

Sunday Zone



at St Paul's



Inclusive Church

Outreach

Cause of the Month
in
Perspective

PILGRIM POST

Journal of the Parish
of St Martin and St Paul



Worship

TeaTime



Jesus, led by the Spirit
into the wilderness.....
fasted for forty days and
forty nights.

Matt. 4 v 1-2.



50p



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March 2025

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**Welcome to Pilgrim Post
the Journal of the
Parish of St Martin and St Paul.
Canterbury**



Our Parish Vision:

We are called to worship God in Jesus Christ and to make Christ known in our community.

We do not have all the answers. We are on a spiritual journey.

We look to scripture, reason and tradition to help us on our way.

Whoever you are, we offer a space for you to draw nearer to God and walk with us.

Sharing the Journey of the Christian Gospel

| | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------|
|  | www.martinpaul.org |  | Live Streaming |
|  | Parish Magazine - pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org | | |
|  | MartinPaulChurches |  | WhatsApp |

INTERREGNUM PARISH MINISTRY

For all enquiries about **Baptisms** or **Weddings** please contact our **Churchwarden** in Parish Office **01227 768072** (*Option 2*) or e-mail: office@martinpaul.org

Urgent Pastoral Care: Revd Sue White (PTO) Mob: 07803312144
Parish Office (*Option 6*) or e-mail: revsuewhite@gmail.com

Arranging **Funerals:** In the first instance please contact **Mary Butcher** (*Ministry Team*) on 01227 764200 or Parish Office (*Option 4*)

The **Parish Office** is in the Parish Centre, Church Street St. Paul's, CT1 1NH and is open 10:00 am - 12 noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Parish Administrator, Clergy, Wardens or to make **Parish Centre** and **Church Bookings** Please call **01227 768072** and listen to the options.

Special Request Prayers: Please contact:

Gwyneth Hartwell 01227 451366 or Doreen Laven 760372
or on the website at www.martinpaul.org/prayers

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Pilgrim Post

[Published by the PCC]

We welcome items from individuals and church or local community organisations. All items submitted should include a contributor's name please.

The editor may have to edit material submitted. Items on church matters do not necessarily represent the official position of the Church of England.

Advertising

Do please support those who advertise with us and mention that you saw their advertisement in our magazine.

Anyone wishing to advertise should contact the Editor

01227 784779

e-mail: pilgrim post
@martinpaul.org

The Parochial Church Council does not necessarily endorse the products and services advertised.

WORKING TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

Telephone code 01227 unless otherwise indicated

Rector Designate: The Reverend Dr Mary Kells (see page 6)

Associate Priest (SSM): The Revd. Charlotte Sleigh

office@martinpaul.org

Urgent Pastoral Care: The Revd. Sue White (PTO) 07803312144

Readers: Mary Butcher lgbbutcher@aol.com 764200

Samuel Keeler-Walker sjkw03@gmail.com 07402 200223

Christopher Robinson sir@cjrobinson.co.uk 07584 355001

Dr. Rosemary Walters ra.walters@btinternet.com 768891

Churchwardens: David Stuart 785900

St Martin's: Christine Robinson (Mobile) 07754 517458

Deputy Wardens: James Sampson 766440

Dr. Claire Butler 768072

St. Paul's Michael Keeler-Walker 720121

Ros Newington 01227 462897

Deputy Wardens: Monica Walling 787564

Jo Lawson 07505705812

PCC Officers:

Chairman: Christopher Robinson 07584 355001

Secretary: Jo Lawson 07505705812

Treasurer: Gordon Craig 452428

Church Music:

Organists: Christopher Gower (St Martin's) 07851 505565

David Rees-Williams (St Paul's) 07720 742193

Choir Director: Dom del Nevo 07753 336648

domdelnevo@gmail.com

Administration:

Parish Centre Premises Supervisor: Mrs Jackie Curd 452131

Parish Office - Parish Administrator: Sylvia del Nevo 768072

office@martinpaul.org

Parish Magazine: Revd. Clive Barlow [Editor] 784779

pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org

Safeguarding Issues: Lydia Newington 768072 (Option 7)

Tourism Manager (St Martin's) Jessica Morris 768072 (Option 5)

visits@martinpaul.org

PARISH OFFICERS AND ORGANISATIONS

Contact telephone numbers can be obtained from the
Parish Office **01227 768072** or e-mail: office@martinpaul.org

