

St Clement's Monthly News

February 2026

The season of Lent starts on Wednesday 18th February. The introduction to the Ash Wednesday service includes the following invitation:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting. By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

These words capture the essence of Lent and point to some of the spiritual practices we might follow in order to 'grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord'. Lent is a time of growth, and as we give ourselves afresh to God during Lent we make space for new life to emerge.

Self-examination and repentance is concerned with becoming more aware of our habitual attitudes, our mind-set, and how it affects our relationship with God, other people and ourselves. If we make space to be honest with ourselves about our attitudes and how they shape our lives we could find it incredibly liberating to see that there are other ways of relating to God, other people and ourselves. Lent means 'spring' in old English, it is a time when flowers spring up. As we clear the earth, notice some of the weeds and give space to God we may be surprised by the new shoots that suddenly have an opportunity to grow in the earth of our souls.

Prayer, fasting and self-denial are practical ways of re-orienting our lives. Making space for prayer in Lent helps us to realise that our fundamental relationship in life is with God. As we pray to God, our life takes on a new perspective. Similarly, fasting from chocolate, or fasting from TV or social media for half an hour, or an hour, helps us realise that we are not as reliant on them as we might have thought and that a 'space' appears in our day when we can do something else.

Reading and meditating on God's word – every day of our lives we listen to words: other people's words, our own words, our thoughts, things we read, adverts, TV& radio, social media, memories, the list goes on... Words are fundamental to our lives. In Lent, we become aware that the words we listen to shape our lives. Recently, someone pointed out that adverts use words or images that tell us that our life is not complete without this or that product, and at the same time they shame us that we haven't bought it yet! We are susceptible to many kinds of words. When we meditate on the words of scripture we find words of life. Lent can be a time when we make space to hear those words again and let them shape our attitudes, our thoughts, our prayers and our actions.

May we have a blessed Lent.

Matthew

Diary for February

Sun 1 st	10.30am	Epiphany Parish Eucharist
	10.30am	Morning Worship Branch Church
Mon 2 nd	9.00am	Walking for Health
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 3 rd	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 4 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee morning
Fri 6 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 8 th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 9 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 10 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 11 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Fri 13 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 15 th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 16 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 17 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 18 th		ASH WEDNESDAY
	10.15am	Ash Wednesday Eucharist
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Eucharist
Thur 19 th	2.00pm	Mothers' Union
	(7.00pm	Men's Group to be confirmed)
	7.30pm	Evening Prayer for Lent
Fri 20 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 22 nd	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 23 rd	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 24 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm	"Draw Near" Lent Course St Mary's
Wed 25 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thur 26 th	7.30pm	Evening Prayer for Lent
Fri 27 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 1 st March	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship Branch Church



THE BRANCH CHURCH
HUMPHREY PARK COMMUNITY
CENTRE

Morning Worship
10.30am Sun. Feb 1st

Brownies 6.00pm Every Tuesday
Meeting in the Parish Hall
Contact Samantha
Surmstonbrownies@gmail.com

LENT

Feb 18th Ash Wednesday
10 15am and 7.00pm
Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Tuesdays 24th February to 24th March
7.30pm Lent Study Course "Draw Near"
at St Mary's Church

Thursdays 19th February to 26th March
7.30pm Evening Prayer for Lent
at St Clement's Church

Sunday March 15th
10.30am Mothering Sunday Eucharist

Palm Sunday March 29th
10.30am Eucharist with Palms

HOLY WEEK

Mon 30th March – 8pm Night Prayer

Tues 31st March – 8pm Night Prayer
(NB This service will be at St Mary's)

Wed 1st April 10.15am Eucharist
8pm Night Prayer

Maundy Thurs 2nd April
7.30pm Eucharist & Watch

Good Friday 3rd April
2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Eve 7.30pm at St Mary's
Eucharist & Renewal of Baptismal Vows

EASTER SUNDAY
10.30am Sung Eucharist