

St Clement's Monthly News

March 2026

March brings us into the second week of Lent and ends in Holy Week, so for the whole of the month we are walking alongside Jesus as he spends this time in the desert working out his future ministry after his Baptism by John in the River Jordan.



God had revealed to him as he emerged from the water that he was his Son, his chosen one, and Jesus needed to have time to pray and to consider how he was to respond to the responsibility God's call placed on him.

That is why, in these weeks of Lent we also need time to pray and consider how we should respond to God's call to us, in our time and place.

Perhaps we can find a short time in each day during Lent to close our eyes and imagine being with Jesus in the wilderness and engage our senses to see, hear and feel the same things that he saw, and heard and felt. Maybe, also to experience the loneliness and isolation and to feel the fear and anticipation of facing hostilities that lie ahead.

But first we see with him the beauty of creation. The sunrise and sunset, the moonrise and the stars described in Psalm 19 "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands". We can notice the kaleidoscope of colours with the sunlight reflecting on the sands and the rocks, see the lizards basking in the sunlight, insects scurrying between the stones and the birds flitting here and there singing their songs just for the joy of singing.

So we start our time on this walk with Jesus with a prayer of thanksgiving and praise for being in his presence among the beauty and wonder of creation.

As we continue to walk alongside him, can we, perhaps, begin to feel his loneliness, his hunger and his fear? Do we sense his wondering how to show God's love for the world and its people and to turn them around to change their selfishness and greed into kindness and generosity, and their desire for power into care for the underprivileged?

Do we hear with him the voice of temptation to satisfy his own needs first, turning stones into bread, to seek power by impressing people with feats of daring like leaping from a high pinnacle and being saved by angels, or to gather lots of possessions or by winning territory and ruling vast areas of land. Do we hear those temptations for ourselves, too? Putting ourselves first, impressing people with our successes or trying to gain power through possessions?

Our walk with Jesus allows us to reflect on his responses and to consider how we should respond to the temptations that face us.

Our time with Jesus in the desert during this month of Lent is a means of prayer asking guidance and strength to face all the temptations that come our way and be able to respond with the courage and faith that we receive from Jesus, as he accompanies us on our walk of faith.

Rev'd Cath

Diary for March

Sun 1st	10.30am	Eucharist Parish Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship Branch Church
Mon 2 nd	9.00am	Walking for Health
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 3 rd	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm	Lent Study Course at St Mary's
Wed 4 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee morning
	2.00pm	Mothers' Union service in church
Thurs 5 th	7.30pm	Evening Prayer for Lent
Fri 6 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 8th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 9 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 10 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm	Lent Study Course at St Mary's
Wed 11 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thurs 12 th	7.30pm	Evening Prayer for Lent
Fri 13 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 15th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 16 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 17 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm	Lent Study Course at St Mary's
Wed 18 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thur 19 th	2.00pm	Mothers' Union
	7.00pm	Men's Group "Dining Out"
	7.30pm	Evening Prayer for Lent
Fri 20 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 23 rd	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 24 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm	Lent Study Course at St Mary's
Wed 25 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thur 26 th	7.30pm	Evening Prayer for Lent
Fri 27 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 29th	10.30am	PALM SUNDAY EUCHARIST
Mon 30 th	9.00am	Walking for Health
	8.00pm	Night Prayer
Tues 31 st	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm	Hearing the Gospel of Matthew part 1 at St Mary's (Part 2 on Wed 1 st April)

THE BRANCH CHURCH HUMPHREY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Morning Worship

10.30am Sun. March 1st

Brownies 6.00pm Every Tuesday

Meeting in the Parish Hall

Contact Samantha

Surmstonbrownies@gmail.com

LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Tuesdays 3rd to 24th March

7.30pm Lent Study Course "Draw Near"
continues at St Mary's Church

Thursdays 5th to 26th March

7.30pm Evening Prayer for Lent
continues at St Clement's Church

Sunday March 15th

10.30am Mothering Sunday Eucharist

Palm Sunday March 29th

10.30am Eucharist with Palms

HOLY WEEK

Mon 30th March – 8pm Night Prayer

Tues 31st March – 7.30pm Hearing the
Gospel of Matthew part 1 at St Mary's

Wed 1st April 10.15am Eucharist

7.30pm Hearing the Gospel of Matthew
part 2 at St Mary's

8pm Night Prayer at St Clement's

Maundy Thurs 2nd April

7.30pm Eucharist & Watch

Good Friday 3rd April

2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Eve 7.30pm at St Mary's

Eucharist & Renewal of Baptismal Vows

EASTER SUNDAY 10.30am Eucharist