Regards, Paul Nowak***

Sunday 9th March 6:30pm - Confirmation service

There will be 26 candidates for confirmation, including 3 adult baptisms, from across the Deanery on Sunday 9th March at 6.30pm. Please come and support the 7 candidates from St. Mary's. We are providing the refreshments after the service, and we would be most grateful if you could help by signing the sheet on the table at the back of the Church. We are expecting a large number of people! ***Any further inquiries please contact Sara Tomlin.***

Monday 10th March at 7.30pm is the next knit and natter meeting in The Leverton Room. From April there will be Wednesday morning and Monday evening meetings once a month.

Saturday 15th March – Quiz Night

Tickets for the quiz night on Saturday 15th March are available from this Sunday. Tickets cost £10 and include a meal. The quizmaster is Mark Hodge. We would like to hold a raffle at this event, so could you please bring any donated raffle prizes and put them at the back of the Church. Many thanks.

Saturday 15th March is the next meeting of the **Women's Group**. As we are now in the season of Lent, Maggie Marsh will be taking this meeting for us. Maggie's article in The Listening Post for March is a good start for our Lenten journey. Our meetings start at 10am with coffee and cake, and we finish by 12 noon. Everyone is welcome.

The social committee has also planned some dates for our diaries: -

Homemade Sunday - Sunday 30th March (Mothering Sunday)

Lunch with guest singer Wendy Edwards - Saturday 7th June

Homemade Sunday - Sunday 29th June

Quiz Night on Saturday 25th October

Enquiries: Sara & Daphne