



St David's Thorpe End

Connect - February 2026

Dear all,

Nearly there! I was interested to see on my Facebook feed that the ten weeks of the year with the shortest hours of daylight begin around the 16th November and end around the 22nd January. We are, therefore, out of deepest winter; spring is just around the corner!

Now that the Christmas feasting is over, and after a brief pause, the church calendar brings us to Lent. In preparation for Easter, Lent is a time when Christians enter a period of self-examination and repentance by prayer, fasting and reading the scriptures. It is a good time to take stock of how we follow Jesus and to consider, both individually and as a church, how we can further deepen our relationship with God.

To help us in our task, starting on Ash Wednesday, the 18th February, we will walk into the wilderness with Jesus. Here we will find some of our ancient brothers and sisters, known as the Desert Fathers and Mothers. These 3rd and 4th century disciples renounced worldly life to seek God through solitude and prayer and formed the foundation of monasticism.

I wonder what we can learn from these ancient people as we seek to follow Jesus in an ever more noisy world with distractions like 24-7 news and social media? I am reminded that Jesus said "*Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" (Matthew 11:28). Maybe we need to hear from those who chose to live a very different life to those around them, seeking first God's Kingdom.

We will meet in church on Ash Wednesday at 7pm for a short service followed by the first of our discussion groups. Then, each Wednesday up until Holy Week at the Rectory, again at 7pm. All are very welcome to join us.

With every blessing during this Lenten season.

Yours,

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Church Services

We meet for worship every Sunday at 11 am.

You are also welcome to join us on Zoom. Please click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82903517986?pwd=IDIV5ONE3l9wjq6ILxpbuuahWXFVym.1>

Monday online prayer

We meet for prayer on Zoom at 10.15 am every Monday to pray.

If you would like to join us, please click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81294743378?pwd=WklLVHc4cVdWUzZRT3ZOUWdKV1g1UT09>

Coffee, Cake and Company

A time of conversation and refreshments in the church hall. Everyone is welcome!

We are meeting on:

Friday 13th February - 10.30 - 12.30

Friday 13th March - 10.30 - 12.30

Friday 10th April - 10.30 - 12.30

The Desert Fathers and Mothers - resources

Whilst you do not need to download any additional resources to join us on Wednesdays through Lent, there is lots of useful material that will help you go deeper. These can be downloaded from the Lectio365 website, or their app. Just follow the link below:

<https://lectio365.com/desertresources/>

Safeguarding. We take safeguarding very seriously at St David's and aim to make our church a safe space for all. If you have any concerns, or would like further information on our safeguarding policies and procedures please see Rev'd Ian Fifield, Vicar or Peter Soden, Parish Safeguarding Officer