

# Pews News

## 22nd February 2026

### 1<sup>st</sup> of Lent



Matthew 4.1-11

### Collect

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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.

### Post Communion

Lord God,  
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1<sup>st</sup> of Lent: Genesis 2. 15-17; 3.1-7, Romans 5.12-19, Matthew 4.1-11

2<sup>nd</sup> of Lent: Genesis 12.1-4a, Romans 4.1-5,13-17, John 3.1-17.

As we begin Lent, the gospel tells of Jesus, led into the wilderness by the Spirit for forty days and forty nights, fasting so he was famished and then tempted by the devil. Temptation is something all humans face and there are many examples in scripture from Eve, tempted by the serpent to eat the fruit of the tree which God had strictly forbidden, to Ananias and Sapphira tempted to hang on to part of the money they had promised to give to the early church (Acts 5). Our modern world is full of reports of those who have been tempted by envy, greed, lust, and pride and daily we need to deal with those little temptations; cheating a little, telling a 'white' lie, being selfish, ignoring injustice and many more. Jesus' forty days and nights fasting in the wilderness his temptations and encounter with the devil may seem far from our experience, but he who understands our frail humanity shows us the way to deal with temptation, encouraging us to follow him.

Immediately before his time in the wilderness, Jesus had been baptised by John and heard encouraging words of commendation from his heavenly Father, "This is my Son my beloved with whom I am well pleased", words repeated at Christ's Transfiguration, our gospel reading for last week. In the desert, Jesus had time to ponder on his divine nature as he experienced hunger, discomfort, and loneliness, marks of his human nature. This coloured his response to the devil's temptations, emphasising that in all things God comes first, God provides for our physical needs and for our deep spiritual hunger, God is to be trusted not tested and God is the only one we should worship and serve. We pray regularly not to be led into temptation, but putting God first will help us resist temptation, though if we fail, acknowledging our failure we can seek forgiveness from Jesus whose wilderness experience was in preparation not only for his ministry but for his suffering and dying for love of us on the cross.

### *Prayer*

God of the desert, as we follow Jesus into the unknown, may we recognise the tempter when he comes; let it be your bread we eat, your world we serve and you alone we worship. Amen

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

**Among those in special need:** Libby, Esther Bird, Stella Joslin, Jo Weir, Fran Griffiths, Mike & Jenny Ford, Lesley, Gabrielle and Matthew, Fr David Harris, Lesley Harris, Edwin; Rupert; Carol, Paul & Linda Buckingham; Jean Howarth; Helen Lange; Christopher; Katharine; Jonathan Davis; Morag & Robert Curtis; Tessa Bullick; Margaret Morrissey; Jill Smith; Ruth Davis; Pam Revell.

Many thanks to everyone who's helped me to update the list and asked me to retain the names of these people, who continue to need our prayerful support. As always, please contact me at any time to update the list – please phone 01305 268749 or 07800 962672, leaving a message if necessary; or email [johnsamwood@me.com](mailto:johnsamwood@me.com)

**Among those who have recently died:** Anne Jonathan, Nigel Clark, Sam Bridle, Bernard Cox, Jean Matthews, Very Revd Alan Woods, Judith Foster, Judith Jones, Kathleen 'Kate' Penfold, Robert 'Bob' Cook

**Remember those whose Year's Mind falls this week** Brian Pace, Tim Oram, Jena Castleton, Brian Parkhurst.

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**Dorcas MU** next meets on Wednesday 25 February at 10am at 155 Damers Road, for prayer, bible study and fellowship and meets on Wednesday 11 March at 10am at 28 Maiden Castle Road. Newcomers welcome. Contact: Janet 01305 260259.

**TEA TOAST and TODDLERS** Calling all under five's and their grown ups. Do come along on a Monday (term times) 9.30-12pm and have company and fun with lots of toys and activities. Drinks are available and tea and coffee. Fruit, toast and cake are also available. Suggested donation is £2 per family. This is a joint Benefice activity held in St George's Church Hall. For more information contact Ruth McGee Tel. 07984 021132

**Dorchester Poverty Action** are having a coffee morning on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 12 noon at the United Church. This is our way of thanking the community for all the support we have received over many years. There will be no charge for tea/coffee but there will be the usual number of stalls for you to have a rummage around. If anyone felt able to make some cakes or if you have a surfeit of home-made jam we would be very grateful. Many thanks. Kath Joslin

*To my wonderful Dorchester and Winterbournes Family,*

I have finally found my laptop and am sitting in my new garden office in Devizes surrounded by boxes, but before I start finding homes for my books, I just wanted to convey my thanks for the extraordinarily generous gifts and wonderful farewell lunch you gave me. Thank you to everyone who made my last Sunday with you so memorable.

