

# Pilgrim Post

70p

# Post

March  
2026



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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  
as an Inclusive Church**



**CAN WE HELP YOU?**

**Parish Office - 01227 768072** with the following options:

**For General Enquiries (Option 1)** or E-mail: [office@martinpaul.org](mailto:office@martinpaul.org)

**Enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals (Option 2)**

The Revd. Dr Mary Kells or E-mail: [rector@martinpaul.org](mailto:rector@martinpaul.org)

**For Church and Parish Centre Hire (Option 3)** - Jackie Curd,

Parish Centre Premises Supervisor - E-mail: [office@martinpaul.org](mailto:office@martinpaul.org)

Bookings can also be made via [www.bookings@martinpaul.org](http://www.bookings@martinpaul.org)

**To contact the Churchwardens (Option 4)** - see also page 3.

**St Martin's Visits (Option 5)** - Elena Field (Head of Visitor

Experience) or E-mail: [bookings@martinpaul.org](mailto:bookings@martinpaul.org)

**Pastoral Care Co-ordinator** - Please contact:

The Revd Sue White

07803 312144

or E-mail: [revsuewhite@gmail.com](mailto:revsuewhite@gmail.com)

**Special Request Prayers** - Please contact:

Gwyneth Hartwell 01227 451366 or Doreen Laven 01227 760372

or on the website at [www.martinpaul.org/prayers](http://www.martinpaul.org/prayers)



[www.martinpaul.org](http://www.martinpaul.org)



MartinPaulChurches

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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.

It may be necessary to edit copy 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: pilgrimpost@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: The Revd. Dr Mary Kells** 768072 (*Option 2*)

rector@martinpaul.org

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**Samuel Keeler-Walker** sjkw03@gmail.com 07402 200223

**Roxane Lee Affonso** rleeaffonso@gmail.com 768072

### **Churchwardens:**

*St Martin's: (Announcement awaited)*

*(Vacancy)*

**Deputy Wardens:** James Sampson 07968 786545

Dr. Claire Butler 768072

Isis Brook 768072

*St Paul's:* **Michael Keeler-Walker** 720121

**Ros Newington** 462897

**Deputy Warden:** Monica Walling 787564

### **PCC Officers:**

*Chair:* **The Revd. Dr Mary Kells** 768072

*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

### **Administry:**

*Parish Centre Premises Supervisor:* **Mrs Jackie Curd** 452131

*Parish Office Contact Options - see page 1.*

*Parish Magazine Editor:* **The Revd. Clive Barlow** 784779

pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org

*Parish Safeguarding:* **Lydia Newington** 768072 (*Option 6*)

**Monica Walling** 787564

## OTHER PARISH OFFICERS AND ORGANISATIONS

Telephone code **01227** unless otherwise indicated

<b>Archivist</b>	<i>(Vacancy)</i>	
<b>Bellringers</b>	Sam Keeler-Walker	<b>07402 200223</b>
<b>Charity Giving Group</b>	Claire Butler	<b>768072</b>
<b>The Children's Society</b>	IGwyneth Hartwell	<b>451366</b>
<b>Christian Aid Week Co-ordinator</b>		
<b>Church Library</b>		
<b>Christians Together Canterbury</b>	David Hartwell	<b>451366</b>
<b>Deanery Synod</b>		
<b>Eco-Church Co-ordinator</b>	Revd. Sue White	<b>07803 312144</b>
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Judith Dimond	<b>459002</b>
<b>Flower Arrangers (St Martin's)</b>	Doreen Laven	<b>760372</b>
<b>Flower Arrangers (St Paul's)</b>	Ros Newington	<b>462897</b>
<b>Friends of St Martin's (Secretary)</b>	Sylvia Gower	Parish Office
<b>Fisherfolk (Parents and Toddlers)</b>	Jackie Curd	<b>452131</b>
<b>Growing in Faith – Young Adults</b>	Sam Keeler-Walker	<b>07402 20023</b>
<b>'Hangouts' Youth Activity</b>	Sue Spillett	<b>56100</b>
<b>Head of Visitor Experience at</b>	Elena Field	<b>768072</b>
<b>Lifelong Learning Group</b>	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>	
<b>Messy Church Events</b>	Mary Kells	<b>768072</b>
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Jackie Curd	<b>452131</b>
<b>Parochial Charities</b>	Christopher Wachter	<b>455367</b>
<b>Parish Magazine – Editor and</b>	Revd. Clive Barlow	<b>784779</b>
<b>Advertising</b>		
<b>Ride and Stride for Churches</b>	Sue Spillett	<b>456100</b>
<b>Servers Rota</b>	Val Taylor	Parish Office
<b>St Martin's – Visitor's</b>	Elena Field	<b>768072</b>
<b>Social Committee Co-ordinator</b>	Jackie Curd	<b>452131</b>
<b>Social Media Enabler</b>	Chris Kirkland –	Parish Office
<b>Stewardship Gift Aid Recorder</b>	Richard Llewellyn	<b>764645</b>
<b>Sunday Zone -1</b>	Ruth Baker	<b>768072</b>
<i>(Children's</i>		
<b>Sunday Zone 2</b>	<i>Work)</i>	
<b>Youth and Children's Intern</b>	Lillie	<b>07511103968</b>

