

8th March 2026



Editorial

3rd Sunday of Lent

Reading: John 4 v 5-30, 39-42

We are so blessed to have access to clean and fresh running water in our homes. All we have to do is turn on the tap and we get running water instantly. A constant supply of clean fresh running water is so important because water quickly goes off, and can very quickly turn dirty, stagnant and stale if water is simply left. That's why in Jesus' time; everyone had to go down to the local well every single day in order to get clean fresh water, just like the Woman at the Well whom Jesus encountered in our reading this week.

However, it isn't just water that can go off quickly. Our lives can quickly feel dirty, stagnant and stale when we make mistakes. That was exactly how the Woman at the Well felt in John 4. The woman had a chequered past and a dirty reputation hence why she was alone at the well.

That is why Jesus offers her 'living water'. Jesus says in John 4 v 10 'If you knew the gift of God and who is it that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water'.

As the Woman at the Well experienced as she encountered Jesus, Jesus has the power to wash away the dirty, stagnant and stale parts of our lives and fills us with living water - His lifegiving Spirit that renews and refreshes us today.

Is your life feeling dirty, stagnant or stale? Come to Jesus and receive His lifegiving living water today.

Vinny



Please Pray for...

Minti R	Emma H
David V and family	Chloe
Barbara S	Rachael B
Brenda & Ken	John H & Debs
Betty	Sue S
Lee A	Vinny H
Stuart & family	Bishop David †
Jackie	Michael F
Isaac	Joanne
Jodie	Pauline G & family
Anne H	David P
Ross	Tania
Belinda K	Irene S
Phil & Sue B	Donna
Norma M	Re-Ordering Project
Freda	WoW & Beyond WoW
Samantha W	Pause Café
Anna B	

Remember, this list is for those who need our prayers, not just the sick or bereaved.



This week at St Bede

Sunday 8th March

10am Morning Service

Join us as we continue our journey through Lent as we reflect on people whom Jesus encountered on the way to the cross. This week we explore Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan Woman. Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' meets this week.

Monday 9th March

7.30pm St Bede PCC Meeting

Our PCC meets in the Community Room this evening

Tuesday 10th March

7.30pm The Bible Course Lent Course (at St Andrews)

Our Joint Lent Course continues this evening as we continue our journey through the Old Testament by looking at Exodus: The Story of Rescue. Do come along and join us.

Wednesday 4th March

6.15pm WOW

Join us for our weekly interactive all-age service as we continue our 'Encounters' series by exploring Jesus' encounter with Pontius Pilate Our youth group **Beyond WOW** also meets this week.

Sunday 15th March (Mothering Sunday)

10am Holy Communion

Join us on Mothering Sunday as we reflect on the example of Jesus on the cross with his mother Mary. Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' will be meeting this week.





 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

St Bede Charity Partner 2026.



COLLECT

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Church depends very heavily on fundraising as well as regular giving to keep our Church afloat.

We ask that you do continue to give by setting up a Standing Order from your bank. Please contact our Treasurer, Simon Brooks for further details – brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk

visit our website www.st-bede.org.uk or scan the QR code below



DONATIONS REQUIRED

We are looking for donations of Easter Eggs for our annual Easter Egg Bingo in March 2026.

COOK BOOK

The Fund Raising and Social Group have expressed a wish to produce a "Cook Book" this year to raise funds for St. Bede's and I am wondering whether members of the congregation would have recipes that they could provide for such a venture. The consensus was that there will be many old and new recipes to include from you.

If you could let me know whether you have such recipes as soon as you can please

Gill Blackburn

LENT FILM BOXES FILL CAMPAIGN

As we do each Lent, there are empty film boxes at the back of Church to fill with £1 coins and 20p coins to help raise moenty for church funds. Please take a box, fill it up, bring it back and take another! Any questions, please speak to Elaine or Freda!

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING & SOCIAL EVENTS @ ST BEDE

Your Fundraising and Social Committee have been planning the events for 2026.

Easter Egg Bingo – Friday 27th March at St Bede Academy School Hall. Bring your own drinks but soft drinks will be available on the night.

Easter Egg Hunt – Easter Day at Church. Find the hidden eggs for a chance to win a chocolate egg

Race Night – Friday 5th June at St Bede Academy School Hall. Donations required for the prizes please!

American Independence Day Themed Afternoon Tea – Saturday 4th July in the Community Room

Pudding Night – following the success of our 1st pudding night last year, we are trying it again on Friday 18th September

Annual Harvest Supper Quiz – Friday 9th October at the Ellesmere Club.

