



The Parish of St David, Exeter Your Weekly Update for Sunday, 15 March 2026

Sunday, 15 March – Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

- 9.30am Parish Communion with celebrant Sarah Cumming and preacher Suki Coe
- 6pm Evening Prayer led by Robert Mitchell

Tuesday, 17 March - 9.00-9.30am - Zoom Morning Prayer

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 793 3232 0236

Passcode: 2TZppq

Thursday, 19 March

- 10.30am Holy Communion led by Sarah Cumming and preacher Mike Clark

Sunday, 22 March -

- 9.30am Parish Communion with celebrant Mike Clark and preacher Ian Cartwright
- 6pm Evening Prayer led by Ian Cartwright

Follow for services this week at:- [St Michael's and All Angels CD](#)

Messages from the Vicar and Churchwardens

Services for Holy Week and Easter:

Palm Sunday - 29 March

9.30am – Parish Eucharist

6pm – Evening Prayer

Maundy Thursday - 2 April

10.30am – Holy Communion

7pm – Eucharist with Foot Washing & Watch

Good Friday - 3 April

2pm – Meditation with Hymns

Easter Sunday - 5 April

9.30am – Easter Eucharist

6pm – Evening Prayer

Holy Saturday – Please Invite your family and friends to come along to an afternoon of free Easter craft activities with a free Easter egg hunt on **Saturday 4 April, 2-4pm!**

A call for creative talent! – Sarah is hoping to create Reflection Spaces around the church which present the events of Palm Sunday to Easter Day. Please speak to her if you would like to hear more and to get involved.

Pastoral Re-organisation - we are now in the final stages of the re-organisation of the parish and the creation of a new parish of St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham. At this point we are required to give formal notice of the plans and put them on display. This is the formal notice:

"A Notice giving the objects of proposed pastoral reorganisation affecting this parish has been displayed near the main door and on the Church of England website. The Notice includes the last date by which representations regarding the proposed reorganisation may be made to the Church Commissioners."

This date is the 13th of April. St Davids PCC has unanimously approved the plan, the details of which are in the pink labelled folder on the round table if you wish to view them. The draft Scheme with Map and Notice P76 can also be found on the [home page](#) of our website.

John Hammond – There will be a memorial service in church for John on **Friday 20th March** at 11.30 am. All are welcome.

University Students' Group – the next meeting will be **Thursday, 26 March** - 7pm in church. There will be food! Talk to one of the clergy if you would like to know more. The first gathering after the Easter break will be Thursday 7th May when Bishop Mike will be joining us.

Church Spruce-up – Paula Lawford and Susan Veitch are organising another big clean of the church on **Saturday, 28 March** (the day before Palm Sunday), 10-12 noon, so it will be all spruced up for Easter. Do come if you can for however long you can. A sign-up sheet is at the back of the church. Many thanks to everyone who has signed up so far – please don't forget to do so if you haven't already and are able to help so the work can be planned. Refreshments will be available.

Parish Magazine – Don't forget to pick up your copy of the March edition, now out. A big 'thank you' to our Editorial team. Donations of the cover price in the wall box gratefully received.

Church Electoral Roll – We will be revising the Electoral Roll for St David's during April. Ahead of this, if there are any new members of the congregation who would like to join the electoral roll, there are forms at the back of church, or speak to Sue Wilson or Alice Francis.

Visiting and Home Communion – If you would like to be visited or phoned by someone from the church community, please let Mike Clark know on 07889 570159 or by emailing mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org. For Communion at home, either for yourself or someone you know, please contact Ian Cartwright on 07813 795616.

Welcome – We are still looking for another couple of people to join the Welcome team. This is a vital part of our ministry, and an important role so please do think about it. If you might be interested, please see Sue Wilson or the Churchwardens.

Covid/colds and flu – If you're feeling under the weather, please prioritise your rest and join us from home to keep our community healthy!

Upcoming Events

Parish Quiz Night – Tickets (£10 to include supper) are now on sale in church for our popular night on **Friday, 20 March**. Payment by card is available. You can also email to reserve tickets: admin@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk.

Women's Breakfast – the next breakfast will be on **Saturday, 21 March** at 9am at [Sylvania Community Store and Café](#). You are very welcome to come and join us.

Visit to Salisbury – Following the St. David's Church visit to Sherborne Abbey last year and the visit to Exeter Cathedral and Tuckers Hall last October Robin Thomas is arranging a visit to Salisbury Cathedral on **Tuesday, 24 March**.

You will travel by an 0930 train, a minibus transfer to Salisbury Museum Cafe for coffee/tea, a guided tour of Salisbury Cathedral and the Magna Carta, lunch

at Salisbury Museum Cafe, (or bring your own picnic lunch), free time to visit [Mompesson House](#) (National Trust) or sight-seeing/shopping in Salisbury and a return by train to Exeter by 1745. The cost to cover group train fare, minibus transfers, coffees/teas, guided Cathedral tour and lunch is £65.00 or £45.00 if you bring a picnic lunch. A sign-up sheet is available at the back of church.