## SUNDAY SERVICES - MARCH

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

See Magazine Diary pages 13 - 16

Download our Sunday Service / Newsletter from our Website

[www.martinpaul.org](http://www.martinpaul.org)

- 9:00 am St Martin's** - Said Eucharist (*Sung on Sunday 1st*)
- 10:30 am St Paul's** - Sung Parish Eucharist (*Sunday Zone see on our  Tube channel (via Parish Website link) diary*)
- 10:30 am St Paul's** - *Sung Palm Sunday Eucharist, starting at Lady Wootton's Green with procession to St Paul's (Sunday 29th)*

## MONTHLY SUNDAY SERVICES

- 3:00 pm St Paul's** - TeaTime Family Service (*Sun: 8th*)
- 5:00 pm St Paul's** - Choral Evensong and Supper (*Sun: 15th*)
- 5:00 pm St Martin's** - Service of Silence and Compline (*22nd*)

## PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES - WORSHIP ACTIVITY DURING THE WEEK

- 9:00 am Praying Together** using the 'Pray as you Go' app (*for approx. 10 minutes*) on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday.
- 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 on Saturday** – Spring Lane  
Neighbourhood Centre - (*See weekly email*)
- 8:40 pm (for 9:00 pm) Compline** (Night Prayers) - Thursday on Zoom  
using link: <https://bit.ly/ThursdayCompline> or email  
[charlottehardwick1981@gmail.com](mailto:charlottehardwick1981@gmail.com)



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



## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Funerals

*We commend to God's loving care:*

February 13th – Douglas Riches

February 26th – Garth Perret Haythornthwaite



### COMMEMORATIONS

*We remember in our prayers those who have died*

*In March in previous years:*

Beryl Barnes, Cecile Manning, Jenny Collins  
and Dorothy Dobbs

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### Parish Life Long Learning

**Get Ready for Lent** - Download the Everyday Faith App to get your Lent resources. Reflections for adults every Monday to Saturday throughout Lent from the Church of England.

**Our Parish Lent Discussion Groups** began on Tuesday 24th February and Thursday 26th February and continue this month on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am in St Paul's Church and are repeated on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Parish Centre (*see Parish Diary and Weekly Newsletter*).

They are based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Book *Dancing to the Heartbeat of God*. This is a collection of global reflections on discipleship. It features a forward and afterword by Dame Sarah Mullaly, and an introduction by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. The book includes chapters by around thirty authors from across the globe, aiming to encourage Christians worldwide to share their faith with others.

Even if you have never done so before, do come and join in our Lent Discussion Groups this year, and you don't need to buy the book!

**Rosemary Walters**

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### Smile Lines

The bank called today advising that I have "*an outstanding balance*". I replied, "Thanks, I go to the gym twice a week!" **Contributed**

## THE RECTOR WRITES.....



Last month we were looking at wintering, hunkering down, but as you read this, we will have moved officially into spring. Even as I write, the spring bulbs, are already providing hope and joy – the daffodils by the newly refurbished Longport carpark, which I pass on the way to St Paul’s, for example.

Our prayer course which came to an end last month, contained some wintering, gathering the covers of the course around us, if you like, to rejoice in where we were with it, and all we had learned, and also throwing the covers off as we prepared to embark on our next steps. What might lie ahead for us in our prayer life, not only individually, but as a parish? After all, as T.S. Eliot writes in ‘East Coker’, ‘In my end is my beginning’...

Our prayer group had some starter-for-ten ideas for us to consider, and we also welcomed new ideas from the floor. So, here are some of the things we talked about:

We noted that there was a real hunger for more opportunities to pray together, and in particular a request for more Lectio Divina. We thought about Quiet Days, and how to pray together on a daily basis when our routines and rhythms are so different – perhaps by committing to praying for the same thing, wherever we are, as part of our daily devotions.

We wondered about having a welcome pack on how to pray at St Martin’s and St Paul’s, including all the opportunities we offer. And what about a Parish Prayer booklet – collecting all our favourite prayers? Is there a particular prayer you always find speaks to you, as you speak to God? We thought about pop up labyrinths, prayer walks, a prayer group for parents of young children, beating the bounds, and setting up a spiritual community.

We also shared a whole range of alternative prayer ideas across the breadth of the Christian community, realising that there are so many ways of praying we haven’t tried yet!