Parish Office opening Hours see Page 1

| | |
|--|--|
| Archivist | Brian Hogben |
| Bellringers | Sam Keeler-Walker |
| Christian Aid Week Co-ordinator | Rosemary Walters (<i>See page 3</i>) |
| Church Library | Rosemary Walters (<i>See page 3</i>) |
| Christians Together in Canterbury | David Hartwell |
| Deanery Synod | Rosemary Walters (<i>See page 3</i>) |
| Eco-Church Co-ordinator | Revd. Sue White |
| Electoral Roll Officer | Judith Dimond |
| Flower Arrangers (St Martin's) | Doreen Laven |
| Flower Arrangers (St Paul's) | Ros Newington |
| Friends of St. Martin's (Secretary) | Sylvia Gower |
| Fisherfolk (Parents and Toddlers) | Jackie Curd (<i>see page 3</i>) |
| 'Hangouts' Youth Activity | Sue Spillett |
| Lifelong Learning Group | Rosemary Walters (<i>See page 3</i>) |
| Messy Church Events | Christopher Robinson (<i>See page 3</i>) |
| Mothers' Union (Branch Leader) | Sue Spillett |
| Outreach Giving Group | Judith Dimond |
| Parochial Charities | Christopher Wachter |
| Parish Safeguarding (Children) | Lydia Newington (<i>See page 3</i>) |
| Parish Safeguarding (Adults) | Monica Walling (<i>See page 3</i>) |
| Parish Magazine (Editor) | Revd. Clive Barlow (<i>See page 3</i>) |
| Parish Magazine (Advertising) | (<i>see page 2</i>) |
| Pastoral Care and Prayer (Co-ordinator) | Revd. Sue White (<i>See page 1</i>) |
| Servers Rota | Val Taylor |
| Social Committee Co-ordinator | Jackie Curd |
| Stewardship Gift Aid Recorder | Richard Llewelin |
| 'Sunday Zone' Children's Work | Ruth Baker and Rosemary Walters |
| The Children's Society | Gwyneth Hartwell |
| Tourism Manager (St Martin's) | Jessica Morris (<i>See page 3</i>) |

Welcome to Worship

at St Martin's Church, North Holmes Road CT1 1PW
and St Paul's Church, Church Street St Paul's CT1 1NH

SUNDAY SERVICES - MARCH

See Magazine Diary pages 13 - 16

Download our Sunday Service / Newsletter from our Website

www.martinpaul.org

- 9:00 am** St Martin's - Said Eucharist (*Sung on Sun: 2nd March*)
10:30 am St Paul's - Sung Parish Eucharist (*Sunday Zone 1 & 2 see diary*)
Live on our YouTube channel (*see Parish Website for link*)

MONTHLY SUNDAY SERVICES

- 3:00 pm** St Paul's - TeaTime Family Service (*Sun: 9th March*)
5:00 pm St Paul's - Choral Evensong and Supper (*Sun: 16th March*)
5:00 pm St Martin's - Service of Silence and Compline (*Sun: 23rd March*)

LENT begins on ASH WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH (*see page 6*)

OTHER SERVICES - WORSHIP ACTIVITY DURING THE WEEK

- 7:30 am** Cathedral Morning Prayer - Monday - Friday (*in Jesus Chapel*)
8:30 am CC University Chapel Morning Prayer - Monday - Friday
9:15 am Cathedral Morning Prayer - Weekends and Bank Holidays
10:30 am St Paul's - Prayer Book Eucharist - Wednesday
(*Service followed by refreshments in church*)
12 noon St Martin's - Midday Prayers - Thursday
1:00 pm Messy Church - Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre (*Saturday 5th April*)
8:40pm Compline - [Night Prayers] Thursday (*on Zoom*)



Induction Loop Facility and Large Print Orders of Service
are available in both our churches



FROM THE REGISTERS

There were no Register Entries for February

COMMEMORATIONS

*We remember in our prayers those who have died
in March in previous years:*

Beryl Barnes, Cecile Manning, Jenny Collins, and Dorothy Dobbs



5th March - Ash Wednesday

10:30 am Prayer Book Communion - St Paul's

7:30 pm Sung Eucharist - St Paul's

Imposition of ashes at both services (if desired)



At services on Ash Wednesday, the officiant places ashes in the shape of a cross on the worshipper's forehead and says: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust, you shall return."

As at Christian baptism, it is a mark of 'belonging' to Jesus Christ, and a recognition of the need for reconciliation with God, appropriately marking the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. **Contributed**

Our new Rector - Arrangements

Arrangements are now in hand for the Institution and Induction of The Reverend Dr Mary Kells as our Rector at 7:00 pm on Sunday 6th April in St Paul's Church during a service of Choral Evensong.

The Institution will be lead by the Bishop of Dover with the Induction lead by the Archdeacon of Canterbury. It promises to be a very exciting service as Mary begins her ministry amongst us.

A special piece of music has been commissioned to premier at the service set to words from the bible that Mary has chosen which she feels encompasses the vision that the parish is "a place to belong". **Churchwardens**



'Time is a three-fold present: the present as we experience it, the past as a present memory, and the future as a present expectation.'
St Augustine of Hippo

PARISH LETTER



Dear Friends,


Have you ever wondered what species Jesus was thinking about when he invited his disciples to ‘look at the birds of the air’ (*Matthew 6:26-7*) and let go of their worries? Until this week, I confess I had always thought about those birds in a generic sort of way: a sermon illustration that didn’t need any special detail to make their point. Like many amateur bird watchers, I have blank spots in my knowledge, especially for the smaller species at our nearby Stodmarsh reserve, which I classify as ‘little brown jobs’.

But then it occurred to me that Jesus, knowing his Father had created each species and declared it very good, probably looked more carefully than I had previously imagined. What kind of bird might Jesus have been looking at?