Serving as your curate has been a privilege and a joy and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kindness and patience as I navigated my first years of ministry. You have all been my teachers and my inspiration and for that I am eternally grateful.

I am truly humbled by your messages of love and support as I begin my new role as Rector of St John with St Mary. I will miss you and will continue to hold you all in prayer. I really hope to see some of your lovely faces at my institution and induction on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. So, not goodbye, I hope, but au revoir my friends.

With love and every blessing,

*Heidi*

## St Peter's Church

The church is open **daily from 10am - 4pm during the winter.**

**Sundays** BCP Eucharist at 9am & Common Worship Eucharist 10.30am.

**Mid-week - Morning Prayer** at **9.15am** on Monday & Thursday

**Midweek Eucharist** Our Midweek Eucharist is at **10.00 am on Thursday**. This is always followed by refreshments. Please do consider joining us.

**Pastoral Visiting** - If you would like to receive the Eucharist at home please contact me by phone or email. **Keith**

**Storehouse Church Food Larder** We are grateful for your donations each week. Please donate items of tinned and packet food, toiletries and sanitary wear. They currently have an excess of dried pasta so this is not needed. Thank you for your generosity.

An invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join the **Bible study group** which meets every Monday at 2.30pm at 30 Grosvenor Road, Dorchester. For further details please phone Rosemary Briggs 01305 757444. (Own transport essential.) We look forward to welcoming you.

**Coffee Rota** We need more volunteers to go on our coffee rota. We also need someone to co-ordinate the rota as Judy is stepping back. Many thanks to Judy for all that she has done. If you would like to volunteer or co-ordinate, please speak to Keith.

**Clergy Meeting** On Tuesday morning at 11am Retired clergy and LLMs are invited to join us at 38 Herringston Road for our clergy meeting.

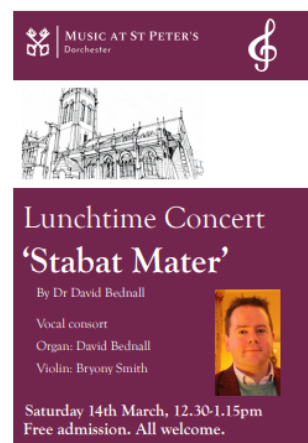
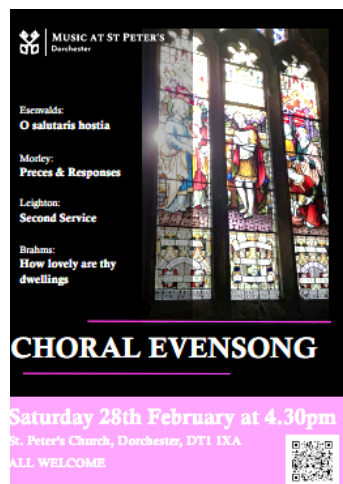
### Music at St Peter's

Please join us for **Choral Evensong for Lent** at 4.30pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February when the music will include Esenvald's *O salutaris hostia*, Morley's *Responses*, Leighton's *Second Service* & Brahms' *How lovely are thy dwellings* from his *German Requiem*. You are warmly invited to stay for a glass of wine after the service. The music for our **Choral Eucharist** at 10.30am on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, again reflects the season of Lent with Byrd's *Ave verum*, Kodaly's *Missa brevis* and Purcell's *Hear my prayer*. The **Lunchtime Concert** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March will be slightly longer than normal, running from 12.30pm-1.15pm and we are absolutely delighted to be performing **David Bednall's Stabat**

**mater** with the composer at the organ, a small consort of upper voices and Bryony Smith playing the violin. David is Director of Choral Music at Clifton Cathedral as is widely acclaimed as one of the leading choral composers of his generation. Admission is free, so please do come and hear this fabulous new work. As always, please visit [www.musicatstpetersdorchester](http://www.musicatstpetersdorchester) for more information about the fabulous range of music on offer.

