

Services and Readings for April

Date	Time	Service	Readings
1 st February Presentation of Christ in the Temple	8am 10am 4pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Peter's Praise	Malachi 3. 1-5 Luke 2. 22-40
2 nd February 4 th February	7pm 10am	Evening Prayer Holy Communion	2 Sam 24. 2, 9-17 Mark 6. 1-6a
8 th February 2 before Lent	8am 10am 4pm 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Peter's Praise Choral Evensong	Romans 8. 18-25 Matthew 6. 25-end Genesis 1. 1-2.3 Matthew 6. 25-end Psalm 148. Proverbs 8.1,22-31 Revelation 4
9 th February 11 th February	7pm 10am	Evening Prayer Holy Communion	1 Kings 10. 1-10 Mark 7. 14-23
15 th February Sunday next before Lent	8am 10am 4pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Peter's Praise	2 Peter 1. 16-end Matthew 17. 1-9
16 th February 18 th February Ash Wednesday	7pm 10am 7pm	Evening Prayer Holy Communion with ashing Holy Communion with ashing	Isaiah 58. 1-12 Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-21
22 nd February Lent 1	8am 10am 4pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Wild Worship	Genesis 3. 1-7 Matthew 4. 1-11
23 rd February 25 th February	7pm 10am	Evening Prayer Holy Communion	Jonah 3 Luke 11. 29-32

Pastoral Concern?

If you or someone you know need support, or communion at home or in hospital, please call Sue or Canon Beverley

Anna Chaplain and Lay Pastors' Coordinator
Sue Pinington, 07710 774990

Safeguarding

Everybody has the right to be safe from harm. If you or someone you know might not be safe, call Joy or Canon Beverley

Parish Safeguarding Officer
Joy Matsell, 07906 378617

Life Groups:

If you are interested in joining a Life Group, contact
Wendy Wheeler,
07711 828985

February Diary

February 7th 3pm

WFVRA magic show in the Hall

February 10th

2pm Tea@2 in the Hervey Room

7pm PCC meeting in the Hall

February 11th 11am SPOT

meeting in the Hervey Room

February 17th 2.15pm Mothers'

Union in the Hervey Room

7.30pm Weston Favell Garden Society in the Hall

February 19th

2pm Bible Book Group

February 21st

12pm Lent Lunch 1 (details TBC)

February 23rd 6.30pm Lent

Reflection in Church

February 25th 2.15pm Songs of Praise at St John's

February 28th

12pm Lent Lunch 1 (details TBC)

Every Tuesday and Thursday –
Morning Prayer on Facebook 9am

Every Wednesday in term time –

1.30pm Tiny Tots

Every Thursday -

11am Holy Communion at St John's

7pm Choir Practice – term time only (6.30pm for school age choristers)

1st and 3rd Sundays - Youth Café for Years 6-8 6.30pm at the Church Hall & Youth Life for Years 9 and above at The Rectory (February 1st & 15th). Term time only.

Contact Us

The Church Office in the Church Hall is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (term time) 9am-12pm.

Parish Administrator:

Cathy de Maid 01604 787117
stpeterswestonfavell@yahoo.co.uk

Website www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16484

or find us on Facebook search 'St Peter's, Weston Favell'

Introduction: Welcome to our February newsletter!

This month begins with Candlemas – the official end of the Christmas/Epiphany season. We hear again the prophecy of Simeon over the infant Jesus, that Jesus would bring immeasurable change to Israel, but that change would be the salvation of God's people and shine a light that would bring people from every nation and culture into God's kingdom. In 2026 we continue to give thanks for Jesus who gives us salvation, and tasks us with shining his light for all to see.

Elsewhere in the newsletter there are pointers to ways that you can keep growing as disciples in the coming year. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. Perhaps you can use Lent as an opportunity to pray for your own life as a disciple and for one another, so that we can grow stronger as a church and be a bright shaft of Christ's light to lighten our community.

Please pray too for our new Archbishop, Sarah Mullally, as she begins the challenging work of leading the Church of England. Her first big challenge will be the meeting of General Synod this month, and I invite you to pray for that too. Among the items on the agenda will be the ending of the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process. LLF has been an exploration of how we are called to welcome everyone, no matter what profession, race, gender, sexuality or anything else that is a difference from one of us to the next. Many people on both sides of what has become a very partisan debate are disappointed that there haven't been clear outcomes from the process, and the next Synod (following elections in the summer) will have the task of thinking about fresh ways to explore how to move forward together.

Your Lent prayer journey might lead you to a place where you want to be a part of all of this. One way is to stand for Deanery Synod, which is the electorate for General Synod – or to stand for General Synod

itself. More on this next month, or come and have a chat with me about it!

Finally, as this month begins, our schools team are midway through our annual Shakespeare prayer stations. The church will be closed for prayer between February 2nd and 4th, while children from schools all over the area visit us. Please pray for the project, that all the children who experience it will experience the spirit of God and that the leaders will have the wisdom and stamina we need during three weeks of intensive work.

May God bless you this month

Canon Beverley

Bible verse of the month

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the
beginning. Through him all
things were made;
without him nothing was made
that has been made.