Wikipedia to the rescue! - There are lots of bird species in modern-day Israel-Palestine, but the one that caught my attention was the Palestine sunbird. It’s about the size of a starling, and fairly similar in appearance except that the upper half of the male’s body is a super-glossy blue-green. It must make a dazzling sight flying in the sunshine, uttering its high and jingling song.

I can imagine Jesus interrupting his own sermon and pointing up to the sky: *Wow! Look at them! Aren’t they beautiful? My Father made them!* The sunbird’s curved beak hides a long tongue with a brush-shaped tip, perfectly evolved to lick nectar out from inside flowers. No seeds to reap or store for the sunbird, just as Jesus said. Its Latin name, given when it was ‘discovered’ by Europeans in the mid-nineteenth century, is *Cinnyris osea*: the holy bird.

We’ll be looking at the sunbird and other species this month at Tea-Time church, as we consider the theme ‘Jesus goes birdwatching’. It’s part of our series *God’s Wonderful World*, digging out stories from the bible that connect with science. So far, we have looked at the creation of animals, and Abram’s encounter with the stars. On the latter theme, we discovered the incredible fact that there are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on all the beaches in all the world.

The message from all our sessions is that the closer we look at 

creation, the more we are amazed by God.

In our poor, battered world, paying close attention to the species that surround us is a spiritual gift. It develops our joy in God's creation, a joy that can fuel our love and care.

We will never know what species Jesus was pointing out when he told his disciples not to get paralysed by worry. But we can take his example as inspiration to look closely at the real birds, and other species, that surround us. Why not look out for a starling today?

Charlotte Sleigh



Cause of the Month

The local charity which we used to support through the PCC, and pray for in March, is no longer operating in the way it did before, so in this month's Pilgrim Post, here are some quotes from 'Dethroning Mamon' a book by Justin Welby, which may help us answer the question, "Why, as a church community, do we want to give charitable donations?' in the first place.

'The way the Church sets budgets is as important as the way it writes its theology, as a budget is applied theology expressed in numbers'.

Quoting Pope Benedict XVI, Justin Welby calls for economics to include the spirit of gratuity, of giving without the expectation of anything in return, which can be interpreted as 'grace in action'.

So for March, we hold in our prayers the charities which we support through the PCC, and all charities, particularly those that are supported by members of our congregations. We also ask God to work in the hearts of the leaders of the American Government, so that the withholding of money from international charities may be ended, and America join in once more with their giving of aid throughout the world. Amen.

Judith Dimond



Choral Evensong and Supper at St Paul's

5:00 pm - Sunday 16th March

Guest Preacher:

Fr Thomas Sander, Rector of St Giles- in-the-Fields

Theme: Cranmer and the Book of Common Prayer



In this Lenten season, we are delighted to welcome our former Parish



Assistant and now Rector of a famous Prayer Book church who will be speaking to us about all things Thomas Cranmer and his rich legacy.

Afterwards, enjoy a tasty supper and pudding, with a glass of something for those who wish to stay. No bookings needed for food but please advise regarding dietary requirements. Call: 720121 Text: 07871340926
Email: namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk **Michael Keeler-Walker**

LIVING THE LITURGY THIS MONTH

Readings are from the *Common Worship Calendar and Lectionary authorized for use in the Church of England - Year C.*

Sermon in a Sentence (or Two!)

Mar. 2nd - Sunday next before Lent. Gospel: Luke 9 v28 – 43a

Being Amazed

How does God's activity shine out today? What is our part in this transfiguration?

Mar. 9th First Sunday of Lent. Gospel: Luke 4 v 1-13

Being Tempted

What do we consider are the three main features of our culture today that are a stumbling block to the Gospel message? What can be done?

Mar. 16th Second Sunday of Lent. Gospel: Luke 13 v 31-end

Being a Prophet

What is the one most important message for our times which the Christian church can proclaim? How do we get it across?

Mar. 23rd - Third Sunday of Lent. Gospel: Luke 13 v 1-9

Being a Gardener

Is it difficult to have patience when we feel the pace of Gospel change seems slow? Do we recognise opportunities to see where we can bring about renewal?

Mar. 30th - Mothering Sunday. Gospel: John 25b-27

Being a Family

How often do we look at the Crucifixion as a building of community happening when there are close and positive relationships?

Rosemary Walters

March Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries
with our *Good Wishes and Prayers*

Birthdays: Sue Griffiths, Sue Spillett, Anna Sabbagh, Nicola Gauden,
Paul Wilton, Will Maclean, and Isobel Rew.

Wedding Anniversary: Christopher and Ursula Wachter (*50th*),
Paul and Danielle Wilton, Ray and Anne Gosbee.

ENJOY A CHALLENGING READ IN LENT

What about.....

Dietrich Bonhoeffer - *God is on the Cross*. These forty stirring devotions guide and inspire readers as they move thematically through the weeks of Lent and Easter, encountering themes of prayerful reflection, self-denial, temptation, suffering, and the meaning of the cross.

Erik Varden - *Healing Wounds*. In this 2025 Lent Book, Erik Varden starts by examining the New Testament where it spells out why Christ's wounds were efficacious for the healing of humankind. He contends that while this theological perspective is fundamental, it often falls short of addressing the emotional and spiritual needs of believers.

