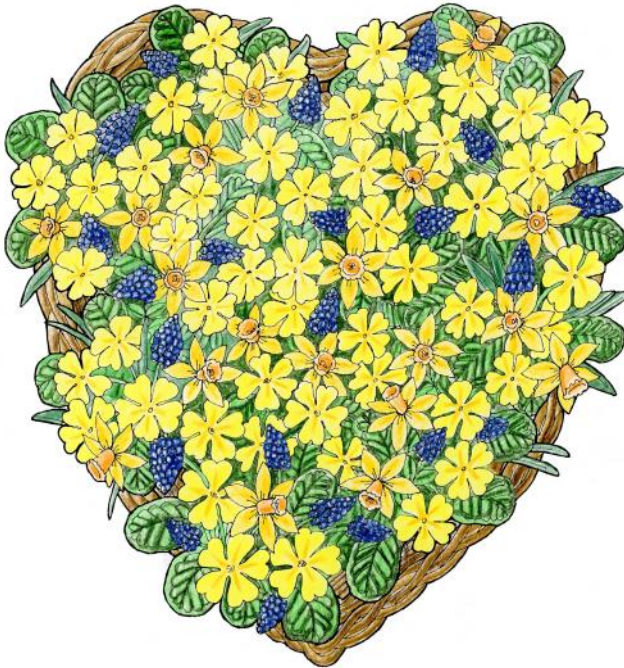


**PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. GEORGE, KENDAL
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, GRAYRIGG
www.beaconteam.org.uk**



THANK YOU



March
2026

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Readings for March 2026

Second Sunday of Lent

1st Reading Genesis 12:1-4a
2nd Reading Romans 4:1-5,13-17

March 1, 2026

Psalm 121
Gospel John 3:1-17

Third Sunday of Lent

1st Reading Exodus 17:1-7
2nd Reading Romans 5:1-11

March 8, 2026

Psalm 95
Gospel John 4:5-42

Mothering Sunday

1st Reading Exod. 2:1-10 or 1 Sam 1:20-end
2nd Reading 2 Cor.1:3-7 or Colos.3:12-17

March 15, 2026

Psalm 34:11-20 or 127:1-4
Gospel Luke 2:33-35 or John 19:25b-27

Fifth Sunday of Lent

1st Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14
2nd Reading Romans 8:6-11

March 22, 2026

Psalm 130
Gospel John 11:1-45

Palm Sunday

1st Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a
2nd Reading Philipians 2:5-11

March 29, 2026

Psalm 31:9-18
Gospel Matt. 26:14 - 27:end or Matt.27:11-54

Letter from Rev Michelle Woodcock
Priest-in-Charge of the Beacon Team Churches

Dear Friends,

There is something about March that feels like a turning point. The ground is still cold, and yet there are signs, small, stubborn signs, that spring is on its way. Snowdrops and crocuses pushing through hard soil, lighter evenings that catch us by surprise. Fields that looked tired and lifeless in January beginning almost imperceptibly to green. Lent arrives in much the same way. It doesn't sweep in with drama. It comes quietly, inviting us to notice what is stirring beneath the surface. We often think of Lent in terms of giving things up. Chocolate, biscuits, social media. And while a small act of self-denial can be helpful, Lent is less about grim determination and more about attention. It is a season for listening.

Spring itself teaches us something about that. Growth is rarely noisy. Seeds don't shout as they split open underground. Lambs stand on trembling legs without any applause. Much of what matters most happens quietly, steadily, hidden from view. Listening to God is often like that. We may not experience dazzling moments or dramatic revelations. More often, we become aware of God in the ordinary rhythms of life; in a line from a hymn that lingers through the week, in a conversation that gently unsettles us, in a nudge towards kindness when we would rather remain comfortable.

So, how might we listen more closely and honestly this Lent? First, by making a little space. Life is full, busy, noisy, crowded with information. If we never allow silence, it is hardly surprising that we struggle to hear anything deeper. Perhaps Lent could be a time to set aside ten minutes a day simply to be still. No complicated structures required. A cup of tea, a chair by the window, a short passage from one of the gospels read slowly and then a simple prayer; "Speak Lord, I am listening." We may not hear anything dramatic, but over time something shifts, we become more aware, more attentive.

Second, by being honest. There is no point pretending before God. If we are tired, we can say so. If we're anxious about the family, our health, or the state of the world we can bring that too. Lent gives us permission to stop papering over the cracks and instead place our real, complicated, untidy lives into Gods hands.