### Lent Course - Draw Near - Life giving Habits for Lent

This year we will be using the Church of England booklet Draw Near during the groups that meet in Lent. Please see back page for details.



## **St. Mary's Church**

[www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Dorchester-672844449522662](https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Dorchester-672844449522662)

**On Sundays each week Sung Eucharist** at 9.45am

**On the first Sunday of the month, next is 1<sup>st</sup> March, there is a Said Eucharist at 8am and Taize Worship at 6pm**

Gluten Free Communion is available—please ask the Sidesperson

**Morning Prayer** on **Tuesdays** at 9am followed by **Said Eucharist** at 9.30am.

**The Contemplative Prayer Group on Wednesdays at 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Mary's.** Come and join us for 20 minutes of silence. The group will meet at 5pm every Wednesday up to and including July 15th EXCEPT the following Wednesdays when there will be no group : 25th March: 1st April: 20th May and 24th June. Everyone from across the Benefice and beyond is welcome.

**The Sanctuary Lamp Candle** is given by Trudy Tabone in memory of her mother Irene Dessin whose years mind falls on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

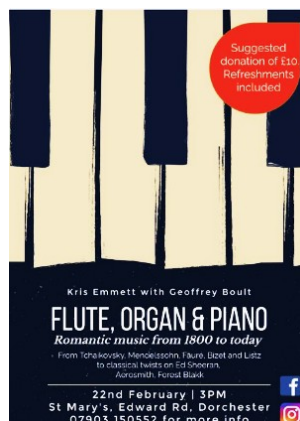
**The Bible Study Group** will not be meeting during Lent.

**Lent Course - Draw Near - Life giving Habits for Lent**

This year we will be using the Church of England booklet Draw Near during the groups that meet in Lent. Please see back page for details.

**Stations of the Cross** Tuesdays, Feb 24, March 3,10,17 & 24<sup>th</sup>. At 5pm. Please see flyer for Lent & Holy Week activities..

**The Garden Club** recommence their duties on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am, weather permitting.** We will begin with a spring tidy in the church & hall grounds. Please join us if you can.



**Concert on Sunday 22nd February, at 3pm,** our musical director Kris Emmett will be presenting a selection of music from his repertoire, followed by refreshments. Suggested donation £10

**Taize Worship** on Sunday, **March 1st,** on the theme of Prayer, will be preceded at 4.30 pm by some shared learning of new chants, followed by tea

**Lent Lunch** of homemade soup, bread & cheese to be held in **St Mary's Hall on Friday 20 March 12.30pm - 2pm,** donations for Christian Aid. All welcome, just come along.

**The church cleaning group** next meets on **Thursday 26 February.**

**Join us for an evening of quizzing** on Saturday 7 March at St Mary's church hall, Edward Road. Teams of up to six people, £10 per head to include a supper. Bring your own drinks and snacks. All proceeds towards the Window fund. Teams must be registered by Sunday 1 March, contact Moira Farley on [moira.farley@me.com](mailto:moira.farley@me.com)

## St George's Church

The church is open every day from 9.00am to 4.00pm for private prayer.

### **Sunday Services**

**8.30am** Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays

This is a quiet traditional BCP service in the Edward Chapel.

**10.30am** Holy Communion followed by refreshments in the church hall.

Dragons, our children's group, meets in the church hall during the 10.30 service in term time.

All school age children are welcome.

**6.30pm** Pizza and Praise, first Sunday of the month. A new monthly service for youth and families.

### **Weekday services:**

Wednesday 9.30am Morning Prayer at the back of church.

Thursday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

### **Other regular activities:**

**Monday: 9.30-12 Tea, Toast and Toddlers** in the hall

**Monday: Bible Study group 7.15pm** weekly in members' homes.

Details from Rev Cora or Rev Gerry.

**Wednesday 12.30-1.30 COMMUNITY LUNCH AND FOOD LARDER.** All are welcome for company in a warm space, a soup lunch, or food in times of hardship. **We welcome donations** of store cupboard items, especially microwave rice, cereals, long life milk, tinned meat/fish, tea or coffee. Please bring items at service times, or pop into the hall on Wednesdays from 12.15 - 1.30. Thank you for your support.

**During Lent the Monday Bible Study group will follow the Draw Near Lent course material, meeting mainly at the Lyons' house.** Please contact Cora, Alex or Suzanne if you would like to come along.

