



St Luke's Church Fontainebleau

Mothering Sunday The Fourth Sunday of Lent Service of the Word

15 March 2026

Service led by Christopher & Marie-Céline Burton-Page



Welcome to our service this morning.

The outline for today's service is contained in this service guide and from our [website](#).

You are invited to respond at various points with the words in bold print.

If you have any prayer concerns that you would like included in our prayers today there is a book at the back of the Chapel where you can write these down.

Our chaplain contact details: chaplain.stlukesfontainebleau@gmail.com



Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life.

It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity.

It is through encountering God within worship
that we are formed and transformed as his people.

As we sit quietly before this service commences let us prepare ourselves to meet Jesus and receive him into our hearts by spending a few moments in prayer and reflection.

WELCOME

Please stand as we sing our first Hymn. The children bring flowers to the altar.

OPENING HYMN: TELL OUT, MY SOUL (SOF 520)

*1. TELL OUT, MY SOUL, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.*

*2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name—the Lord, the mighty One.*

*3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.*

*4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure:
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more!*

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Praise God who loves us.

Praise God who cares.

Words of welcome and introduction may follow.

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children;

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children:

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

Blessed be God for ever.

Loving Lord, fill us with your new life and with the joy and peace of your presence. May we praise you now with our lips and make room in our hearts for you. Amen.

CONFESSON & ABSOLUTION

Please be seated.

Let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.

We fail to live as your children.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You call us to do good. We seek our own good.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

You hear us when we cry for help. We ignore the cries of others.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living

that in joy or sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Praise God who loves us.

Praise God who cares.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We sit for our first reading:

EXODUS 2.1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring

it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: PSALM 127.1-4

Please say the words in bold:

*1 Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.
**Unless the Lord guards the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.**
2 It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;*

for he gives sleep to his beloved.
3 Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord,
the fruit of the womb a reward.
4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the sons of one's youth.

We say together:

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now,**

**and shall be forever.
Amen.**

HYMN: BROTHER, SISTER, LET ME SERVE YOU (SOF 54)

*1. BROTHER, SISTER, LET ME SERVE
YOU,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.*

*2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
We're together on this road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

*3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.*

*4. I will weep when you are weeping,
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.*

5. *When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.*

6. *Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.*

We sit for our second reading:

NEW TESTAMENT READING: JOHN 19.25B-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

DECLARATION OF FAITH
Please stand.

Let us declare our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God
from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came
down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the
dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated.

...
Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

THE PEACE

Please stand.

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN: I THANK GOD (CHORUS ONLY BY MAVERICK CITY MUSIC) SUNG BY THE CHILDREN

We sing our Offertory Hymn during which the collection is taken up.

*He picked me up
He turned me around
And placed my feet on solid ground
I thank the Master
I thank the Savior
Because He healed my heart*

*And changed my name
Forever free, I am not the same
I thank the Master
I thank the Savior
I thank God.*

We say together:

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

As God's children, and heirs with Christ we cry in the Spirit, 'Abba', Father. And we pray as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against
us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Loving God, accept the cries of our heart as we offer you prayers;
through them transform us and all creation until you are in all and through all.
We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

OUR NOTICES

THE SENDING OUT

We sing our Final Hymn:

FINAL HYMN: LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS (SoF 902)

1. LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS,
Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like,
No cares could destroy;
Be there at our waking,
And give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.

2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled
At the plane and the lathe;
Be there at our labours,
And give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
At the noon of the day.

3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
Your arms to embrace;
Be there at our homing,
And give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.

4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
Whose presence is balm;
Be there at our sleeping,
And give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.

PRAYERS FOR THE MOTHERS

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

Children may lead the following responsory :

For the care of all our mothers;
Thanks be to God.

For their patience when tested;
Thanks be to God.

For their love when tired;

Thanks be to God.

For their hope when despairing;
Thanks be to God.

For their service without limit;
Thanks be to God.

Then the children distribute the flowers. At the end of the distribution, everyone sits except mothers who remain standing :

**Thank you God for the love of our mothers;
thank you God for their care and concern;
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;**

**thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;
thank you God for all that they give us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.
May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen.

The dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

If the children are not saying the prayer for mothers :

Loving God,
Thank you for mothers and children
and for all the joy of family life.
Be with those who are grieving
because they have no mother;
Be close to those who are struggling
because they have no children;
Be near to those who are sad
because they are far apart from those they love.
Let your love be present in every home,
And help your church to have eyes to see
and ears to hear the needs of all who come.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

You are invited to refreshments following the service, please stay for a chat and if we can be of help in any way, please speak to the clergy or to a member of the welcome team. You may also contact our chaplain at the following email address: chaplain.stlukesfontainebleau@gmail.com.



CHURCH NOTICES

Annual Chaplaincy Meeting 2026

Please note that our ACM 2026 meeting will take place on Sunday, April 26th 2026.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast - coffee, juice, croissants - will be on Saturday March 14th at Ory's house, 8 rue Théodore Rousseau, 77300 Fontainebleau, 10.00-11.30am. All men are very welcome, just let Ory know you're coming so he can cater appropriately.