Christopher Chapman - *Doorways to Hope*. When so much seems to be falling apart, it is a struggle to find ground for hope. In forty daily reflections, Christopher Chapman explores the nature of hope.

Why not try.....

LIVING HOPE

A Lent Journey

The Church of England's theme for Lent 2025. 40 days of Reflections invites you to explore the hope God offers us – not wishful thinking, but something real, robust, alive. Each week it considers the idea of hope from a different angle as we journey with Jesus on the road that leads to the cross – and beyond, to the transforming hope of Easter Day.

- The booklet for adults offers daily Bible readings, pictures, short reflections, prayers and practical ideas to help you grow in hope and in faith during Lent.

- The booklet for children offers daily challenges to do, learn or think about on the theme of hope. There are also weekly prayers and short Bible Readings.

Available from Church House publishing for £2.99 and £1.50 respectively. Tel: 01603 785 925 Website: www.chpupublishing.co.uk

Rosemary Walters

* * * * *



* * * * *

MU Prayer for March - Father, we thank you that through the sacrificial love of Christ we have been shown the transcending and transforming power of love. Thank you for the unending grace and redemption found in his sacrifice, which exemplifies the depth of your love for us. May we reflect his love in all we do. Help us to be people showing love to others through inclusion, forgiveness, compassion and social justice. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Our Creative prayer - Create a prayer journal for March, recording the things you have done, seen or heard, new situations and use them as part of your prayers. Perhaps use drawing as a way of expressing your experiences.

Last Month - Thank you to Jennifer Llewellyn for Chairing our AGM last month and for all of you who managed to come along, and thank you to the committee for their reports and for the flowers and present you gave me. Very kind.

This Month - Our pattern for March is always a bit different as we have the World Day of Prayer on Friday 7th at 10:45 for 11:00 am at St Peter's Methodist Church.

Corporate Communion is at 9:30 am on Saturday 8th in St Paul's, and there is the Diocesan members meeting from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm on Thursday 13th with coffee beforehand and lunch available afterwards.

Our Wave of Prayer on Tuesday 18th is in the Parish Centre from 11:30 am – 12:15 pm. Do come along to join in this annual time when we pray for the work of the Mothers' Union throughout the world and particularly for our link Diocese.

Cathedral prayer-time is at midday on Thursday 27th in Jesus chapel.



And finally, we will be making Mothering Sunday posies on Friday 28th at midday after Fisherfolk at midday. Quite a month!!

Sue Spillett - Branch Leader

E-mail: spillettsue@gmail.com

Tel: 01227 456100



St Peter's Anglican Church

St Peter's Street, Canterbury CT1 2AT

TUESDAY LENT LECTURES - THEME 'REMEMBER'

- 11th Mar. - Stewart Ross: Canterbury Commemoration Society
- 18th Mar. - Lord Mayor Jean Butcher
- 25th Mar. - Sandra Matthews-Marsh: Sydney Cooper
- 1st Apr. - Reverend Reg Humphries
- 8th Apr. - Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin

12.00 noon Lecture followed by light lunch

£5.00 donation to Catching Lives (after expenses)

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Wednesday 19th March

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury.

Speaker: Stephen Cherry, Dean of Chapel, King's College, Cambridge, author of *Unforgivable? Exploring the Limits of Forgiveness* (2024)

Topic: Has Christianity got Forgiveness Wrong?

Most talks are accessible afterwards on YouTube, and are open to all who are interested in honest, lively discussion on contemporary themes in theology and religion.

Whatever your interests or viewpoint, you will be most welcome. There is a charge of £5 at the door for each talk to cover costs (people in full-time education free).

Judith Dimond

PARISH DIARY - MARCH



See **Sunday Newsletter** / and **Weekly E-mail** for any changes.

To receive them please contact: office@martinpaul.org



Sunday 10:30 am Services

are on our YouTube channel (see link on Parish Website)

Eucharistic Weekday Services - See page 5

Choir Practice Friday 7:30 pm (St Paul's)

10:00 - 11.30 am Fisherfolk Toddler Group - Parish Centre

Every Wednesday and Friday in Term Time

Lent Discussion Groups - See Diary and page 22)

1st Saturday

7:30 pm 'Nosh and Knowledge' in St Paul's Church

2nd Sunday next before Lent

Psalm 99. OT Exodus 34:29-end.

NT 2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2. GP Luke. 9:28-36 [37-43a]

9:00 am Sung Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday Zone 1 - St Paul's

Refreshments in Church afterwards and every Sunday

5th Ash Wednesday

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's

Refreshments in Church afterwards and every Wednesday

11.30 am Lent Discussion Group - St Paul's

7:30 pm Sung Eucharist - St Paul's

Imposition of Ashes at both services (if desired)

6th Thursday

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Hangouts Youth Activity - Parish Centre

7th Friday

11:00 am International World Day of Prayer Service

at St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury.

(Please be seated by 10:45 am if possible)

8th Saturday

9:30 am MU Corporate Communion - St Paul's (see page 11)



9th - First Sunday of Lent

Psalm 91:1-11. OT Deuteronomy 26:1-11.

NT Romans 10:8b-13. GP Luke 4.1-13.