Lyndall Bywater helped us enormously amidst a welter of different ideas by suggesting that we identify three types of prayer: steadying, strengthening and stretching prayer.

What kind of prayer steadies you when life is hard, grounds you? What kind of prayer strengthens you, it might be a little difficult, but, in a measured way, it makes you stronger, richer, deeper? Lastly, what stretches you, is outside your comfort zone, but you find yourself wondering about it? We don't all have to do all the kinds of prayer, but it is worth identifying what we are called to ourselves, and whether this is something we can offer to others in our parish to strengthen our praying community.

Just like the daffodils breaking through the wintering soil, perhaps spring is a chance for us to flower, to be faithful with what we're good at, but also to trust in God and do something new!

*Mary Kells*

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### **This Month's Magazine Cover**

Spring has sprung and daffodils abound, as our Rector Mary Kells reminds us in her letter.

The 'Feast of the Annunciation' is on Wednesday 25th March, when Dame Sarah Mullally will be Installed as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury Cathedral. Please remember her in your prayers.

Holy Week begins on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, when our 10:30 am Parish Eucharist begins with a procession from Lady Wootton's Green.

Our Cause of the Month is 'Open Doors', a charity working world-wide to assist those who are persecuted for their faith.

***Editor***

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### **LENT LUNCH INVITATION**

The Mothers' Union are inviting you to join them for a Lent Lunch on Sunday 1st March in the Parish Centre at 12:15 pm.

As it is Lent, we will be offering a variety of soups with fresh rolls.

Donations will be given to the Mothers' Union AFIA (*Away From It All*) holiday as we are hoping to take 12 families away who wouldn't normally have the chance of a holiday. All welcome.

***Jackie Curd***

## **LIVING THE LITURGY - MARCH**

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

### **1st – Second Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel: John 3.1-17**

*Afraid to ask questions?*

Nicodemus asks questions of Jesus under cover of darkness.

You are not afraid to be associated with Jesus — but are you ever afraid to ask questions if you don't understand a reading or teaching? Would you feel comfortable asking fellow Christians, (who will have been in the same position!) to help you understand?

### **8th – Third Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel: John 4.5-42**

*'The woman left her water jar '*

This week, in your own way, why don't you too share the wonderful news that Jesus is the Messiah?

### **15th - Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel: Luke 2.33-35**

*Challenges of parenthood .*

Mary is reminded of the importance of faith and the emotional journey she will have to embrace as mother of the Saviour. In what ways is our faith challenging to us?

### **22nd – Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel: John 11.1-45**

*'I am the resurrection and the life...'*

In what Jesus says to Martha, he shows that he is instituting a new order in the world. How does it feel to be promised eternal life through believing in Jesus? Does it make you want to jump for joy? Is it hard to get your head around exactly what it means? Perhaps both?

### **29th – Sixth Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel: Matthew 21.1-11**

*'Your king is coming to you, humble...'*

This week, why don't we take Jesus' humble arrival as a challenge? Where in our lives could we act with more humility — not to be seen to do so, but to quietly emulate Jesus our king?

**Stefan Vassalos**

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

**Birthdays:**

Sue Griffiths, Ben Hickman, Sue Spillett, Anna Sabbagh,  
Nicola Gauden, Paul Wilton, Willow Maclean, Isobel Rew,  
and Jake Convery.

**Wedding Anniversary:**

Christopher and Ursula Wachter, Danielle and Paul Wilton,  
Ray and Anne Gosbee.

**A Sign of Community**

**ELECTORAL ROLL**

If you are new to our Church but wanting to settle with us, please consider joining our Electoral Roll , which is the formal list of our members. This helps us plan and helps you become more engaged with St Martin's and St Paul's - two churches, one community.



We will be reporting our current membership to the APCM in May, so forms will be available shortly for new members to enrol. If you are already enrolled, you do not need to do anything this year, except, please be alert to fresh faces and regular new comers and invite them to consider membership of our community.

Forms will be available at the back of the churches this month.

**Judith Dimond**

Electoral Roll Officer.



The theme of our March daily prayers is the global invitation to prayer and action. "Come let us sing unto the Lord" Psalm 95. March is here and the green shoots are bursting through the soil!

*'Called by God to be a global family of prayer, action and service, may*

*God bless us with hands to comfort, a holy anger at oppression seeking justice, a restless discomfort with easy answers so that we can seek the truth boldly and enough foolishness to believe that we can really make a difference in this world. So, we are called with God's grace to do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.'*

**Looking back** – At our AGM we reflected on all that had happened in the past year and pledged ourselves afresh to do God's will in the year to come. Thank you to Mary our Rector for chairing the meeting at which ideas for the future came from the reports especially concerning Baptism. Watch this space!