PCC Meeting

The next PCC meeting will take place on Saturday March 21st, 2026 at 09AM chez Claire Nabais, 8 rue de Recloses, 77760 Ury.

Sunday School: dates of the next sessions

- March 8, 22
- April 19
- May 3, 17, 31
- June 14, 28.

Leading Intercessions

Our prayers on a Sunday morning are an important and integral part of our worship. We have a rota for our Intercessions which is separate from the other sign-up rota. If you would be interested in joining our merry band of intercessors, please drop Netta a line at mcfadyens@hotmail.com or send an SMS to Netta at +33 (0) 6 81 87 62 57.

Do ask if you are unsure or if you have any queries. Thank you.

Lent is coming...

I once heard a bishop say to a congregation, "I wish you a gruelling Lent!" What he meant, of course, was that he hoped people would take the opportunity given by Lenten disciplines to deepen their Christian faith. This year the Council has decided that we should likewise focus on Lent as a time to deepen our faith as a church, by denying ourselves and deepening our lives of prayer. This is not easy, but doing it together is much easier than trying to do it alone. There will be four 'inputs' to help us: Ash Wednesday, Sunday preaching, Lent lunches, and a Lent Course.

i) **Ash Wednesday Service** which will be on February 18th at 7pm at our Chapel, 57 Rue de Fleury, 77300 Fontainebleau.

ii) **Sundays** during Lent will include teaching about the ancient practice of fasting, from food most obviously, but also from aspects of modern life too, like 'screen time'.

iii) **Lent Lunches**

This year's Lent Lunches will take a slightly different format.

We will meet each time at Netta and Donald's apartment:

2 Rue Des Bois, 77300, Fontainebleau. 3rd floor (there is a lift!) between 12:30h & 14:00h on the following five Thursdays in Lent: February 26th, March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th.

We will have our usual soup and bread, followed by fruit and coffee or tea. The idea is to have a frugal meal and to donate what we might have spent on lunch to the Lent Lunch 'collection pot' with a suggested donation of 10 euros each. We can discuss at our first lunch where we would like our donation to go and we can then put that to the Council at their next meeting for approval. (Last year we put the money aside to pay for a new altar cloth and lectern fall, which is an on-going project.)

Netta will provide the venue and coffee and tea; others are invited to provide soup or bread or fruit. Please do so either in pairs or as a solo effort. Please confirm your attendance to Netta with 48hrs notice for catering purposes.

In order to mark Lent and to keep our focus on the opportunity this gives us to pray together and to think a little 'outside the box', Netta has offered to lead a little 'Thought for the Day' during the meal. Nothing heavy, just a thought and a prayer to keep us focussed on our response to Lent and to keep us mindful of the purpose of this time in the church year.

If you would like to bring a friend who may be new to St Luke's or who may have no history with us at all, this is an ideal opportunity.

Contact details to indicate attendance: Netta +33 (0) 6 81 87 62 57 (SMS, please) or mcfadyens@hotmail.com

iv) **Lent Course** which will take a close look at the way we draw close to God in worship - where did our type of Anglican prayer come from? What's going on in a Communion service? How might we develop our ways of worshipping God? The sessions will be on five **Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm**: February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th at the home of Leigh and Stefan, 34 ave. Charles de Gaulle, 77630 Barbizon.

Let us set ourselves the goal of being prepared by the 40 days of Lent to celebrate Easter on April 5th with renewed faith and joy!

Easter table top sale

The Easter table top sale organised by Les Amis will take place on March 29th, just after the service.



Les Amis 2026 Easter Table Top Sale

After the 10:30 service
Palm Sunday 29th March

*Proceeds supporting donations
to the Bishop's Lent Appeal
and La Sittelle Fontainebleau*

**Easter eggs, hot cross buns,
homemade cakes, jams,
soups and more !**

*Contributions of homemade
items for sale gratefully received!*

Grounds of
Lycée St Aspais
18 Blvd André Maginot
77300 Fontainebleau



Happy Easter !



2026 Bishop's Lent Appeal: Vale Silves Community Centre, Portugal

About Portugal

Portugal is a beautiful country and a popular tourist and retirement destination. Despite the many tourists, about 2.2 million people (about 20% of the population), are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. From 2011 through to 2015 Portugal endured a financial crisis and the pandemic has contributed to the difficulties in overcoming this. Great economic and social inequalities exist.



About the Vale Silves Community Centre

The Centre was founded in 1990 by Dra Maria Armanda Silva, originally as a Parents' Association seeking to improve the local primary school. That small initiative grew into a wider community project addressing the needs of families in the district. Over the years, through EU grants, donated building materials, and significant personal sacrifice—including Dra Armanda taking out a mortgage on her own home—the Centre has become a fully operational, independent, non-political, not-for-profit organisation serving the parish of Boliqueime, in the Algarve.

