

# WEEKLY NEWS



## *Testing times*

**GENESIS 2.15-17; 3.1-7**

On the first Sunday in Lent, we read the account of the Fall in Genesis. Adam is placed in the Garden of Eden and commanded to care for it but warned not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Later, the serpent deceives Eve into eating the forbidden fruit, shared with Adam; they both realise they are naked and cover themselves.

Half-truths and deceptions can be so convincing, making it easy for us to succumb to temptation without noticing. We live in a world where the media can share unchecked reports and AI can generate facts or images in an instant: this week we explore how our trust in God must guide us to discern how to live with testing of wants and needs as well as truth and uncertainty.

## *How people fast during Lent*

Many of us fast during Lent. It seems that the kind of fast you undertake may be connected to your denomination. A recent survey found the following:

94% Black Majority Churchgoers give up all food for a set time.

85% of Orthodox churchgoers cut out specific foods and/or drinks.

83% of Pentecostal churches give up all food for a set time.

79% of Roman Catholics cut out specific foods and/or drinks.

76% of New Churches give up all food for a set time.

57% of C of E cut out specific foods and/or drinks

30% or less of Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists cut out specific foods and/or drinks.

The survey was done by the charity Green Christian

Sunday 22nd  
February 2026  
Lent 1

### **FIRST READING**

GENESIS 2.15-17; 3.1-7

### **PSALM**

PSALM 32

### **SECOND READING**

ROMANS 5.12-19

### **GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 4.1-11

### **SERVERS**

ANTHEA GEE

GRAHAM LAMB

### **FIRST READING**

REBECCA LUMB

### **PSALM**

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

### **SECOND READING**

ANTHEA GEE

### **INTERCESSIONS**

DAVE GILL

### **SIDES PERSON**

DARRELL & JENNIFER  
INGALL

## Collect Lent 1

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## THIS WEEKS HYMNS

### Processional

When I survey the wondrous cross

### Gradual

Forty days and Forty Nights

### Offertory

Love divine, all loves excelling

### Communion

Purify my heart

Make me a channel of your peace

### Recessional

Lord, for the years

## The Seven Deadly Sins: Greed

*‘How much money is enough? Just a little bit more.’ (John D Rockefeller).*

*In the second of our series on the Seven Deadly Sins, we are looking at greed. It is the overwhelming desire for more and more in our lives. In our consumer culture it can be hard to tell the difference between needs and wants – e.g. buying a new laptop or shoes for different occasions? We need to ask the question: How much is enough?*

*Jesus was approached by a man who wanted Him to settle a dispute about family inheritance. He said, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.’ (Luke 12:15). Jesus goes on to tell the story of a rich farmer who builds bigger and bigger barns, but whose life is unexpectedly cut short by death. He concludes: ‘This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.’ (21).*

*How do we overcome greed and become ‘rich towards God’? Paul writes: ‘I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.’ (Philippians 4:13). Overcoming greed involves learning to be content in whatever situation we find ourselves, in need or plenty.*

*Paul is not saying that there is anything wrong with having food, money or possessions, but these cannot be the primary source of our contentment. The secret of contentment is found in a transforming relationship with Jesus: ‘I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.’ (13). He is the one who enables us to overcome greed and know riches.*

*‘Contentment makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor.’ (Benjamin Franklin).*

## Three in four car thefts unsolved

*Keep a close eye on your car this year, because sadly, no one else seems to be able to do so. Recent figures have revealed that more than 121,000 car theft offences were not solved in 2024-25.*

*The British Transport Police, South Yorkshire, City of London, Sussex and Warwickshire police forces reported that more than 80 per cent of car thefts were unsolved. 35 of the 44 police forces in England and Wales had a total rate of 60 per cent of all cases going unsolved. Some critics even say that the dismal figures shows that car theft has been decriminalised in the UK.*

*Of course, theft has been around for a long time. For this very reason, Jesus warned us not to over-value the things that we own. He said: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where ... thieves break in and steal.” (Matthew 6:19).*

*Sadly, no data exists from the 1<sup>st</sup> century, to tell us how many stolen camels and donkeys were ever recovered.*

# *In your prayers this week....*

Alyson Healey; Lukas Powell;  
Maralyn Pawson; David Riley;  
Vanessa Starsmore; Victor Smyth.