**March** is always a very busy month, and on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>, we are hosting a Parish Lent lunch at 12:15 pm following the 10:30 am morning service. Soup, rolls and cake will be provided, with the proceeds going to the MU Diocesan Away From It All holiday (AFIA) fund.

Thursday 5th March at 11:00 am is our Diocesan Cathedral Service in the Eastern Crypt to celebrate 150 years of the MU. Bishop Rose is preaching and celebrating, and after the service there is a hot lunch at our Parish Centre. Do come along to make this a very special occasion. Friends and family are welcome too.

Friday 6th is the World Day of Prayer (*see page 12*), and our Corporate Communion is at 9:30 am at St Paul's on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>, when afterwards we'll be making the Mothering Sunday posies for both our churches. Please bring lots of greenery if you can.

Wednesday 18th is the Wave of Prayer. Our slot is 12:15 am -1:00 pm with some lunch afterwards. This is our part in the worldwide Wave of Prayer that continues all year round.

Wednesday 25th March is the Installation of Dame Sarah Mullally (our MU Patron) as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury Cathedral, and 'Cathedral Prayertime' is at St Paul's this month – at 12.00 noon on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Looking forward** - Our April meeting is on Wednesday 1st at 2:00 pm when we will be looking forward to Easter and preparing the Easter Baskets for patients at St Martin's hospital. Corporate communion is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April in St Paul's Church as usual.

**Sue Spillett**



## **World Day of Prayer Service - Friday 6th March**

11:00 am at the Salvation Army Citadel,  
White Horse Lane, Canterbury CT1 2RU.  
*A light lunch will be served afterwards.*

The Christian Faith Church Communities in Canterbury have a representative on the local World Day of Prayer Committee and encourage their church community to join in this Ecumenical Service, taking turns each year to host the service in their church.

The service this year, has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria. In the service, our Nigerian sisters call us to come closer to God and find rest in Him. When we totally trust and have faith in God our burdens become light and we find rest. The service is written in response to the theme 'I will give you rest, come' (Matthew 11:28-30).

***Contributed***

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## **Parish WhatsApp Community**

We now have a new WhatsApp community to help keep everyone up to date with parish life. Reminders of key events and notices will appear just like a WhatsApp message, helping you stay connected. Visit [tinyurl.com/martinpaulchurches](https://www.tinyurl.com/martinpaulchurches) or see the website to sign up.

***Sam Keeler-Walker and Chris Kirkland***

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## **'Hangouts' for Year 7's +**

We get together monthly on a Thursday from 4.30-6.30pm in the Parish Centre.

As our name suggests and with no set agenda, we hang out, chat, play cards, table tennis and other games. We also have snacks, drinks and a meal together, giving us a chance to catch up.

Hangouts would not be the same without the fun general knowledge quiz we always have, devised by a different young person each time.

If you would like to join us, volunteer as a helper or for more information, please speak to me, James Sampson, Valerie Taylor or Chris Milnes. You will greatly enjoy doing so.

***Sue Spillett***

## PARISH DIARY - MARCH

Any changes will be in our **Sunday Newsletter** or  
**Weekly E-mail** from: [office@martinpaul.org](mailto:office@martinpaul.org)



**Prayer and Worship Activity during the week – See page 5**

**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

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### **1st Second Sunday of Lent**

*Psalm 121. OT Genesis 12.1-4a.*

*NT Romans 4.1-5, 13-17. GP John 3.1-17.*

9:00 am Sung Eucharist - St Martin's

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

12:15 pm Lent Lunch – Parish Centre (see page 8)

### **3rd Tuesday**

10:30 – 11.00 am Lent Discussion Group at St Paul's (see page 6)

### **4th Wednesday**

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

*Refreshments in Church afterwards and every Wednesday*

2:00 pm MU General Meeting - Parish Centre (see page 11)

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

### **5th Thursday**

11:00 am Service to Celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
The Mothers' Union – Canterbury Cathedral (see page 11)

*Followed by Lunch at St Paul's*

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

7:30 – 8.30 pm Lent Discussion Group – Parish Centre (see page 6)

### **6th Friday**

11:00 am World Day of Prayer Service – Canterbury Salvation  
Army Citadel, White Horse Lane CT1 2RU (see page 12)

### **8th – Third Sunday of Lent**

*Psalm 95. OT Exodus 17.1-7.*

*NT Romans 5.1-11. John 4.5-42.*

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Eucharist - St Paul's

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

5:15 pm Meditation for Lent - The King's School Chamber  
Choir at St Paul's. (*Retiring collection for church funds*)

### **10th Tuesday**

10:30 – 11.00 am Lent Discussion Group at St Paul's (*see page 6*)

### **11th Wednesday**

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

### **12th Thursday**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

7:30 – 8.30 pm Lent Discussion Group – Parish Centre (*see page 6*)