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Anointing (*if desired*)

Sunday Zone 1 - St Paul's

3:00 pm TeaTime Family Service at St Paul's

11th Tuesday

10:00 -11:30 am Lent Discussion Group in The Precincts

11:00 am Lent Lecture - St Peter's CofE Church, Canterbury
followed by light lunch (see page 12)

7:00 Lent Discussion Group - Zoom

12th Wednesday

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's

11.30 am Lent Discussion Group - St Paul's (*see page 22*)

7:30 pm Growing in Faith Lent Group - Parish Centre

13th Thursday

10:30 am - 12:30 pm Diocesan MU Meeting—St Paul's (*see page 11*)

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

16th - Second Sunday of Lent

Psalm 27. OT Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18.

NT Philippians 3:17-4:1. GP Luke 13:31-end.

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday Zone 1 - St Paul's

5:00 pm Choral Evensong and Supper - St Paul's (*see page 8*)

Preacher: Fr Thomas Sander, Rector of St Giles-in-the-Fields

18th Tuesday

10:00 -11:30 am Lent Discussion Group in The Precincts

11:00 am Lent Lecture - St Peter's CofE Church, Canterbury
followed by light lunch (see page 12)

11:30 am MU Wave of Prayer (*see page 11*)

7:00 Lent Discussion Group - Zoom

19th Wednesday

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's

11.30 am Lent Discussion Group - St Paul's



5:00 - 6:30 pm Contemporary Theology Group (*see page 12*)
St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury.
7:30 pm Growing in Faith Lent Group - Parish Centre

20th Thursday

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's
Copy date for March Pilgrim Post

23rd Third Sunday of Lent

Psalm 63:1-9. OT Isaiah 55:1-9.
NT 1 Corinthians 10:1-14. GP Luke 13:1-9.
9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's
10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday Zone 1 & 2 - St Paul's
5:00 pm Service of Silence and Compline - St Martin's

25th Tuesday

Feast of the Annunciation

8:00 am Holy Communion - Cathedral
10:00 -11:30 am Lent Discussion Group in The Precincts (*see page 22*)
11:00 am Lent Lecture - St Peter's CofE Church, Canterbury
followed by light lunch (see page 12)
7:00 Lent Discussion Group - Zoom

26th Wednesday

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's
11.30 am Lent Discussion Group - St Paul's (*see page 22*)
7:30 pm Growing in Faith Lent Group - Parish Centre

27th Thursday

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

30th Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday

European Summer Time begins (*see page 17*)
Psalm 34:11-20. OT 1 Samuel 1:20-end.
NT Colossians 3:12-17. GP John 19:25b-27.
9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's
10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Anointing (*if desired*)
Sunday Zone - St Paul's



PARISH DIARY - APRIL

See **Sunday Newsletter** / and **Weekly E-mail** for any changes.



1st Tuesday

- 10:00 -11:30 am Lent Discussion Group in The Precincts
11:00 am Lent Lecture - St Peter's CofE Church, Canterbury
followed by light lunch (see page 12)
7:00 Lent Discussion Group - Zoom *(see page 22)*

2nd Wednesday

- 10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's
11.30 am Lent Discussion Group - St Paul's *(see page 22)*
2:00 pm MU Lenten Meeting - Parish Centre *(see page 11)*
7:30 pm Growing in Faith Lent Group - Parish Centre

3rd Thursday

- 12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

5th Saturday

- 1:00 pm Messy Church at Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre

6th Fifth Sunday of Lent - Passion Sunday

Psalm 126. OT Isaiah 43:16-21.

NT Philippians 3:4b-14. GP John 12:1-8.

9:00 am Sung Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday Zone 1 - St Paul's

7:00 pm Choral Evensong with the Institution and Induction
of The Reverend Dr Mary Kells as our Rector.



A - Z for CHURCH EXPLORERS

T = Tower

Not consecrated, as strictly it is not part of the church and may actually be detached as in Evesham, Worcs. Topped by a spire pointing upwards by day, the lantern gleaming at night, the bells calling day and night, make it both a material and spiritual guide to the wayfarer. In some places it's been a refuge from floods and a stronghold in time of tumult. The tower and spire of St Nicholas, Ash-next-Sandwich, Kent, provided a mark for seafarers and was at one time maintained by Trinity House, London for that purpose. **Contributed**



'Going to sleep in church during Lent makes me more Godlike..... He rested on the seventh day.'

MARCH - DID YOU KNOW?

March is named after the Roman god of war, Mars. However, we think of it as the beginning of spring, as **March** brings the vernal equinox, the Full Worm Moon and the return of Daylight Saving Time when the clocks spring forward on Sunday 30th.

Mothering Sunday - the fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called refreshment Sunday. It began as a pagan festival with the worship of Cybele, mother of pagan gods. In Victorian times it was a day when apprentices and servants were allowed to visit their parents, and it is said, often gathered flowers on their way home. The birth flower for March is the daffodil.



On Mothering Sunday today we remember our own mothers, grandmothers and especially god-mothers who might not have any children.