During Lent it's traditional to not have flowers in church.

If you would like flowers in church either in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special day please speak to Angela W

## *Quotes*

Happy moments, praise God.  
Difficult moments, seek God.  
Quiet moments, worship God.  
Painful moments, trust God.  
Every moment, thank God. - Anon

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself.' - Jesus Christ

## **From the Parish Prayer list:**

For the future of our church; St Anns Square; Stanley Street; Station Approach; Station Road; Steps Lane; Stonecroft Mount; Summerland Terrace; Sunny Bank Drive.

**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Use a bowl to wash up rather than a running tap and save £25 a year in energy bills.

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins)

Blessed are those who look upon the world with God's loving eyes and seek to protect it, nourish it, and enable it to flourish.



## *Next week*

SUNDAY 1ST MARCH 2026  
LENT 2

### **FIRST READING**

GENESIS 12.1-4  
PSALM 121

### **SECOND READING**

ROMANS 4.1-5,13-17

### **GOSPEL**

JOHN 3.1-17

### **SERVERS**

GRAHAM LAMB

DAVE GILL

### **FIRST READING**

FIONA LAMB

### **PSALM**

GLENIS MCCARTHY

### **SECOND READING**

GRAHAM LAMB

### **INTERCESSIONS**

ANTHEA GEE

### **SIDES PERSON**

PAULINE CHESLETT & LINDA FIRTH

## *DIARY*

### **Monday**

10:30 Morning Prayer in church

7pm PCC

### **Tuesday**

10.00 Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

communion

### **Wednesday**

### **Thursday**

3.45pm Messy Church

6.30 BCP evening prayer

### **Friday**

### **Saturday**

10am Coffee Morning

### **Sunday**

10.30am Holy Communion

12:15 pm Lenten Lunch

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli..

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.

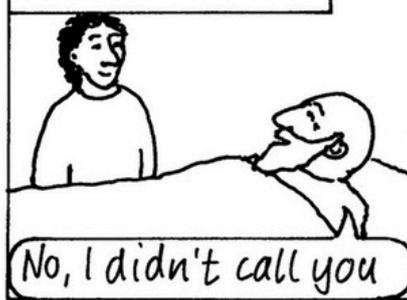


But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



No, I didn't call you

It happened again.



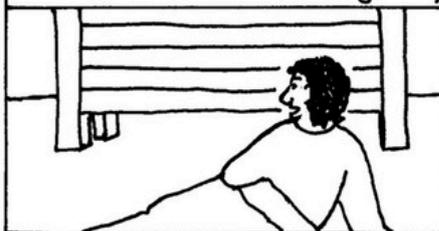
I didn't call. Go back to bed.

The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,



and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.



The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.



# *Introducing Dame Sarah Mullally - the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury*

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026, when she was legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

1. She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.
2. She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London
3. She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.
4. In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.
5. She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.
6. She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as "the biggest decision I have ever made".
7. In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.
8. On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133<sup>rd</sup> Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.
9. Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."
10. She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.
11. As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.
12. She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.
13. As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.
14. This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.
15. Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide.
16. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.
17. Archbishop Sarah has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital.
18. She is Chair of Christian Aid.
19. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.
20. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.

# Easter Services



**Thursday 2nd April**



**Maundy Thursday Holy Communion  
at Christ Church, 6.30pm**

**Friday 3rd April**



**Good Friday Walk of Witness, 10.00am**



**Good Friday Lunch Out**



**Good Friday Stations of the Cross  
at Christ Church, 2.00pm**



**Saturday 4th April**

**Easter Saturday Last Watch, 11.30pm**



**Sunday 5th April**

**Easter Sunday Holy Communion**



### **Christ Church Lit with Love – Mothering Sunday**

On Mothering Sunday, 15 March, we will once again be lighting Christ Church with Love by filling our church with candlelight in thanksgiving and remembrance.

