

The parish of St André de la Pommeraye

www.standrewschurchguernsey.org



Newsletter for Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday), 15 March 2026

The Rector writes ...

Spring is sprung. Guernsey is gloriously awash with daffodils in all shapes and sizes and varieties of colour. Some in crowds. Some alone. Just like her human inhabitants.



Today is both the fourth Sunday of Lent and Mothering Sunday.

In spite of the adverts for Mothering Sunday flowers and lunches, and the cards in the shops for the last few weeks, I know that Mothering Sunday is a difficult day for many, including those whose mothers have died recently, those who have had difficult relationships with their mothers, women who have not been able to give birth a longed-for child, and many more.

Even the offering of flowers in church, a Mothering Sunday custom of recent years, is not without problems. So I hope that those who attend the 10 am service will be able to receive the flowers as a sign of God's love for each one of us. No more. No less. Because that is everything.

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As the current crisis in the Middle East continues, with devastating consequences for so many people, I urge us all to pray. I repeat from last week the words of the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, who was born in Iran – her father was the Bishop in Iran. She came to England with her family in 1980, after her 24 year old brother, Bahram, was murdered by Iranian government agents.

Ever-loving God,
who hears us in our anguish and distress,
and longs for us to be free.
We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East,
at this time of fear and uncertainty.
Be near to those who are anxious;
bring comfort to all who are suffering.
Guide those with the power to make decisions,
and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation:
that people of goodwill would seek harmony and reconciliation.
Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places,
in praying for peace with justice,
through him who is the prince of peace,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lent lunches

There will be two Lent lunches at the Rectory this year – on Thursdays 19 and 25 March, starting at 12 noon.



This week

Sunday 15 March	Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)
	8.00 am Holy Communion
	10.00 am Holy Communion
Thursday 19 March	12 noon Lent lunch at the Rectory – all welcome
Sunday 22 March	Lent 5
	8.00 am Holy Communion
	10.00 am Holy Communion

Holy Communion, and laying on of hands and prayers for healing on Wednesday at 10.30 am at the **Monnaie Chapel**. The Monnaie Chapel is a remarkable place – accessed off the Rue du Monnaie (halfway up the road, on the left, when approaching from Les Poidevins).

Clearing the Rectory garage

As part of the preparation for my departure, Sharon Harvey, Jeremy Witham and John Campbell have been looking at the collection of church equipment that is stored in the Rectory garage. The garage must be cleared by the end of July, when the property is handed back to the Constables of St Andrew who, as you will be aware, are marketing the property.

Whilst there are some things in the garage that may be useful, such as the grey stacking plastic chairs and the folding ‘Gopak’ tables (which we may be able to store in a shed which may possibly be erected in a corner of the upper churchyard), it is difficult to imagine that we will have any use in the future for things such as the heavy trestle tables and card tables, a couple of snooker tables, and some cupboards. There are also some ladders and gazebos. We need to dispose of these, as there will be nowhere to store them on site

If anyone is interested in acquiring any of the stuff in the garage, or knows of organisations in Guernsey that might be able to use the surplus tables and chairs, please contact Jeremy, John or me. A full inventory is available. Obviously we would like to sell the surplus equipment, but the priority is to empty the garage.

Around the island ...

There are posters in church about various forthcoming events.

Unlocking the Bible for Ourselves
-
With Andrew Ollerton

Sat 25 April
9am - 1230pm
Holy Trinity Church

Sign up today (scan the QR code)

holytrinity.org.gg/Bible

Unlocking the Bible for ourselves - with over 5 billion copies sold, no other book is as timelessly relevant to our lives as the Bible. Yet unpacking the depths of wisdom in its pages can be challenging and overwhelming. That's why we are delighted to welcome Dr Andrew Ollerton from the Bible Society to Guernsey to lead a morning focused on unlocking the Bible - helping us to

make sense of it, read it and apply it to our lives in practical ways. This event will be at Trinity Church on **Saturday 25 April** from 9 am to 12.30 pm. For more details and to sign up please go to www.holytrinity.org.gg

Prayers for the week

A prayer for the week:

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Please pray

- for our observance of Lent, and the opportunity to deepen our faith during this season, and for enjoyment of the Lent lunches;
- for Sir Richard McMahon, the Bailiff, and for the members of the Royal Court, judges and jurats, in their weighty responsibilities;
- for all who are struggling with the rising costs of heating oil and motor fuel;
- for the people of Iran and the surrounding countries and for an end to the war and violence;
- for the people of Ukraine, as the conflict in that land continues, overshadowed by the war in the Middle East.

We pray

- in the **Guernsey churches prayer cycle**, for all parents and families in Guernse ;
- for all who live in the **parish of St Andrew** and for our church community, and for our constables and douzeniers;
- for those for whom our prayers have been requested:
 - Dennis Parton, Mike O'Hara, David Harvey, and Godfray Guilbert;
 - church members: Cathy Belcher, and Audrey Gollop;
 - friends and family: Emma, Jean Walsh, Stina Holmes, Elisa, Pauline, George Maiden, Georgina, David, Fletch O'Hara, and Chris and Diane Lesbirel.

Finally ...

I am presiding and preaching at the morning services at St Stephen's church today, whilst Fr Joe Thompson is in South Africa for family business. I am most grateful to Juliette Robilliard for taking the services at St Andrew's church today.

And thanks to Val, June, Sharon and Judy for preparing the bunches of flowers which we will distribute on Sunday.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Tim

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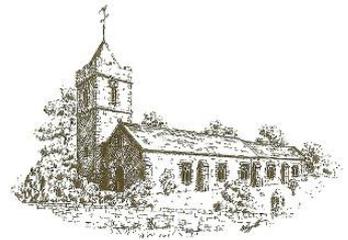
The Very Revd Tim Barker, The Rectory, Route de St André, St Andrew, GY6 8XN
01481 238568 | 07781 166095 | dean@deanery.gg

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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.



Hymns and liturgy at 10 am

Creed	1 (Said)		
Sanctus, etc	Sung to the usual setting		
1	136	Fathers and mothers	Tune: Bunessan
2	137	God of Eve and God of Mary	Tune: Love Divine
3	595	Be thou my vision	Tune: Slane
4	138	Our Father God in heaven	Tune Ellacombe

Readings

New Testament reading: St Paul’s letter to the Ephesians chapter 5 verses 8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light-for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake!
 Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

Gospel: St Luke chapter 2 verses 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.’

Prayer after 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.