John 1:1-3

As we begin our All Age journey through the stages of God's Kingdom, we take time to think about the absolute awe of God's creation. Scientists use 'big bang' as a shorthand for something that we now understand wasn't big, and didn't go bang! Genesis offers us images of God speaking us into being, breathing life into us, pouring out his love and creativity and making something very good. And in all these aeons of growth John tells us, Jesus, the Word was an active participant. All things came into existence through him. From long before he took on human life Jesus was giving life not just to us but to everything that lives. So in Jesus we are linked to all creation. As you reflect on that, how does it make you feel about your relationship to the world around you this month?

Canon Beverley

All Age Services

At St Peter's every service is an all age service in the true sense of the word. Everyone of every age and stage of life and faith is welcome whenever we get together. But we know that different people prefer different kinds of service, and some styles are more helpful than others depending on each person's needs. This is why every week we offer services with very different styles, all part of our whole family of faith.

This year we have introduced a service we are calling the 'All Age Service', not because the other services aren't for everyone, but because people, especially those who don't regularly go to church, understand the phrase as telling them that this service will be lively, with contemporary songs, an interactive talk and lots of participation by children. Our All Age Service is on the second Sunday of the month at 10am and remains a communion service, though children stay in church throughout.

We are working on a programme of school participation from our church school, Weston Favell Primary School, who will help to lead some of the services. This year we are using a learning tool that is also being explored in school: The Big Frieze. With the help of the children, we'll explore the eight panels on the frieze and learn together about the 8 stages of God's kingdom, starting in February with Creation. A copy of the Big Frieze artwork is on display in the Church Hall and will be used at Peter's Praise services, which will explore each All Age theme in greater depth.

Uniformed organisations have been invited to attend these services as Parade services if they wish to, as it fits in with their programmes.

Confirmation 2026

There will be a service of confirmation at St Peter's on Sunday 21st June at 10am. We're joining forces with St Alban's church, Broadmead Avenue, for this service, as they are currently without a vicar.

There will be confirmation classes using the Youth Emmaus course for teenagers aged between 14 and 18 at the Rectory on 1st and 3rd Sundays 6.30-8pm (at Youth Life meetings). Revd Hilary will be leading this course, assisted by Canon Beverley.

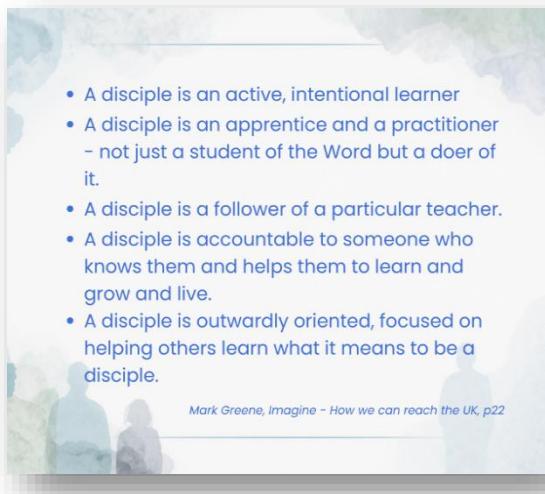
Adult candidates are invited to the Emmaus course which will be run by Canon Beverley, assisted by Canon Michael, over a selection of Wednesday evenings between February 25th and June 17th in the Lady Chapel at St Albans church. A flyer including a list of dates is available in church and information will also be available via the website. Candidates who aren't sure about confirmation but would like to learn about the faith are welcome to join in – firm commitment to be confirmed won't be asked for until much closer to the time. Join us to explore the faith.

Emmaus Companions

One of the principles of this course is that every candidate should have another church member alongside them who has been on the Christian journey for a good while and will be their companion in prayer and particular support. Candidates might have a person they would like to do this – please speak to that person and get them to put the dates in the diary. Please let Canon Beverley know who you are asking so that they can be invited to the introductory session for companions on February 11th. Companions should not have more than one person they are journeying with. Some candidates may not have a person in mind, and so Canon Beverley would also be very glad to hear from church members who would be willing to service as companions and to be allocated to a candidate – amazing new friendships have grown from making this journey with someone you haven't met before – it is a great experience!

Lent reflections

As we consider what it means to be a disciple this year, we are offering a series of Lent reflections using some definitions of discipleship from Mark Greene's book 'Imagine'. Each short reflection will be about the reflector's thoughts and experience, and offer pointers for you to reflect on yourself as you consider your life as a disciple.



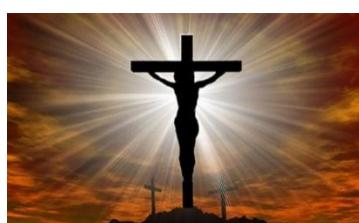
You can hear the reflections live in church on Monday evenings at 6.30pm, starting on Monday February 22nd. A filmed version of each reflection will be made available via our YouTube channel shortly afterwards.