'Beware the Ides of March' - It is said that Caesar, the Roman general and dictator, received a similar message on March 15th, 44 B.C. He did not take the warning to heart and was assassinated by a group of senators. They believed that Caesar's killing would save the Roman Republic. Others have speculated that Caesar's calendar reform and the rejection of long-held Roman traditions led to his demise.



Daffodils and Shamrocks - St. David, patron saint of Wales is remembered on 1st March when many people in Wales wear daffodils or leeks. On March 17th the Irish wear the shamrock, a little green plant like clover. St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the idea of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - three in one and one in three.



Plant Something! And be ready for harvest in the autumn! Potatoes, beans (broad), peas (early) etc. Look in gardening books for suggestions. **Contributed**

THIS MONTH'S POEM from Rosemary Walters

An extract from *Lent: Ash Wednesday*



It 's true, we cannot reach Christ's fortieth day;

Yet to go part of that religious way,

Is better than to rest:

We cannot reach our Savior's purity;

Yet are bid, Be holy ev'n as he.

In both let 's do our best.

Yet Lord instruct us to improve our fast

By starving sin and taking such repast

As may our faults control:

That ev'ry man may revel at his door,

Not in his parlor; banqueting the poor,

And among those his soul. *George Herbert*

George Herbert (3 April 1593 – 1 March 1633) was an English poet, orator, and priest of the Church of England. He is associated with the metaphysical poets, and recognised as "one of the foremost devotional lyricists."

A PARISH ON THE FRINGE



The Anglican parish of St James Fuerteventura in the Canaries holds services every Sunday, organises mid-week meetings and supports immigrants and those in need.

The membership includes Brits who live there, a constant stream of visitors and they host a mixture of denominations and traditions. For the traveller, the parish offers an oasis of community interaction and an endlessly helpful source of chat about local matters. The Vicar gets a house and car and the parish is then self supporting.

As the Anglican hierarchy in our own country discuss how to re-boot the work and lives of senior clergy, parishes like our own which are the lifeblood of the church, march onwards doing what they are good at, celebrating the faith, being inclusive to all including young and old and creating vibrant, purposeful communities.

Fuerteventura in the Canaries is no different. However, the church meets for it's 10:15 am Sunday Eucharist in a restaurant with huge plate glass windows looking over the Atlantic towards a banded red and white

lighthouse. That excellent and dramatic view is God's creation exemplified. Long may this great initiative last.

Mike Butler



March Archive 1985

The Rector gave an update on the refurbishment of both churches, and also a summary of the processes that had led up to the ongoing work. Its origins had been in two working parties set up in 1977 and a questionnaire in 1979. The Diocesan Advisory Committee had then been consulted, and in the case of St. Martin's advice had been received from the Department of the Environment and conservation bodies.

The rewiring of St. Martin's had now begun, and it was hoped most of the other work would be finished by Easter. As for St. Paul's, the church would be closed for 5 weeks beginning in May, with a period of limited use to follow during redecoration. New kneelers would be made now that, after months of deliberation, it had been agreed that the colour of the carpet should be 'crushed strawberry'.

Revd Humphriss had attended the January meeting of the General Synod, where there had been a debate on a member's motion concerning the Warnock Report on human fertilisation and embryology. Also, a Patronage of Benefices Measure was approved which, among other changes, gave parishes more of a role in the choice of a priest. The bishops had finally made a (sort of) decision on the procedure concerning the possible marriage of divorced people. Cases were to be decided by the parish priest, who it was hoped would seek advice from his bishop. Some clergy were alarmed.

John Taylor, Bishop of Winchester, in his last appearance at Synod before retiring, spoke on the Church's doctrine and its wider context, arguing that the middle ground in all areas of life had disappeared. 'The extremists occupy the field; compromise is a term of abuse, and confrontation is the order of the day.' (*What would he say in 2025?*)

Following a visit from Archdeacon John Simpson, the Church Council had agreed to pay the full amount required under the controversial Fairer Shares scheme, which was to be reviewed. The parish was currently paying a significantly smaller percentage of its income than a few years earlier. It was reported in the diocesan leaflet that a Dutch Reformed parish



linked with Elham had sent nearly £1000 for the assistance of mining families suffering hardship because of the continuing strike. The Bishop of Dover praised their generosity.

Brian Hogben

FOCUS ON PRAYER - MARCH



For Christians, Lent is a time for prayer; fasting, and almsgiving as we reflect on Christ's forty days alone in the wilderness, in preparation for his suffering, trial and triumph to bring salvation to the world.

There can be many ways of fasting, putting aside one or more of our habits that we can do without, and not just the all too familiar eating chocolate. Someone said they plan to stop watching any television news during Lent. Watching TV news can easily become a near addiction despite so much that is worrying, negative and can mean we don't sleep well. I think I could give this up for Lent at least, but suspect I would cheat by reading a daily newspaper. Fasting has to be a very prayerful, personal decision.

Here are three Lenten prayers you may find helpful:

Lord God, as we draw close to you in Lent, strip away all that distracts us from being close to you in the wilderness of life, and as Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us to reflect on your faithfulness as we also try to reject worldly values during Lent and beyond.

Lord Jesus, as you prayed and fasted for 40 days, teach me about spiritual discipline in my Christian life, and may Lent be a time of inward, honest searching to help me be more compassionate and generous in responding to the needs of my neighbour, and your needy world.