### **14th Saturday**

9:30 am MU Corporate Communion - St Paul's

### **15th – Fourth Sunday of Lent**

*Psalm 127. 1-4. OT Exodus 2.1-10.*

*NT Colossians 3.12-17. GP Luke 2. 33-35.*

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

### **17th Tuesday**

10:30 – 11.00 am Lent Discussion Group at St Paul's (*see page 6*)

### **18th Wednesday**

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

5:00 pm Contemporary Theology Group -St Peter's  
Methodist Church. Canterbury

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

### **19th Thursday**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's  
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Hangouts Youth Activity - Parish Centre  
7:30 – 8.30 pm Lent Discussion Group – Parish Centre (see [page 6](#))

### **Copy date for April Pilgrim Post**

### **21st Saturday**

7:30 pm 'Invicta Concert Band' Concert – St Paul's Church

### **22nd - Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*Psalm 130. OT Ezekiel 37.1-14.*  
*NT Romans 8.6-11. GP John 11.1-45.*  
9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's  
10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday Zone 1 & 2 - St Paul's

### **24th Tuesday**

10:30 – 11.00 am Lent Discussion Group at St Paul's (see [page 6](#))

### **25th Wednesday - The Annunciation**

*Psalm 40. 5-11. OT Isaiah 7.10 -14.*  
*NT Hebrews 10. 4-10. GP Luke 1. 26-38*  
10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's  
7:30 pm Growing in Faith Lent Group – Parish Centre

### **26th Thursday**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's  
12 noon MU Cathedral prayer time in St Paul's  
7:30 – 8.30 pm Lent Discussion Group – Parish Centre (see [page 6](#))



### **29th – PALM SUNDAY**

*Psalm 118.1-19-24. OT Isaiah 50. 4 -9a.*  
*NT Philippians 2. 5-11. GP Matthew 21.1-11.*  
*Gospel of the Passion – Matthew 27. 11-56.*  
9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Palm Eucharist with Anointing (*if desired*)  
Sunday Zone 1 & 2 . (*This service starts  
at Lady Wootton's Green with procession to St Paul's*)

**30th Monday of Holy Week**

7:30 pm Service of Compline - St Paul's

**31st Tuesday of Holy Week**

7:30 pm Service of Compline - St Paul's

**PARISH DIARY - APRIL**

**1st Wednesday of Holy Week**

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's  
*Refreshments in Church afterwards and every Wednesday*  
2:00 pm MU Making Easter Baskets - Parish Centre  
7:30 pm Service of Compline - St Paul's

**2nd Maundy Thursday**

*(No midday prayers at St Martin's)*  
7:30 pm Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper – St Paul's  
Followed by Vigil



**5:00 - 6:30 pm Wednesday 18th March  
Methodist Church, Canterbury.**

**Speaker:** Revd Dr Mary Kells, Rector of the Parish of St Martin and St Paul, Canterbury. *Member of the National Executive Committee of Women and the Church, and author of God Beyond Gender: Crafting Inclusive Liturgy (2025).*

**Topic:** Waking Up Our God Talk: As God Is Not a 'He', Why Do We Use 'He' in Liturgy?

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. So, 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**

## RISING TO THE OCCASION



I must admit I had never heard of 1st February being Yorkshire Pudding Day until I read it in last month's Parish Magazine and thought it was about time I did something about it!!

I have not made Yorkshire Pudding for about 30 or 40 years. I looked up three recipes which were all different!! I decided to turn it into Toad in the Hole not knowing how it would work out. The length of time in the oven and oven temperature was guess work!

I am pleased to say it all worked out well. The Yorkshire Pudding didn't let me down. It rose beautifully even with wholemeal flour and we greatly enjoyed Toad in the Hole for our evening meal. I will certainly do it again and will not wait until 1st February 2027!

***Daphne Reeve***

I grew up on Teesside in the North East of England. I was about 12 and my sister Gill was 9, we stayed overnight with my friend Marian's family as my parents were away for the weekend.

At Sunday dinner we were first each given a small Yorkshire pudding filled with gravy. My little sister piped up, " what a little dinner!" much to my embarrassment.

We needn't have worried, it was followed by the roast meat and vegetables, and then of course a traditional pudding. ***Kay Caffyn.***

A fallen soufflé is just a risen omelette. It depends on how you look at it, that's all – from above or below. And if the Yorkshire pudding's gone cold, slice it and, and if you haven't got the nerve to call it Scotch pancakes, well then, call the slices by a different geographical name of your own devising. *(Attributed to the late **Rabbi Lionel Blue**)*



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For everyone who enjoyed the 'Concert for Chris Spillett' last April.

***Invicta Concert Band***

are returning to St Paul's Church at  
**7:00 pm. on Saturday 21st March**

Tickets £10 on the night.