### **Lent Course - Draw Near - Life giving Habits for Lent**

This year we will be using the Church of England booklet Draw Near during the groups that meet in Lent. We will meet on Monday evenings at 7.15 at Alex & Suzanne Lyons' house, Tuesday afternoons at 2.00 at Jimmy's house and Thursday evenings at 7.30 at St George's Hall. The booklets will be available in each church. You can also download the material through the Church of England Everyday Faith app.

For apple <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/everyday-faith/id1336487241>

For android - [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.livelent&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.livelent&hl=en_GB)



**BINGO EVENING TO SUPPORT  
CHRISTIAN AID**

**FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2026**

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH HALL,  
FORDINGTON**

Doors open at 6 pm for 6.30 pm start.  
Bingo books can be purchased individually for £1 or a strip  
of six books cost £5 Raffle prizes too!  
Refreshments available throughout the evening.

**ALL PROCEEDS TO CHRISTIAN AID.**

### **Date for your diaries - St George's Day Fair,**

Saturday 25 April, 1 – 4pm If anybody has any leftover Christmas chocolates, biscuits or other goodies or maybe unwanted presents, please consider donating them as prizes for the raffle and tombola at the fair and future church events. Offers of help gratefully received as well. Thank you.

## **St Andrew's Church**

### **MORNING PRAYER**

Every Tuesday at 9.45am - all welcome.

### **PRIVATE PRAYER & REFLECTION**

The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm.

### **HOME COMMUNION**

If you are unable to go to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home then please contact Revd Cora Yarrien on 262421 or

email [revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com](mailto:revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com)

Gluten free wafers are available.

### **February**

22nd - 9am Holy Communion

Coffee & Chat - Saturday 14th February 10am to noon. All welcome.

**Lent Course - Draw Near - Life giving Habits for Lent**

Please see back page for details

**Vicar** - Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421 [revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com](mailto:revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com)

**Secretary** - Janet Ranger-Dennis 07752 634773 [janet.ranger@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janet.ranger@yahoo.co.uk)



### **St Simon and St Jude,**

### **Winterborne Monkton**

**Holy Communion** is celebrated

at **11.15am** on the first Sunday

of each month. The church is open

every weekend 10am-4pm

or by arrangement with Judy Norman 01305 262719

### ***Dorchester Strollers:***

***Monday 23rd February***

***10.30am Sandringham Bowling Club***

***Tuesday 24th February***

***2.15pm Borough Gardens by the Bandstand***



**Team Rector & St Peter, High West St:**

Revd Keith Magee 07766 645135

[Keith.magee@btinternet.com](mailto:Keith.magee@btinternet.com)

**St George, Fordington** Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421

[revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com](mailto:revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com)

**St Mary, Edward Road** Revd Jimmy Holden 01305 266502

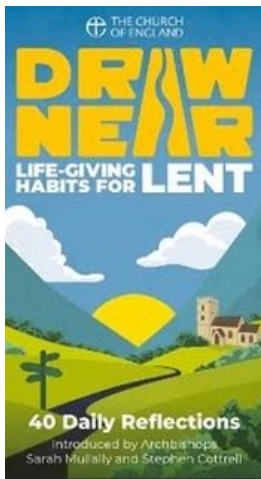
[revjimmyholden@gmail.com](mailto:revjimmyholden@gmail.com)

**St Andrew, West Stafford** Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421

[revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com](mailto:revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com)

**The Winterbournes and Compton Valence Churches** Rev Teresa StewartSykes

01305 549242 email [revteresa@outlook.com](mailto:revteresa@outlook.com)



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For android

- [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.livelent&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.livelent&hl=en_GB)

**Parish Office: 01305 250719** [dorchesterpcc@gmail.com](mailto:dorchesterpcc@gmail.com)

**open 9-1, Tues, Thur, Fri.** *Looked after by June Jenkins & Gill Hartnett*

**The Benefice Website:** [www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk](http://www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk)

QR code



<https://www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk/>

Don't forget that, on the Benefice website, you can find service times, news of the latest concerts and events, and recordings of sermons preached across our churches. <https://www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk/>

And, if you have news or an event to contribute, please email: [thedorchestermessenger@gmail.com](mailto:thedorchestermessenger@gmail.com)