Tropic Night – Thursday 22nd October in the Community Room

Annual Christmans Fayre – Saturday 21st November at St Bede Academy School Hall

Please do come along and support our 2026 events!

Saturday 18th April 7.00pm
Organstoppers
Plays
ABBA
Sing along to all the classics
Dress in 70s fashions: optional!
Alan Beedie, organ
Holy Trinity Parish Church, Church Street,
Horwich BL6 6AA
Adults £5, children free
Wine and soft drinks available from 6.30pm!
All proceeds to the Tower Appeal



THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER

The Rt Revd Dr David Walker



4th March 2026

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many of you will be aware that in 2027 I reach my 70th birthday. To avoid speculation, and to minimise the gap between my retirement and the arrival of the next Bishop of Manchester, I wish to set out my intentions as early as possible.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that I have now heard that His Majesty the King has agreed to my retirement. Further to this, last week I received a signed Declaration from the Archbishop of York declaring that the See of Manchester will become vacant as from 31st July 2027. In making this Declaration, the Archbishop has confirmed that I can continue for what will be two months beyond my actual birthday. This is to allow me, amongst other things, to preside at the Petertide Ordinations, and to relinquish my responsibilities at a point when things calm down for the summer holidays.

Until then, I intend to remain fully engaged in the service of Manchester Diocese as your bishop. There will be a time for formal farewells to be made, but it is not yet for a while!

Please continue to hold Sue and me in your prayers, as I hold you all in mine.

Yours ever,

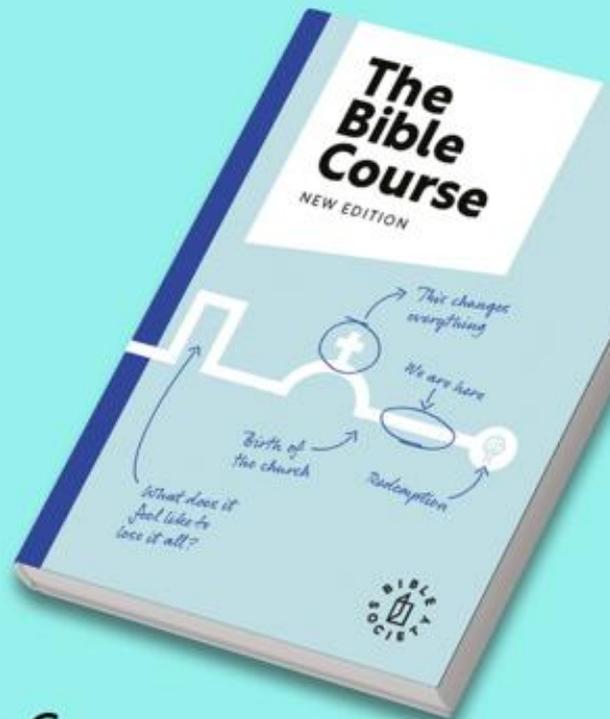
The Bible Course

NEW EDITION

Want to feel more connected to God's word?

Join *The Bible Course* New Edition

biblesociety.org.uk/thebiblecourse



Lent Course 2026



We are delighted to be running the Bible Course as our joint Lent Course for 2026. Join us every Tuesday during Lent as we reflect on the big picture of God's Word through short films and discussion

Our Lent Course begins on Tuesday 24th February,, 7.30pm at St Andrews Church

WOW

Worship On Wednesday

Join us for our
new all-age
worship experience
at St Bede Church

Join us for fun, food, songs, games,
and activities as we explore faith and life together.

We meet every Wednesday
6.15pm-7pm
St Bede Church Community Room





St Bede's is a living Church, and its people are The Church. The Church's only financial support is its own Church family.

Please try to support our social and fundraising events as they are vital not only to the financial wellbeing of our Church but are great opportunities to get to know one another better.

Your Church thanks you for your gifts of money, time and talents.

Contacts

Vicar– Rev Canon Vinny Whitworth – 01204 658921 vinny@st-bede.org.uk

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Authorised Lay Ministers – Gillian Blackburn, Carol Hardman

Church Wardens – Jean Philips – 01204 451676 Gill Blackburn – 01204 660396

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St Bede Primary Academy Headteacher – Anna Black – 01204 61899

Chair of Governors – Tony Whitehead Vice Chair – David Almond

ST BEDE'S CHURCH, MORRIS GREEN, BOLTON-LE-MOORS

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