Thirdly, by remembering. Maybe you can look back and see moments

when God felt particularly near; a time of deep peace, strength in the middle of difficulty. Lent is not about chasing emotional highs, but it can help to remember those times. They steady us and remind us that even when faith feels thin, we are not walking on empty ground.

Spring doesn't arrive all at once. It unfolds gradually. A bud here, a brighter morning there. Lent works in much the same way. We do not transform overnight, instead through small, faithful choices, we allow God to work gently in us.

As we begin this season of Lent maybe you might choose one small, steady practice... ten minutes quiet each day, a deliberate act of generosity each week, a short prayer before major decisions. Like seeds planted in early spring, such practices may seem insignificant, yet over time, they bear fruit. As the days lengthen and the earth begins to soften, may this Lent be for us a time of patient growth. A time to listen more closely, to pray more honestly and to trust that God is at work even when we cannot yet see the full picture.

With every blessing for the weeks ahead.

Michelle

Beacon Team Lent Course "Meeting God in John's Gospel"

The Radley Room, St George's - Thursdays @ 10.30am

We will be running a Beacon Team Lent course at St George's Church Kendal this year. Over 6 weeks we will study the Gospel of John; whether you are completely new to John's Gospel or have read it many times before, Meeting God in John will help you see the Fourth Gospel with fresh eyes and gain a deeper understanding of its essential meaning and purpose.

The meetings start at 10.30am through to 12.30pm and will include a simple soup lunch.

Thursday 19th February - 26th March 10.30am — 12.30pm

Do come along and explore what the Gospel reveals about God through the person of Jesus Christ.



St John the Baptist, Skelsmergh:

Sunday 1st March - Morning Worship 11.00am
Sunday 8th March - Baptism Service 11am
Sunday 15th March - Mothering Sunday Service 11.00am
Sunday 22nd March— *Join a service at another church*

St John the Evangelist, Grayrigg

Sunday 1st March - Holy Communion 9.30am
Sunday 8th March - Morning Worship 9.30am
Sunday 15th March - Mothering Sunday Service 11am
Sunday 22nd March - Evening Worship 4pm

**Sunday 29th March - Joint Beacon Team Palm Sunday Service
Holy Communion 11.00am**

St George, Kendal

Sunday 1st March - Holy Communion 11.00am
Sunday 8th March - Worship@4 4.00pm
Sunday 15th March - Mothering Sunday Service 11.00am
Sunday 22nd March - Holy Communion 9.30am
-

St Oswald, Burneside

Sunday 1st March - Evening Worship 4.00pm
Sunday 8th March - Holy Communion 11.00am
Sunday 15th March - Mothering Sunday Service 11.00am
Sunday 22nd March - Holy Communion 11am

St Mary's Longsleddale

Sunday 1st March Abbey Service 10.30am
Sunday 29th March - Team Holy Communion 11am at Grayrigg



St Thomas, Selside

Sunday 1st March - Morning Worship 9.30am
Sunday 8th March - Holy Communion 9.30am
Friday 13th March - Selside School Mothers' Day Service 9.30am
Sunday 22nd March - Morning Worship 11.00am

Every Tuesday 6.00pm Short Evening Prayer
at St. Oswald's Church, Burneside
Every Wednesday 9.30am: BCP Holy Communion
at St. Oswald's Church, Burneside

Online Worship is available throughout the week via Zoom

Please contact Revd Jean Radley for details of how to join in
Regular weekday Zoom services include :

- * **Mondays** 8.30pm : Compline
- * **Fridays** 8.30pm : Celtic Evening Prayer

Revd Michelle: *"Now that I live next door to St John's Church, Skelsmergh, I have decided to say my daily office in the church itself on **Tuesday and Thursday mornings**. I'll be there at **9 am** for around 15-20 minutes. It would be really lovely if you felt able to join me there.*

Perhaps you might pop in once in a while, or maybe it's something you would appreciate being part of more regularly. There will be no expectation for you to do anything other than just come and enjoy a quiet 20 minutes at the start of a busy day " **Revd Michelle**

25th March – Lady Day or The Annunciation

This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked – He was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar – it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice – humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.

Join Us, Join In – celebrating our 150th anniversary year

A Service for Lady Day (25th March) 2pm at St George's Church, Kendal

This year the Mothers' Union Lady Day service for our deanery will be hosted by St George's Church.

All are welcome to join as we gather with thankfulness for the inspiration of Mary Sumner as she listened and responded in faith to the call of God upon her life.

There will be light refreshments afterwards.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Our Annual General Meeting took place at the end of January. Rev Michelle led us in a Eucharist service with members taking part. We sang the MU hymn, with Christine playing the piano.