Any queries please email Robin at robindthomas@me.com or phone on 07834 556532.

Parish Lunch - The next parish lunch will be on **Thursday 26 March** at the Farmers Union at 12 noon. There will sign-up sheet at the back of church with a menu, as soon as I've been able to obtain an updated version from the Farmers Union. Please can people let me know their menu choices by *Sunday 22 March*.

Men's Breakfast – the next is on **Saturday, 4 April**, 9.00am at the Imperial. Contact Alan Baker if you would like a reminder - alan.baker1963@outlook.com.

Tuesday Friendship Café – the next 'Try It Out Tuesday' will be on **date tbc**. This event is run in partnership with Exeter College Community and Partnerships. All welcome.

Wednesday Walks – Wednesday walkers enjoy convivial conversation, gentle strolls, the changing of the seasons and a coffee together. Everyone welcome! We meet at 9am at the door at the west end of St David's and leave promptly. Please just turn up or speak to Helena in church.

In Roots and Shoots:

Mothers' Union Belonging Campaign for Mothering Sunday

This coming Sunday (15 March) is Mothering Sunday and the Mothers' Union charity is encouraging people to donate to its Belonging Campaign, which aims to help young mothers across Rwanda. The charity says "Mothering Sunday is a chance for us to come together each year and celebrate motherhood and the power of community.

"It's also a day of deep emotions for many of us, as we think about the mothers around the world raising their children in difficult circumstances. This Mothering Sunday, we are holding in mind teenage

mothers in Rwanda, where 5% of girls aged 15–19 have begun childbearing. Many women long for the comfort and protection of family, yet find themselves facing motherhood alone, at the very moment they most need love, care and support. "

[Find out more about the Belonging Campaign here.](#)

Your Prayers are asked for...

Those who are suffering including:

Caroline Speed-Andrews; Ann Barnet, Libby Clapham; Andrew Francis; Hazel Gowland; Eileen Jarman; Anne Smith; Clive and Jeanie; Beth; Charlotte, Paul and Grace; Will, Dave.

Those who have died recently:

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer please pray for:

Choirs, Instrumental group, and all church musicians

Please also pray for:

Our church

Our country and its leaders, both political and religious;

Our world, for wisdom for its leaders and a wish for peace not war.

Sunday, 15 March – Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday

Collect

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
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.

1st Reading – Exodus 2.1-10

Birth and Youth of Moses

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Gospel Reading – Luke 2.33-35

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Post Communion

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please tell us
at notices@stdavidchurchexeter.org.uk

Please send notices/content/prayer requests or amendments to Mike at mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org

(All readings can be found via Bible Gateway <https://www.biblegateway.com> in the New Revised Standard Version (anglicized edition))

Sermon with baptism from Sunday, 8 March by Sarah Cumming

In many ways the story we've just heard is a straightforward tale of everyday things.

A man is on a journey with his friends, he rests by a historic well - it's a well-known spot for significant meetings - while his companions go off to buy food. He's thirsty. Ironically, he's next to water but without any means of reaching it. Yet as luck would have it, a woman approaches with a bucket. She's approaching in the midday sun, isolated from other women who would complete this task in the cooler morning air. She's got a colourful past and a unconventional life, and she's awkward about their cultural differences. On one level they both need the water from the well. Jesus recognises her deeper need for the living water that only he can give.

He speaks of a spring of water gushing up to eternal life. It is the water of salvation which brings more than immediate refreshment. Like the water of baptism, this water represents the Holy Spirit at work within us, bringing new life and the assurance of God's love.

It takes her a while to catch on. She's heard the stories of the expected Messiah, who will give the gift of life that won't run out or need replenishing. She speaks with hope and expectation -

- what are you hoping for? Maybe today, here, is an opportunity for each of us to reflect, to engage.

Jesus speaks to the woman of her past: nothing is hidden, it is all held within the loving arms of God.

Of course she asks questions. And then she runs! Drops her bucket and runs to share her story.

The villagers believe because of the woman's testimony -

- what is your response?

Pete, Michelle and Albie's Godparents will make promises today. Later on many of us will declare faith in God, something we haven't got completely sorted but something we are prepared to bet on.

In reality, Albie is unlikely to remember the day of his baptism. But he too will hear the story, growing up with the support of his family and friends. He'll see the special candle to remind him of God's love. It won't be long before he'll look at the photos of his Godparents and family, and laugh at the fashions from the olden days.

He'll hear other stories of lives changed in surprising and sometimes startling ways by an encounter with the living God, who draws each of us into a new community and identity, and he'll reach his own conclusions. Then, we pray, maybe one day say:

'It is no longer because of what you said that I believe, for I have heard for myself, and know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Amen