## THIS MONTH'S POEM

### An Extract from Ash Wednesday

And pray to God to have mercy upon us  
And pray that I may forget  
These matters that with myself I too much discuss  
Too much explain  
Because I do not hope to turn again  
Let these words answer  
For what is done, not to be done again  
May the judgement not be too heavy upon us  
Because these wings are no longer wings to fly  
But merely vans to beat the air  
The air which is now thoroughly small and dry  
Smaller and dryer than the will  
Teach us to care and not to care Teach us to sit still.

*T.S. Elliot (1888-1965)*



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## Cause of the Month

### *Helping Persecuted Christians*



More than 380 million Christians world-wide, face persecution and discrimination because of their faith. In China for example, Yiyang Church, a major church network in Wenzhou City, Zhejiang Province, found itself the target of an unprecedented crackdown by the authorities.

China, which is seventeenth on the Open Doors World Watch List, has been ramping up the pressure on Christians in recent years. The ruling Chinese Communist Party sees Christianity as a potential threat, something to be contained and controlled. They are attempting to force churches to follow the party line through ever-more restrictive laws and regulations, including forbidding children under 18 to attend church, insisting that churches fly the national flag and monitoring church teaching to ensure it conforms with the official state propaganda.

So far, Yiyang Church has resisted these demands. The leaders have consistently refused to remove the cross from their building or to install

cameras. Nor have they excluded under-18s from their worship.

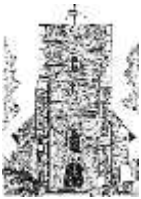
It's a courageous act of defiance. But the problem with courageous defiance is that it makes you a target, which is tragically the case in so many places.

'Open Doors' charity seeks to reach those where persecution hits hardest. For a copy of their magazine and daily prayer diary, email 'contact@opendoorsuk.org' or phone 01993 460015. Meanwhile, please remember them in your prayers. **Brian Munday**

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## **Queen Bertha – A Cause for Celebration**

*on International Women's Day*



As International Women's Day is on March 8<sup>th</sup>, I thought it would be a good time to celebrate Queen Bertha and the lineage of influential Christian women she was part of.

Queen Bertha was the granddaughter of Clotilde, who married the first King of the Franks, Clovis I. Under her influence, Clovis became a Christian and Clotilde is thus considered responsible for bringing Christianity to France. Bertha followed in her grandmother's footsteps, marrying King Ethelbert when she is believed to have been only fifteen, and establishing St Martin's, one of the first Anglo-Saxon Christian churches in Britain.

When presenting tours at St Martin's, I always do my best to emphasise Queen Bertha's influence in the introduction of Christianity to Anglo-Saxon Britain. The primary evidence we have of her role are surviving letters between her and Pope Gregory I, in which the pope admonishes her for failing to convert King Ethelbert before St Augustine arrived in 597 AD, and then advises her to aid Augustine with the Gregorian mission. The fact that she had private correspondence with the pope testifies to her importance, as well as her intelligence and literacy. She must have had considerable influence on King Ethelbert's decision to convert, and as I always ask during tours, what would look better to King Ethelbert's pagan populace? For their King to convert to a different religion because of his wife? Or, because he had the backing

of a powerful institution such as the Roman Catholic Church?

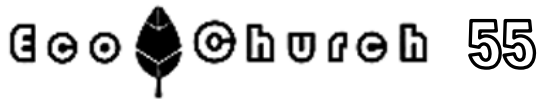
This lineage of strong Christian women continued with Bertha's daughter, Ethelburga. Raised a Christian, she married King Edwin of Northumbria in 625 AD. A condition of their marriage was Edwin's conversion to Christianity, and for Ethelburga's bishop, Paulinus, to be allowed to convert the Northumbrians. She is thus considered responsible for establishing Christianity in the North of England. After King Edwin's death, she came back to Kent and created one of the first Benedictine nunneries in Britain, in Lyminge. She led this until she died in 647 AD. Her niece Eanswith followed her lead and established a nunnery in Folkestone.

As you can see, Bertha was part of a strong lineage of Christian women, which included herself, her grandmother, her daughter and even her granddaughter. It is only natural that we celebrate their everlasting contributions on such a day as International Women's Day.

**Elena Field**

Head of Visitor Experience

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We must keep telling ourselves that Spring is in the air despite the rain, wind, and cold that has marked January and February. The snowdrops have braved the weather and the other spring bulbs are making a valiant effort – all will be well.

Pat Crawford (*Rural Focus Group*) has summarised some of the impact that climate change has and is, having around the world. For instance, Mr Trump has repeatedly called climate change a hoax and for the second time has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement that was adopted in 2025.

This was the first international climate change agreement and America is the only country to withdraw. As of 2026, Yemen, Libya and Iran are the only countries not to have ratified the Agreement which commits nations to pursue efforts to limit global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above the temperatures

recorded in pre-industrial times.