The meeting was chaired by Rev Michelle. Minutes were read by Judith, who also read the report of last year's meetings. Mary, in her Branch Leaders report, spoke of members having attended other MU branches, also the highlight of meeting the MU President, Kathleen Snow, at a service at Greystoke Church. All who met her agreed that she was a lovely lady. Mary also spoke of our name change with a hope that more members may join from the Beacon Team churches. She went on to say that we have received our Bronze award for participation in the Rise Up Against Violence campaign. Looking to the future, there are a number of celebrations taking place for the 150th Anniversary. Mary thanked Rev Michelle, Rev Jean and all members for their ongoing support. Eileen then presented her financial report. Rev Michelle thanked Judith, Eileen and Mary. Members of the committee remain the same.

A time of fellowship followed the meeting.

Future dates:

Wednesday 25th March : Lady Day Deanery Service at St George's.

13th April – 150th Anniversary, Roundthorn Country House, Penrith.

17th – 19th June 2026, Rydal Family Weekend.

Sun. 8th August 2026, Mary Sumner Day (more details to follow)

Mary Atkinson (Branch Leader)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(a service for everyone)

Nigeria 2026 - "I will give you rest, come."



*2pm Friday 6th March at
Stricklandgate Methodist Church*

The World Day of Prayer is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the globe. Each year, women from a different country craft a service, sharing their unique spiritual journey and culture. For 2026, the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith & experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

The day begins in Samoa and moves across the world in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa. It truly is a worldwide day of prayer! For further information please visit the World Day of Prayer website: wwdp.org.uk

This artwork designed for WDoP 2026 by Gift Amarachi Ottah, draws inspiration from her home state of Abia in Nigeria.

It depicts the daily reality of rural Nigerian women whose lives are marked by endless labour from sunrise to sunset.

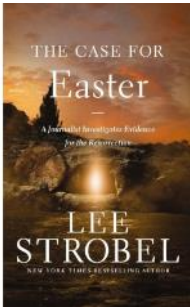
The artwork also shows three women sitting together, their different traditional attire representing Nigeria's diverse cultures. Though they come from different ethnic groups, their shared experiences unite them. To meet their basic survival needs, these women carry burdens and traumas that are physical, emotional and spiritual.



Yet there is hope for the many burdens these people are carrying. These burdens become bearable when we respond to Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11:28, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest'. When we bring our weariness to Christ and support one another in community, we find rest and strength to continue our journey.

Come along on Friday 6th March to be part of this Worldwide Prayer.

BOOK REVIEWS

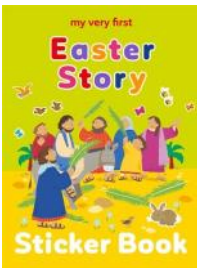


The Case for Easter by Lee Strobel
Zondervan £3.99 **offer price £2.99**

A riveting journey to the truth about the most remarkable event in history: the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the proof behind it. From the award-winning, best-selling book *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel, this booklet is perfect for Easter or any time of the year. Did Jesus of Nazareth really rise from the dead?

Of the many world religions, only one claims that its founder returned from the grave. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very cornerstone of Christianity.

But a dead man coming back to life? In our sophisticated age, when myth has given way to science, who can take such a claim seriously? Some argue that Jesus never died on the cross. Conflicting accounts make the empty tomb seem suspect. a path toward reconciliation, healing, and restorative justice.



My Very First Easter Story Sticker Book £5.99

A story book to retelling of the Easter story, with spaces left for children to fill with the appropriate sticker to complete the story. There are also extra activities about what can be found on the page – counting, naming, identifying – for which extra stickers are supplied.

Available through South Lakes Christian Resources & Lynne Magee.

Grayrigg Church and Community News

UPCOMING EVENTS IN GRAYRIGG

- 6th March** Pub night 7.30pm onwards
- 14th March** Annual Variety Concert – in the Coronation Hall
7.30pm Proceeds for St. John's Hospice
- 22nd March** **1pm** Sunday Lunch with Kath in the Coronation
Hall Beef lasagne with salad & garlic bread.
(veggie option available) followed by Sticky Toffee Pud.
£15 per head by ticket only — limited to 45 people.
Proceeds for the Coronation Hall.
Contact Kath on 07736 125236 or email:
kath.dickinson@btinternet.com
- 6rd April** Pub night – with food 7.30pm onwards
- 3rd April** **Good Friday Walk up Whinfell Beacon** 2pm
Please make your way up to the top of Whinfell
Beacon for a short Service at 2pm led by Reverend Michelle
Afterwards in the Coronation Hall; Childrens Easter egg hunt and
toasted hot cross buns.
- 3rd April** Pub Night - with food 7.30pm onwards
- 19th April** **1pm** Sunday Lunch with Kath in the Coronation
Hall Steak or Cheese & Onion Pie with
chips and peas, followed by meringues & fruit, cream/ice-cream.
£15 per head by ticket only - limited to 40 people.
Proceeds for the Over 60's funds.
Contact Kath on 07736 125236 or email:
kath.dickinson@btinternet.com
- 25th April** Soupa Saturday in the Coronation Hall 11.30 - 2pm

