

## March 2026

### Vicar's Voice

As we enter more fully into the season of Lent, between Ash Wednesday and Easter, we are invited into a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Rooted in the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, Lent encourages us to slow down, pray more deeply, and examine our lives with honesty and hope. Traditionally marked by fasting, prayer, and acts of generosity, this season is not meant to be gloomy, but purposeful. It is a journey that prepares our hearts for the joy of Easter, reminding us that growth often comes through discipline, simplicity, and quiet faithfulness.



Within this reflective season falls Mothering Sunday, a day that carries both historical and spiritual significance. Originally, it was the time when people returned to their 'mother church' reconnecting with the place where their faith was nurtured. Over time, it also became a day to honour mothers and all those who offer care, guidance, and love in our lives.

The placement of Mothering Sunday in the middle of Lent is no accident. It serves as a gentle pause in the penitential journey, offering a moment of encouragement and thanksgiving. While Lent calls us to self-examination and sacrifice, Mothering Sunday reminds us of compassion, nurture, and the sustaining grace of community. It highlights the Church as a spiritual mother: welcoming, teaching, and supporting us as we grow in faith.

In observing Lent and celebrating Mothering Sunday, we are reminded that the Christian life is held in balance: repentance and joy, discipline and tenderness, reflection and gratitude. As we continue through this season, may we embrace both the challenge of Lent and the comfort of belonging — to God, to the Church, and to one another.

**David**

## Used Postage Stamps

Carmel Church thank you for collecting the used postage stamps which Keith Pickup has been taking down to them. The stamps collected will be sold and the money raised used to support a missionary group in Malawi called Jesus for All Missions, mainly for travelling expenses as the distances to travel are vast - The area they cover is from Mozambique up to Malawi and as far south as South Africa - Any surplus will be put towards a conference centre in Malawi.

The team is not only spreading the Good News but encouraging the believers in outlying regions to stand firm in their Faith.

## Prayer Saturdays

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026** Starts at 10 am with private prayer until 10.45 am when refreshments are available. Following this there is the opportunity to share concerns and issues which need prayer. All are welcome, feel free to drop in for however long you can manage.

## Church Work Party

The next Church Work Party will be on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 9.00am.**

In February the following jobs were completed

- Tidying the corner near the Sound desk.
- Further checks and enhancements to the emergency lighting system.
- Putting a back on the trolley which holds the service books and bibles.
- Cleaning the silverware and some of the brass
- Dusting and cleaning the chairs.
- Removing loose paint from the wall at the back of church.
- Tidying the garden by the clock.
- Cleaning the fridge
- Last but not least a welcome brew and time of fellowship.

We hope you will be able to come along in March.

## Lent at St Andrew's

We continue a series of 5 Lent Meetings which take place in St Andrew's Church at 3pm each Sunday afternoon starting at 3.00 pm. The second session will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

If you are unable to make Sunday the same course is running at All Saints on Saturdays at 10.30 am.

## Service and Coffee Morning on Wednesday mornings

Just to remind you that the mid week service in St Andrew's Church is at 10.30 am every Wednesday and this will be followed by coffee morning from about 11.20 am til 1.00 pm.

## St Andrew's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Will take place in church on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April after the 10.00 am Service at about 11.30 am.**

We will need to elect people to the following posts at the APCM and the PCC meeting immediately afterwards.

Warden, Deanery Synod representatives, PCC members, Electoral Roll Officer, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Parish Safeguarding Officer.

We would also like volunteers for sides people, refreshments after the Sunday service, prayer rota and reading.

Please prayerfully consider if you could fulfil any of these roles. For further information please ask the Current Wardens or PCC members. Nomination sheets will be available nearer the time. Also a reminder that just before the APCM the electoral roll will close and only people on the roll can vote at the meeting. If you are not on the roll but would like to be then please ask Sue Barnes for an application form.

**'Til the whole world knows  
Philippa Hanna tour**



**Comes to St Andrew's Church**

**On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 @ 7.00 pm**

**See poster for more details**

**A limited number of tickets are available from Sue Leighton**

**More available on Eventbrite**

# Diary of Services in Church in February 2026

Please note funerals can be arranged at short notice

## Lent 2

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 am	Morning Prayer	Vince Ryder
	3.00 pm	Lent Bible Study (2)	Rev David Ridley
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Prayer	Sue Leighton
	11.20 am	Coffee Morning	TBA
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Prayer Meeting	Vince Ryder

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## Lent 3

Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Rev David Ridley
	3.00 pm	Lent Bible Study (3)	Rev David Ridley
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	Rev David Ridley (Chairman)
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Rev David Ridley
	11.20 am	Coffee Morning	Ann Lucas

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## Mothering Sunday

Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Morning Prayer	John Roberts
	3.00 pm	Lent Bible Study (4)	Rev David Ridley
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Prayer	Sue Leighton
	11.20 am	Coffee Morning	Ann Lucas

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Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.00 am	Church Working Party	Ann Lucas
Passion Sunday			
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Rev David Ridley
	3.00 pm	Lent Bible Study (5)	Rev David Ridley
Annunciation			
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St Andrew's School Choir Rehearsal	
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Rev David Ridley
	11.20 am	Coffee Morning	Ann Lucas
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	St Andrew's School Easter Service	

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## Palm Sunday

Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Morning Prayer	Vince Ryder
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## Easter Services

Maundy Thursday			
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00 pm	Shared Meal and Communion	Rev David Ridley
Good Friday			
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 am	Journey to the Cross	Rev David Ridley
Easter Saturday			
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Prayer Saturday	Vince Ryder
Easter Sunday			
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Early morning at the cross	Rev David Ridley
	10.00 am	Easter Communion	Rev David Ridley