Loving God, as we move in Lent towards the darkest day, Good Friday, may we remember and give thanks for your ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in your risen Son, our precious Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Brian Munday

MAGAZINE COPY

If you have an article, story, or notice that you would like to share with Pilgrim Post readers please e-mail it Word.doc format to:

pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org

THANK YOU

*Dr. Foster went to Gloucester in a shower of rain
He stepped in a puddle right up to his middle
and never went there again! (c1844)*

Poor old King Edward I, on whom the nursery rhyme is based. It must have been in February given the rain we are having. I do hope it has prompted all you readers to get water butts for your gardens. I fear that having had all this rain we will be in drought conditions by July / August.

The water companies are not too hot on repairing their own leaks but will urge us all to conserve water and my four butts provide five hundred litres of water for my pots in the summer months. I don't water established plants and trees in the ground but do have to water the tomatoes and beans if I am to enjoy their products.

A big thank you to Audrey Lewis who has been working in St Martin's churchyard throughout the winter. She has tackled a number of areas where the plants particularly the brambles have gone for a takeover bid, due to her efforts they have not succeeded.

John Salmon has also spent time cutting back and pruning, its surprising what can be achieved in an hour. It's true that gardening can be very relaxing, and it can also help when we are feeling stressed or really annoyed about something! Just take your secateurs and cut down some of those pesky brambles and no one will know whose head is being cut off. You will be feeling revitalised and ready to enter the fray again and St Martin's churchyard will be very grateful.

Pat Crawford has sent us the latest update on world climate change effects. Earlier this year the World Economic Forum ranked Extreme Weather Events (EWEs) as the greatest risk to society over the next decade, yet few businesses have adaptation plans in place. *Sustainability is the new business imperative*. The UN Global Compact Network UK is hosting a five-part webinar series that will demonstrate how businesses can undertake climate risk assessments and provide guidance to safeguarding infrastructure, operations, supply chains, investments, and workforces from climate change hazards.(www.unglobalcompact.org.uk)

The recent wildfires in California, fuelled by exceptionally dry conditions and strong winds, resulted in the deaths of at least twenty-nine people and destroyed thousands of homes and business premises – an estimated 17,000 structures. The ash fallout was seen as far as Orange County.

Predictions concerning Climate Change are overwhelmingly negative but research undertaken by the University of East Anglia suggests that future warmer temperatures will allow producers to grow new crops in the UK: oranges and okra are cited as examples. **Sue White**

LIFE-LONG LEARNING IN LENT

It's Your Choice:

Lent Groups

Tuesday mornings, March 11th - April 8th (see *Parish Diary*)

10:00 -11:30 am in the Precincts. ***On the Third Day*** by John Pritchard.

Wednesday mornings, March 12th - April 2nd (see *Parish Diary*)

11:45 am -1:00 pm in St Paul's Church. ***Prizing the Passion*** by David Steven.

Sign up at the back of our churches

Tuesday evenings, March 11th - April 8th (see *Parish Diary*)

7:00 - 8:30 pm on Zoom ***Searched Me Out and Known Me*** by Charlie Bell.

Please contact me with any queries and for a Zoom invitation.

ra.walters@binternet.com

Rosemary Walters

Wednesday evenings, from March 12th (with the *Growing in Faith* group)

at 7:30 pm in the Parish Centre Meeting Room. ***Searched Me Out and***

Known Me by Charlie Bell.

Sam Keeler-Walker

CANTERBURY



REPAIR CAFE

The next Repair Café is on

Saturday 15th March

10:00 am—12:30 pm

Hub Café, Baptist Church

(*Opposite Waitrose*)

Volunteers with craft or professional skills help people mend clothes and repair broken things such as household objects, electrical items, bicycles etc. Repairs and advice are free - donations are welcomed.

EXPLORING ST MARTIN'S

Secret Stones



St Martin's is full of character, even at a quick glance. The nave with its charming array of bricks, mortar stones and the chancel's ancient Roman brickwork bring the church's history to life. Though, every now and then, one small piece will stand out. Above Queen Bertha's tomb, for example, there is a curious carved stone, and the font has been studied time and time again for the etchings and marks carved into it over the centuries.

Only recently, a visitor drew my attention to a small area outside of the church. The back of the Saxon arch (housing Queen Bertha's statue) has a peculiar stone unlike the others that surround it. It is not a brick but rather a fragment of freestone – with a Latin inscription still faintly visible. With a bit of research and the help of the St Martin's guides, I came to learn more about it and I thought I would share what I'd discovered with anyone else who, like me, had not seen it.

The stone is believed to date from the 9th, possibly 10th Century, and appears to have the following words carved into it: *Honore.. stae.. et omniv scov.* Roughly translating to mean "To the honour of Saint (Mary?) And all saints". Reading Revd Charles Routledge's history of St Martin published in 1891, one theory seems to be that the stone may once have been a part of the church's altar dedicated to St Mary – where the modern pulpit stands today. It is for this reason, that the stone is believed to be as old as is claimed, for a Saxon Archbishop decreed that stones should be placed at corners of altars stating the name of the Saint the altar was dedicated to, however there seems to be no other proof to confirm the stone's origins.