Generally speaking, temperatures have continued to rise since the Agreement was signed, and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres says that temporarily exceeding 1.5 degrees is considered inevitable. The Trump administration has attracted vast criticism from around the world for its stance. Oil and gas production is being boosted in order to boost America's prosperity with the US encouraging other nations to buy...buy...buy.

The U.N. University for Water, Environment and Health has stated that three quarters of the global population live in countries deemed "water insecure" or "critically water insecure". Following last year's drought in Zimbabwe, an estimated 6 million people were rendered food insecure.

The UK is joining nine other European countries in setting up a vast new fleet of offshore wind projects in the North Sea. At the current time China leads the world in offshore wind with the UK ranked second. Last year renewable energy overtook coal as the world's leading source of energy. Before that coal, a big contributor to global warming, had been the leading source of energy production for fifty years.

A Roche (Eco Church) are encouraging everyone to take part in a local litter pick or beach clean during The Great British Spring Clean (Friday 13-Sunday 29 March). It will be the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign.

Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together. See if there's a litter pick in your neighbourhood or consider organising your own - after church on Sunday. Pray for your local area as you do the litter pick and ask God for opportunities to share why you are doing it. Find out more and pledge to pick up a bag at:

>[keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean](https://keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean)<. Audrey and the gang at St Martin's church yard pre-empted this by carrying out a litter pick last month.

That's the way to go folks!

**Sue White**



## MARCH ARCHIVE 1986

‘Easter Day would be early this year, falling on 30th March. The Rector expressed the hope that his readers would follow the events of Holy Week, and recommended the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage, which would converge on the Cathedral on Easter Monday.

(1500 young people were likely to take part in this popular annual event.) He also wrote about the restored John and Ann Smith almshouses in Longport, having recently been elected chairman of the trustees.

The February session of the General Synod had been shorter than usual. A motion had been carried commending the ‘Faith in the City’ report to the Church, the (Thatcher) government, and the nation. A group of five parishioners had come to London by coach on the third day to watch the proceedings from the public gallery. When they finished, a sandwich lunch was enjoyed, then the Rector led them across a snow-covered Dean’s Yard to Westminster Abbey, and on to Farm Street Catholic Church in Mayfair to see some ‘materials’ that were being considered for St. Paul’s; after which they visited the annual Christian Resources Exhibition.

The parish had produced another ordinand - Roland Riem having been recommended for training. For Passiontide he contributed ‘a biblical meditation on nakedness’, using the Gospels of Mark and Matthew and Psalm 139.

The Bishop of Dover, Richard Third, referred in the diocesan leaflet to new services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. They were being introduced to the clergy of the diocese at two study days. He wanted all such services to present the ‘good news’ in an encouraging way, and urged everyone to come to them spiritually prepared. **Brian Hogben**

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## IN PERSPECTIVE

‘ I have to say that in my experience most of the people I know who impress me most as being open to reality, deep in perception, genuine in love, are also Christian believers. Of course, not all. I gladly acknow-

ledge these qualities in friends who stand outside the faith. But there does seem to be a special quality in people who live close to God.’

**John Polkinghorne** in ‘*The Way the World Is.*’

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## **OUR PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

The agenda of our January meeting followed our usual structure beginning with reports from the Rector, Treasurer, Churchwardens, Parish Centre and safeguarding, which were all received and noted.



Mary, our Rector reported an encouraging start to the year following a really good Christmas, with increased attendance across services, new initiatives taking shape, and continued growth in prayer and faith-formation groups. A diocesan youth intern has now been appointed, strengthening our work with children and young people and opening up possibilities for further development, including provision for 13–17 year-olds.

Coming to finance, early unaudited figures for 2025 indicate a small surplus, though rising costs are expected this year. Outreach grants to nine charities were confirmed, and donations towards St Martin’s were noted. Safeguarding work continues steadily, with progress on training and systems, alongside reminders that some outstanding role descriptions and risk assessments still need to be completed.

A number of practical and operational matters were then agreed, including:

- A Lent Appeal to raise funds for toilet provision at St Martin’s and for an overseas project (toilet twinning)
- Revised Parish Centre pricing, effective from 1 April 2026
- Retrospective approval of urgent bell tower repairs at St Martin’s
- Approval of a five-year loan of the St Martin’s Chirmatory to Canterbury Cathedral

We were then particularly pleased to be able to make two appointments. Firstly, the co-option of Isis Brook to the PCC and her appointment as Deputy Churchwarden of St Martin’s (with a view to

appointment as Churchwarden later this year), and secondly, support for the licensing of Roxane Lee-Affonso as a Reader in the benefice.