Sunday 6pm Services 2026

Each month we hold a service at 6pm on a Sunday. We have already had a Choral Evensong service in January but here are the dates for the rest of the year:

8th February – Choral Evensong celebrating Creation

8th March – Choral Evensong for Lent



29th March – Music and Readings based on the Seven Last Words from the Cross

10th May – Spring Songs of Praise

14th June – Choral Evensong

12th July – Choral Evensong for the end of the academic year

13th September – Choral Evensong



11th October – Harvest Songs of Praise

1st November – All Souls Memorial Service



8th November – Holy Communion with Fauré's Requiem

29th November – Advent Candlelit Carol Service



20th December – Candlelit Service of 9 Lessons and Carols

You are very welcome to attend any of these services. More information about them will be advertised as each date approaches but if you've never been to a Choral Evensong service do come along on 8th February and find out what it's like.

I am currently collating a list of people who would like to receive reminders of these services. If you would like to be included in this list, please contact me via Cathy in the Church Office or by email:

clarepearce.stpeters@gmail.com

Discipleship in small groups

There are a number of opportunities to meet together with others in small groups (Life Groups), which meet at times agreed by members. A monthly daytime group meets at the home of Jim Sterling. Other groups are more ad hoc, meeting according to member availability, daytime or evening. Some of these groups will be looking at discipleship using a Methodist resource called 'Time to Talk of God', which is full of helpful insights on our lives as disciples of God. If you would be interested in joining a small group please contact Wendy Wheeler, our Life Groups coordinator.



Committee Update

News from the groups that make us tick!

This Lent, **A Rocha** encourage us to take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation. If you sign up, from 5th March, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season. Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation. Find out more and sign up at: climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/



St Peter's Eco group welcomes more volunteers so if anyone is interested, please contact Lorraine Bewley-Tippler.

Lent Lunches Update



21st & 28th February (still available)

7th March: Janet Kirkland
(Northamptonshire Search and Rescue):



Northamptonshire Search and Rescue (NSAR) is a local volunteer charity that works alongside our emergency services to find missing and vulnerable people across the county. NSAR volunteers are on call day and night, responding willingly when requested by Police, Fire & Rescue, or Ambulance Services. They search towns, countryside and open spaces, and deploy specialist water and search dog teams when needed, all to bring people home safely. As a completely volunteer-run organisation, NSAR depends on fundraising to maintain their vehicles, equipment and training. So when you come along to our soup lunch, you won't just be enjoying a warming meal you'll be supporting a very local charity that helps people when they need it most. Come hungry, leave happy, and help us raise vital funds for Northamptonshire Search and Rescue.

14th March: Natasha Henson
(The Fire Fighter's Charity):



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

Ensuring firefighters (serving and retired) get the right support, delivered in the right way and at the right time. This is the cornerstone on which our support philosophy is based.

21st March: Clare Pearce
(Mothers' Union Charities):



On Saturday 21st March money raised at our Lent Lunch will be shared between three very worthy causes. Our church branch of Mothers' Union has committed to provide food parcels for each school holiday for 6 families identified by staff at Weston Favell Academy as being in need of additional support. It would be great if, with your support, we could help more families!

We will also be raising money for two Mothers' Union projects. The Away From It



All (AFIA) scheme is one of Mothers' Union's longest-running projects, primarily funded by MU members. The scheme supports families through the provision of holidays and trips,

offering much needed respite to people unable to afford or access a break due to difficult circumstances. Some families may be facing adversity, health problems, economic hardship, bereavement, health issues or other life-changing circumstances.

The global Mothers' Union Literacy Education Programme has been giving a holistic approach to empowering some of the most marginalised communities in the world whilst meeting the Millennium

Development Goals. The programme uses participatory methods to enable communities to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills whilst discussing and planning action on their daily issues and challenges.



Literacy circles are open to everyone, crossing the boundaries of religion, age, gender or tribe, enabling community unity. The programme has been

especially effective in reaching the most marginalised in society, including groups previously discriminated against and displaced communities.

Do join us on Saturday 21st to enjoy fellowship as well as delicious soups. There will also be an opportunity to browse and buy from our bookstall. If you are not able to be there on the day, donations can be made either via Cathy in the Church Office or given to Clare Pearce.

28th March: Sue Griffiths

(Wings of Hope)



Christian Aid Changemakers Conference 2026

Join fellow supporters for the official launch of Christian Aid Week 2026 on Saturday 14th March. Hear powerful stories of change, explore creative fundraising ideas, and learn how together we can beat poverty. This interactive event will be live-streamed and Christian Aid supporters across Northants are invited to come along to a Regional Watch Party at the Abbey Centre, Northampton from 10am - 1pm, with refreshments and lunch provided.

Contact Wendy Wheeler to reserve a place (wendyw2@hotmail.co.uk or 07711 828985)

Team

Rector: Revd. Canon Beverley Hollins
07887 740117

Churchwardens:
Joy Matsell & Phil Norris

Lay Vice Chair:
John Fazackerley

Assistant Priests
Revd. Canon Michael Webber

Revd. Doug Spenceley
Assistant Curate
Revd Dr Hilary Halstead

Lay Ministers
Clare Pearce
Sue Pinington