Our long-standing partnership

St Vincent's Chaplaincy Algarve has cooperated closely with the Centre for many years. Our partnership includes supporting the elderly outreach programme, providing annual Christmas gift bags for all elderly users and their carers, assisting with fundraising, and maintaining a regular pastoral presence. This long and trusted relationship means we have had the privilege of witnessing first-hand, the commitment, integrity, and compassion with which Dra Armanda and her team serve the most vulnerable in the community.

What the Vale Silves Community Centre does

The Centre provides essential support to vulnerable families, children, and the elderly in the region as a practical outworking of their vision to love God and neighbour:

- **Elderly Home-Care Programme** – 50 elderly people receive personalised daily care, including hygiene assistance, meals, house cleaning, and regular home visits from a team of 20 carers. Many are bedbound and entirely dependent on this service.
- **Food Support** – A large food bank operates three times a week, providing vital supplies to families living with significant hardship.
- **Children's Services** – Childcare for working parents, cooked meals for school children, and access to recreational and developmental activities.
- **Community Outreach** – Distribution of recycled clothing and furniture, laundry services, exercise classes, and case-by-case practical support when urgent needs arise.



Christmas present distribution



Bishop Robert with Dra Armada

Why This Appeal Matters

Despite doing extraordinary work with whole families, from the youngest to the oldest, the Centre's finances are fragile. The Centre can offer home-care support for the elderly by charging only a small fee for the service. That fee is covered partly through government allowances and partly by the service users themselves. However, because many of them live on extremely low state pensions, they are often left with no more than €60 to cover all their remaining needs, including food and medication.

The care they receive from the Centre is invaluable — without it, they would never be able to afford any form of private home care. At the same time, the small contributions they make do not come close to covering the real cost of providing the service. This means the Centre must rely heavily on donations in order to continue offering this essential support to some of the most vulnerable people in the parish. Dra Amanda is a practising Catholic - a little lady with a big and infectious faith. I find their work inspiring, and there is no doubt that additional support received from this Lent Appeal would make a significant impact.

Use of Lent Appeal Funds

Contributions from the Lent Appeal would directly help to:

- Sustain the elderly home-care programme

- Ensure meals for children and continued food bank provision
- Strengthen outreach to isolated and housebound elderly people
- Provide flexibility to respond to urgent and unforeseen needs.

I encourage us all to give generously and prayerfully to this work. Details of how to do that can be found below.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

How you can donate to the Bishop in Europe's Lent Appeal 2026:

Via your Chaplaincy Treasurer to Nick Wraight in the Diocesan Office

By cheque made out to: Diocese in Europe

Diocese in Europe Board of Finance

14, Tufton St

London SW1P 3QZ

(Please add the words "Lent Appeal 2026" to any note you send with the cheque)

By bank transfer:

Account number: 40317039

Sort code: 20-06-13

IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39 Swift

/ BIC: BUKBGB22

On the Diocese in Europe Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope>

GIVING TO SAINT-LUKE'S

The Anglican Church of St. Luke's Fontainebleau is 100% self-funded and our ministry depends on God's faithfulness and the faithful giving of time, talents, and money from our congregation as we seek to serve Jesus Christ through welcome, worship, and witness.

GIVING TO ST LUKE'S CAN BE MADE IN A VARIETY OF WAYS:

1. Regular monthly giving by bank transfer. This is by far the easiest and most efficient way to provide regular financial support to St Luke's (bank details at the bottom of page).
2. Occasional or one-off donations via Bank Transfer.
3. Regular or occasional giving by cheque: either by sending a cheque made payable to "Eglise Anglicane de Fontainebleau" to the Treasurer or simply placing a cheque in the collection basket during the service.
4. Cash offerings in the collection basket in the service (Euros preferably !). Please consider replacing any giving that you would have made in cash with a cheque or an online donation during the period of suspension of physical services.

** All information concerning giving and donations is private and treated as confidential **

** Standing orders for regular giving by bank transfer can be amended or cancelled at any time **

TAX CERTIFICATES

If you are a French taxpayer, you will receive an annual 'tax certificate' for your giving online, by bank transfer or cheque which will allow you to claim a reduction on your tax (*)

**up to a limit for all your charitable giving of 20% of your taxable income*

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should you require any additional information or have any questions or require assistance, please contact Christopher Burton-Page: treasurer.stlukesfontainebleau@gmail.com

THANK YOU - your generous giving, whatever the amount, large or small, is so important to us and is greatly appreciated.

					
RELEVÉ D'IDENTITÉ BANCAIRE					
Identifiant national de compte bancaire - RIB					
Banque	Guichet	N° compte	Clé	Devise	
30087	33862	00013539701	36	EUR	AGENCE DE FONTAINEBLEAU
Identifiant international de compte bancaire					
IBAN (International Bank Account Number)					
FR76	3008	7338	6200	0135	3970 136
BIC (Bank Identifier Code)					
CMCIFRPP					
Domiciliation					
AGENCE DE FONTAINEBLEAU					
8 PLACE DE LA REPUBLIQUE					
77300 FONTAINEBLEAU					
Tél : 08-20-07-91-34					