The stone is exposed to the elements, so I do not know how it may have originally looked but for anyone traipsing the churchyard – be sure to keep an eye out for this tucked away piece of history. **Jessica 'Jess' Morris**
Tourism Manager - St Martin's Church (*Contact details page 3*)

WRITING FOR PILGRIM POST

Contributors to future editions of the magazine need not worry about spelling. As from this edition I am using an AI generated autocorrect facility on my PC, for which I am eternally grateful.

Editor

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Friday 21 March 2025

A GODLY



LIMERICK

To the Wilderness Jesus Christ went

Before calling us all to repent.

Now his challenge we bear,

With fasting and prayer...

And giving up chocolate for Lent.

Dom del Nevo

John Twyne, ?1505-1581

No-one with an interest in English history would be surprised to find Sir George Rooke, who captured Gibraltar, in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB). However the Admiral is not alone among those buried in St. Paul's in being accorded such an entry. John Twyne came to Canterbury from the University of Oxford in about 1525 and was soon appointed headmaster of the old-established school in the Precincts known as the Archbishop's School. After the monastery was dissolved, he was allowed in 1541 to take the same position at the King's School.

Twyne owes his place in the ODNB to his work as an antiquary, and especially his posthumously published 'De Rebus Albionis', which has been described as 'perhaps the earliest attempt at anything like a scientific enquiry into the origins of British history'. He was also very active in the civic affairs of Canterbury, as alderman, mayor, and Member of Parliament. During the reign of Edward VI, in this last role he was briefly imprisoned in the Tower of London, having displeased the Duke of Northumberland, the boy-king's chief minister.

In the 1530s Twyne had moved in Protestant circles, and found favour

with Archbishop Cranmer. He was a pragmatist, however, and when Sir Thomas Wyatt raised a rebellion against Queen Mary he could not, as mayor, support it, but instead had the city walls strengthened, and led a band of men to Dover as a precaution.

After Mary's death Twyne's Protestantism was questioned, and during a visitation in 1560 Archbishop Parker ordered him to 'utterly abstain from ryot and drunkenness'. Recent historians have doubted this allegation, but in any case he was removed as headmaster soon afterwards and replaced by a more strongly committed Protestant. (Moreover a Mrs. Basden, with whom he was in dispute over a house, took him to court claiming he was guilty of witchcraft; the details are colourful but implausible.) Still respected in Canterbury, though no longer a member of the Burghmote (city council), Twyne was able to enjoy a dignified retirement among his many books and manuscripts, the latter including a number which he had retrieved from the Priory library, which was being dispersed. Also among his possessions were Roman coins and other antiquities. He seems to have lived for a time at Preston-next-Wingham, but he ended his days in St. Paul's parish.

There is a memorial plaque to John Twyne on the south wall of the chancel. However we do not know where exactly he is buried. The memorial was formerly on the original, Norman south wall of the nave, until it was demolished in the 1840s to allow the creation of the south aisle. The Latin inscription refers both to his role as a teacher of Latin and to his fortitude during Wyatt's Rebellion.

Brian Hogben

Easter Lilies

A chance to remember a loved one with a lily at Easter.

Please put £5 cash in an envelope, clearly marked with your loved one's name. BLOCK CAPITAL letters preferred.



If using the card machine, still complete a donation envelope with your loved one's name and indicating payment by card.

These envelopes should be placed in the general donations box, at the back of the church please, by Palm Sunday 13th April.

Thank you.

Ros Newington

Church Electoral Roll Renewal 2025

Every six years all parishes must complete a totally new Church Electoral Roll, and this year is the one where even those already on the Roll, must fill in the form and submit it on time. Over the past five years we've been fortunate in having many new people join our churches, and now is the time for them to take the step of identifying with our parish, if they haven't already done so



Application forms will be available in both churches within the next few weeks, and from me, or the Parish Office. The dates between which the renewal takes place will be in the Sunday Newsletter and weekly email.

Everything must be completed in good time before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 11th May.

Judith Dimond - Electoral Roll Officer

E-mail: jjdbaskets@gmail.com

Tel: 01227 459002



Concert in St Paul's Church with Invicta Concert Band.
7.30pm on Saturday 26th April - Full details next month.

ENDPIECE

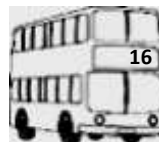
A mature student was in Canterbury doing a survey on courtesy and chivalry in today's society.

Questioning people at random in the street, she approached a man whom she thought might cooperate, and asked him if he would be willing to answer some questions. She was very pleased when he said, "Yes".

"If you were on a crowded bus, would you give up your seat to an elderly woman?" He replied, "No". "So would you give up your seat to a young pregnant woman, then?" "No I wouldn't" he responded. "What about a disabled person?" Again he said "No".

Horrified and exasperated by his response, she blurted out, "You really are the most unthoughtful, unkind, selfish and bigoted, person I've ever encountered."

"Sorry about that," he replied, "I'm just a humble bus driver!"





Anyone living in the parish who is in a condition of need, hardship or distress might well be able to get assistance from the funds of this parochial charity.

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