Regular Meetings in Grayrigg

Grayrigg Table Tennis Club - holds matches in the Coronation Hall from September to May. Anyone who would like to play in a team please contact Kevin Hunter on 07813 133507

Pickleball – takes place every Thursday evening 6-8pm in the Coronation Hall £3

Grayrigg Young Farmers - meet every Tuesday for meetings and social events.

"Many thanks to everyone who attended our Soupa Saturday on the 31st January. We made a profit of **£526** which will be used for the graveyard maintenance.

I have to say a massive thanks to all of our fundraising team who made and donated all of the cakes, gave all the food including the soups, the milk, the coffee, the raffle prizes etc. You are all brilliant and are very much appreciated by me especially. Everyone who came seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and it's lovely to see everyone get together and have a good old catch up."

Kath

The Grayrigg Good Neighbours

Join us every second Tuesday of the month in the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm for a get-together and talks or craft activities. All welcome.

10th March — Lake District Photography
with Jonny Gios

14th April — Sweet Treats
with Martin Frickel

There will be 9 monthly meetings: Annual Membership £12
£3 per visit for non-members.

St John The Evangelist , Grayrigg Church Cleaning Rota

If anyone would like to help, please contact Pauline Robson.

Grayrigg Rainfall



The rainfall in January 2026 was 120.4 mm or 4.74 inches.

The rainfall in January 2025 was 119.3mm or 4.70 inches

.The average January rainfall over the last 3 years is 168.1mm or 6.62 inches.

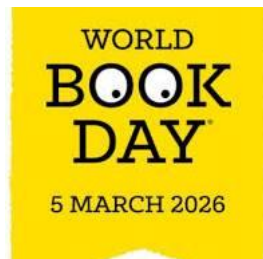
Howgill and Firbank WI

Thursday 5th March

Howgill Village Hall at 7.30pm

WORLD BOOK DAY March 5th

It is good news that several Christian publishers are celebrating World Book Day 2026 by offering a range of Christian books for children and adults at £1 each!



A selection of 33 books are available from Lynne in the Team office up to the end of March or whilst stocks last.



Kendal
Anna Chaplaincy in Cumbria

Everyone is welcome to the

KENDAL TEA SERVICE

BRINGING PEOPLE

TOGETHER

A short service with a Bible reading,
3 traditional hymns and prayers
Followed by Tea and Cake

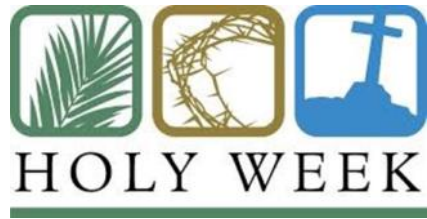
Thursday 19th March 2.30 pm at Kendal Parish Church
For more information about the Tea Service or Anna Chaplaincy
in Kendal please contact Beverley Moore 07507 749238 or
bevmoore.annachaplaincy@gmail.com

Easter Cards, Gifts and Chocolate Eggs.

Easter cards can be purchased from Lynne in the Beacon Team Office 01539 720018

Easter Eggs from the Meaningful Chocolate Company are also available. Or if chocolate isn't your thing there is a selection of gifts and books for children and adults.





Church services for Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Monday 30th March: 9am Morning Prayer (said) at Grayrigg

Tuesday 31st March: 9am Morning Prayer at Skelsmergh

Wednesday 1st April: 9.30am Holy Communion at Burneside

2nd April Maundy Thursday 9am Morning Prayer (said) at Skelsmergh

7pm Holy Communion with foot washing at Burneside

3rd April Good Friday: 10am -12 noon Messy Crafts at Kendal St George

2pm Whinfell Beacon service -

(meet at the mast from 1pm and start the walk from there at 1.30pm).

