

The Lower Nadder Benefice Newsletter 20th February 2026

Parishes of: St Martin - Barford St Martin with Burcombe, St Editha - Baverstock, St Michael - Compton Chamberlayne, St Mary – Dinton, St George - Fovant, All Saints - Sutton Mandeville, St Michael and all Angels Teffont Evias with St Edward of Wessex Teffont Magna

Worship in the Benefice

22nd February

09:30 Barford st Martin BCP Parish Communion

9:30 Dinton Morning Prayer

09:30 Fovant Parish Communion

11:15 Teffont Magna All Age Communion

On the First Sunday of Lent, we are invited into the desert with Jesus—a place of silence, testing, and deep encounter with God. Lent begins not with triumph, but with humility. It reminds us that before any resurrection, there is surrender; before any victory, there is trust.

The desert represents the spaces in our lives where we feel stretched, uncertain, or tempted. Yet it is precisely there that God speaks most clearly. Like Jesus, we are tempted to rely on power, comfort, or control. But Lent calls us to rely instead on God's word, God's wisdom, and God's will.

Lent is not about punishment; it is about transformation. Through prayer, fasting, and giving, we allow God to reshape our hearts.

The First Sunday of Lent gently asks: What do we truly hunger for? What voices are we listening to? Where is God inviting us to deeper trust?

As we continue through these forty days, may we walk with courage into whatever "desert" we face, confident that God is present there—and that the desert is not the end of the story, but the beginning of renewal.

**This week
Tuesday
March 3rd**



Saturday 18 July 2026

**A 'POP-UP' ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL TALK
BY PAUL CORDLE IN SUPPORT OF
THE BADGES FÊTE**



**Charles I being taken from St James's Palace to Whitehall for his
execution, 30th January 1649**

Paul Cordle will tell the gripping story of the King's execution and what followed until his son's return to England 11 years later.

Little did the King know, as he was being taken to Whitehall, that Parliament was even then voting to abolish the monarchy on his death; there would be no throne for his son Charles, then Prince of Wales, to occupy. The Monarchy and its royal treasures appeared to have no future in England.

This richly illustrated and fast moving talk will bring to life one of the most turbulent and romantic periods in our island's history. It will include little known artworks and insights into the execution and Charles II's escape to France, his nine year exile on the Continent, the Restoration of the Monarchy, his return to London in triumph and his Coronation (1661). It will touch on the repossession of royal treasures dispersed or sold by Parliament during the Commonwealth.

TUESDAY 3 MARCH
6.30pm for 6.45pm start

Compton Chamberlayne Village Hall

**Tickets: £12 cash/card
from anna.poole@btinternet.com**

(PROFITS DONATED TO THE BADGES FÊTE)

Cash bar available

LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS SO DON'T DELAY!

Others have said of Paul's talks:

'I recommend Paul as a speaker without reservation' MM

'A fascinating and compelling tale, beautifully told' JD

'As vivid as if it had happened only a few years ago' WM

For your Prayers

Over the past week much of our news has been taken up with the Royal Family. Continue to pray for them.

Despite lack of news coverage, war, violence, and disaster continue around the world. Pray for Sudan, S Sudan, Ukraine, Cameroon, Somalia

Pray for South African farmers following an outbreak of foot and mouth – pray that it will be contained.

Pray for Lindsay and Crag Foreman imprisoned in Iran.

Continue to pray for the Upper Nadder Benefice as they seek a Rector.



Collect

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.
Amen

Verse of the week

Matthew 4:1-2

Then Jesus was led up by the
Spirit into the wilderness to be
tempted by the devil. He fasted
for forty days and forty nights,
and afterwards he was
famished.

Dates for your Diary

15th March - Mothering Sunday

19th March - 2-4pm Tea and Chat Barford St Martin

29th March - Palm Sunday

3rd April - Good Friday

5th April - Easter Sunday

14th May - Ascension Day

24th May - Pentecost

20-21 June Benefice Flower Festival

18th July 12-4 The Badges Fete

12th September (t.b.c.) Ride and Stride



Save the date - only four months to go!
This year we have a major change of date. We are holding The Nadder Valley Flower and Produce Show on Saturday June 13th at 3.00pm at Fovant Village Hall.
Over the last two years, the hot summers, with very little rain, have not been good for gardening. With the earlier date, we are hoping that there will be more flowers and vegetables to exhibit. Look out for the Show Schedule and Entry Forms on Sutton Mandeville and Fovant websites from early March.



St Martin
Barford St Martin

Tea and Chat
Thursday 19th March
2-4pm

Bruce Percey will talk about
the work of the
Salisbury Street Pastors

There is no charge but donations
welcome for the ongoing work of
the church

Lower Nadder Benefice Worship

1st March

0800 Fovant Holy Communion
0930 Compton Chamberlayne Parish Communion
0930 Dinton All Age Communion
1115 am Barford st Martin All Age Communion
1600 Sutton Mandeville Hall Age Service

8th March

0930 Barford St Martin Morning Prayer
0930 Sutton Mandeville Morning Prayer
1115 Teffont Evias All Age Communion

15th March Mothering Sunday

1000 Benefice Communion service St Michael Compton Chamberlayne

22nd March

0930 Barford st Martin BCP Parish Communion
0930 Dinton Morning Prayer
0930 Fovant Parish Communion
1115 Teffont Magna All Age Communion

29th March Palm Sunday

1000 Benefice Communion Service ST Michael and All Angels Teffont Evias



Benefice Services 2026

10am

March 15th Mothering Sunday

St Michael - Compton Chamberlayne

March 29th Palm Sunday

St Michael and All Angels - Teffont Evias

April 19th

St George - Fovant

May 17th Rogation Sunday

All Saints - Sutton Mandeville

May 31st

St Martin - Barford St Martin with Burcombe

June 21st

St Mary - Dinton

July 19th

St Editha - Baverstock

August 16th

St Michael - Compton Chamberlayne

August 30th

St Michael and All Angels - Teffont Evias

September 20th

St George -Fovant

October 18th

All Saints - Sutton Mandeville

November 15th

St Martin- Barford st Martin with Burcombe