Candles cost £1.00 each and may be lit to give thanks for mum, gran, nana, aunty — or anyone who has been like a mother to us. Each flame is a quiet prayer of gratitude and love.

A sign-up sheet is available at the back of church. All are warmly invited to take part in this special and meaningful act of thanksgiving.

### **Knitted Chickens Needed – Good Friday Walk of Witness**

We are once again collecting knitted chickens for the Good Friday Walk of Witness on 3 April. As we walk from St. Patrick's Catholic Church, through Sowerby Bridge, to St. Paul's Methodist Church, we give out the chickens, each containing a chocolate egg and an Easter message.

Over the years, those who receive them have been both surprised and deeply thankful for this small but meaningful gift, which helps share the message of Easter in a warm and joyful way.

If you are able to knit some chickens, please could they be brought to church by 15 March. Thank you to everyone who is able to help support this outreach.

### **January financial information**

Receipts £2,061.97

Payments £2,750.84

### **Lenten Lunches – from 22 February**

Our Lenten Lunches will begin on Sunday 22 February, following the morning service, and will continue throughout Lent.

This is a gentle time to pause, reflect, and share fellowship together over a simple lunch as we journey through the season of Lent.

All are very welcome to come along and be part of this shared time.

### **Holiday Hampers**

For Rushbearing (Yes we know a long way off), we are looking at putting together holiday hampers, so if you are away on holiday or visiting somewhere, why not bring a little gift back that we can put into a hamper to raffle at this year's rushbearing event. If you are bringing food/sweets, please ensure it has a long expire date on.

Also it would be great if you could start to collect bottles for our bottle stall

Find us on  
[www.christchurchsb.org.uk](http://www.christchurchsb.org.uk)



Using your smart device,  
scan the QR code to join  
'Hebrews Coffee' Wi-Fi

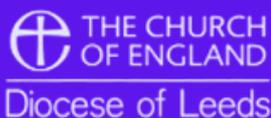


Once connected  
scan the QR code  
below



Captions\* will appear once  
the Service / Event starts.

\*Captions are auto  
generated and will include  
errors



*The Man on the Middle Cross - Are  
You Going to Heaven?  
By Alistair Begg, 10Publishing, £3.99*

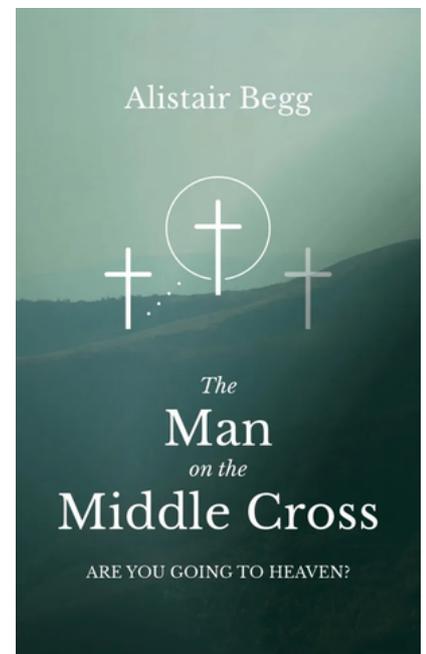
This book focuses on three people who had their lives  
changed when they met Jesus. Each was given hope,  
restoration and a way back to God: the woman at the  
well, the paralysed man, and the thief on the cross.

With characteristic clarity, Alistair Begg explains how  
this offer is open to all who come to Jesus, the man  
on the middle cross.

### *Smile Lines*

#### **Hymns for Professionals**

- Dentist – Crown Him with many crowns
- Contractors – The Church's one foundation
- Obstetricians – Come labour on
- Golfers – There is a green hill far away
- Politicians – Standing on the promises
- Librarians – Let all mortal flesh keep silent



**Church News 2026 Year A**

**Registered Charity 1131180**

**CCLI License Number 295704**

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Growing in faith. Living by prayer. Loving God's word.  
Living Loving Learning.**