As the parish office now deals with collating and publishing Pilgrim Post, we expressly recorded our warmest thanks to all those who've worked so hard collating Pilgrim Post over many months and years.

The main strategic discussion focused on future development at St Martin's. Building on earlier work, the PCC agreed that further investigation should be undertaken into:

- Re-ordering the church to improve accessibility, including toilets and flexible use of space
- Leasing, and potentially purchasing, Glebe House as part of a wider vision for visitor welcome and engagement
- Appointing professional fundraising support
- Developing a major fundraising concert involving the King's Men of Cambridge

While this work remains at an exploratory stage, with further, significant decisions necessarily returning to the PCC, it was welcomed positively as an exciting avenue to explore.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support for the PCC and for the life of our parish.

**Jo Lawson**  
PCC Secretary

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## **Choral Evensong and Supper at St Paul's**

5:00 pm – Sunday 15th March

**Guest Preacher:** Isobel Legg, Reader at St Alphege Whitstable

**Theme:** Mothering Sunday

As we mark Mothering Sunday — also known as Refreshment Sunday — we pause mid-Lent for both reflection and a little cheer. In true Refreshment Sunday spirit, this will be followed by supper and pudding, with a glass of something for those who wish to stay.

No bookings needed for food, but please advise dietary requirements.

Call: 720121 Text: 07871340926 Email: namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you.

*Michael Keeler-Walker*

## Two Palaces

There are two palaces in Canterbury. A small royal palace that Henry VIII had built out of the remains of the Abbey post dissolution that housed Anne of Cleves and her retinue in December 1539, on her way from Deal to meet her future husband, the King. Part of this palace is still housed in the tower of the Abbey's main Fyndon Gate.

Secondly, an Archbishop's Palace to the immediate North West of the Cathedral. In medieval England the power of the Archbishop of Canterbury was immense and the palace was fit to house and entertain the elite of English political and royal life as they visited and passed through the city. Over the centuries this palace has passed through many building phases with parts of it being used for different purposes.

This month, Dame Sarah Mullally, former Bishop of London, will be installed in the Cathedral as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, the first ever woman in this role. There is a modest flat with access to a private chapel in the modern iteration of the Archbishop's Palace.

Let us hope that the Archbishop's palace offers some peace and solace for the new Archbishop and her family when she visits our historic city.

**Mike Butler**

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### St Peter's Anglican Church - Lent Lectures

#### ***Our Theme this year is 'Journey'***

12.00 noon Tuesday lecture is followed by light lunch

£5.00 donation to Catching Lives (after expenses)

#### ***Speakers and Topics:***

Tues. 24th Feb: Torin Brown, *Pilgrim Officer at Canterbury Cathedral*

Tues. 3rd Mar: Canon Andrew Dodd, *The Canterbury Journey*

Tues. 10th Mar: Lord Mayor Keji Moses, *'My Journey & Faith'*

Tues. 17th Mar: Revd Dr Mary Kells, *'St Patrick & My Journey'*

Tues. 24th Mar: Cllr Connie Nolan, *'Cradle Catholic & Still a Catholic'*

#### **St Peter's Anglican Church**

More info: 01227 786109/07824 155355

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You can Find out more by visiting [www.safefamilies.uk](http://www.safefamilies.uk) or contact me by email [sarahhammond@safefamilies.uk](mailto:sarahhammond@safefamilies.uk) or phone on 07392 867758.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

**Sarah Hammond**

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### Easter Lilies

An opportunity to remember a loved one with a lily at Easter.

Please put £5 cash in an envelope, clearly marked with your one’s name in BLOCK CAPITALS please.

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 29th March.

Thank you.

**Ros Newington**



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### Endpiece

On Mothering Sunday, young Ben proudly handed his Mum a handmade card he’d created in Sunday Zone. On the front he’d drawn a large bouquet of flowers - some recognisable, some much more imaginative. Inside, he’d written, *‘Thank you for looking after me, feeding me, and not telling anyone about the biscuits I stole yesterday.’*

During coffee after the service, his somewhat embarrassed Mum noticed the Rector, who had been preaching about repentance during Lent, glancing at the card. The Rector laughed and said, “Confession comes early in some children!”

Ben tugged his mum’s sleeve and whispered loudly, “Don’t worry—I didn’t tell them about the crisps and chocolates!”

**Contributed**



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.

Applicants should apply to Trustee: Christopher Wachter  
Telephone: 01227 455367 E-mail: christopherwachter@outlook.com

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**PILGRIM POST – APRIL 2026**

**Copy deadline – Thursday 19th March**

to [pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org](mailto:pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org) please

*Collation arrangements as advised.*

**THANK YOU**

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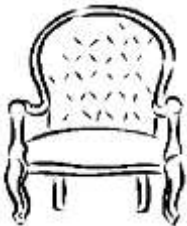
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