3pm An hour before the Cross at Kendal St George's

4pm Passion Gospel Reading at Selside

4th April Holy Saturday 7.30pm Deanery Easter Vigil at Kendal Parish Church

5th April Easter Sunday – Join us as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

St. Oswald's, Burneside: Holy Communion 9.30am

STJE Grayrigg: Holy Communion 9.30am

St George's, Kendal: Holy Communion 11am

St Thomas, Selside: *joint service at Skelsmergh*

STJB Skelsmergh: Holy Communion 11am

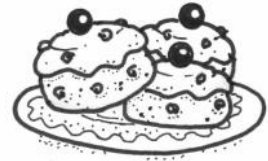


St George's Church Chatter and Natter

All are welcome to join us on the last Friday of every month in the Radley Room for Tea/coffee, cake and meet up with friends.

For further information ring
Sue Whittaker 07866341554

Com along on **Friday March 27th 2026**
from 10am to 11.30am



Laughter Lines

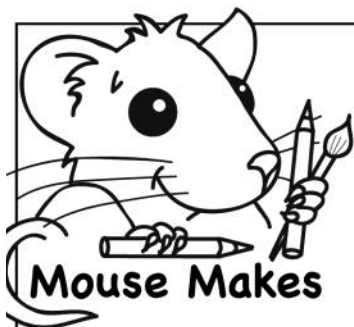
I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month. Oh, wait, sorry, bad punctuation. I meant, I'm giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.

From The Registers



Funerals:

4th February - Kendal - Anthony (Tony) Hooton
13th February – Grayrigg - George Potter
17th February - Kendal - Derek James Ormandy

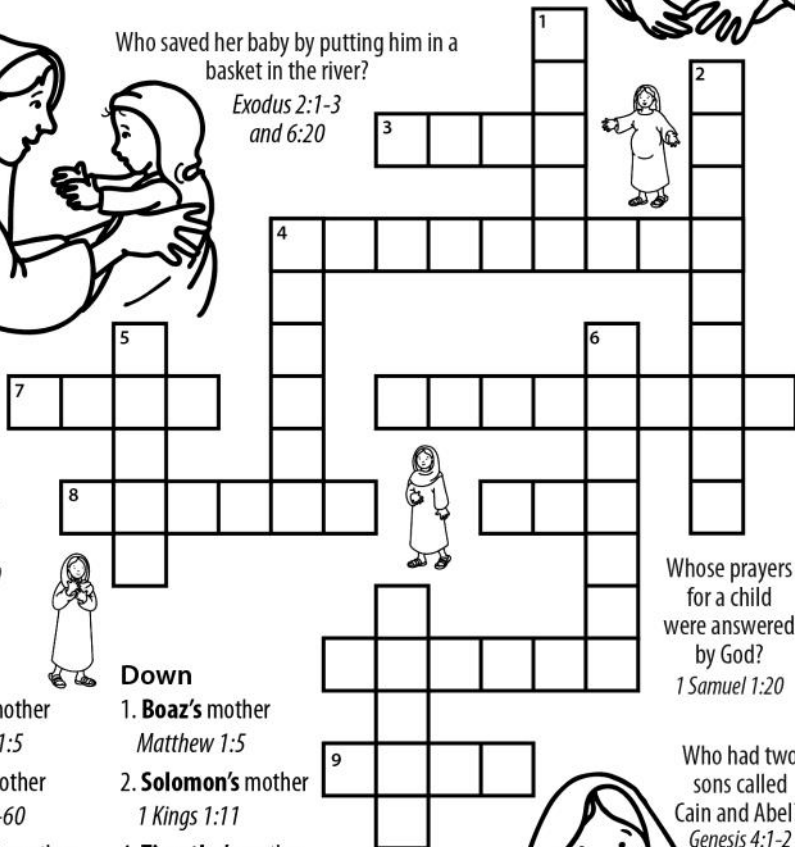


The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20



Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19



Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2

Across

- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
- 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
- 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
- 9. **Jesus'** mother
Acts 1:14

Down

- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
- 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26



Beacon Team Events

St John the Baptist Church
Coffee Morning
Saturday 14th March.
10am - 12noon

At Skelsmergh Community Hall



Dipping Your Toe in the Old Testament - at Kendal Parish Church Saturday March 28th

A chance to take a bird's eye view - to gain an overview of the Old Testament as a whole. How are we to understand it? How did it develop? What kinds of material does it contain? What about the difficulties it raises? How do different voices relate to each other?

**KPC vestry: 9.30am for 9.45am
finishing by 12 noon.**

More details and to register - contact Michael Hunter (email to michaeljh45@aol.co.uk)

Don't forget to bring your Bible!



One of my churchwardens is a stickler for 'Health and Safety'...

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