



**St John's, Whorlton. *Your Church. Here for You.***

**St John's Church, Whorlton March 2026**

*A Message from Reverend Bob*

Whenever I contemplate the coming of March, my thoughts often begin with our weather and Masefield's: "Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked smokestack. Butting through the Channel in the mad March days..." Likewise the old proverb "In like a lion, out like a lamb" implying that: when March starts, it's still winter, but by the end of the month spring has begun.

More important than 'whimsey on the weather', is the fact that as March 2026 arrives, we are already into the season of Lent, and our preparation for the festival of Christ's resurrection on Easter Day, Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, has already begun.

In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting and giving up luxuries. This is to replicate the sacrifice of Christ's 40 days in the desert. During this time, as Jesus fasted and prayed, Satan tempted him: to turn stones into bread to relieve his hunger; to jump from a high place as a test of God's love; and for Jesus to worship Satan in return for rule over all kingdoms. These are the same three temptations one renounces at baptism: The World, the Flesh and the Devil.

Lent is a very special time, and an opportunity for self-assessment, personal reflection and renewal, of both spirit and purpose. Its observance is something that everyone can benefit from, especially today within our "less than United Kingdom".

So, I encourage each of us to take some time this March, to reflect on our world, our communities, our families and our own lives, and try and identify ways in which we might change our own attitudes and behaviours to better our world and our environment for ourselves and for others.

Jesus told his followers that they should love one another as he loved them. Let us each consider the implications of his words and actions across the full spectrum of our lives, and perhaps the small changes we can each accomplish might emulate the spirit of that old proverb, such that the lion of winter in our hearts may go out like a lamb of love, as a brighter spring emerges in our lives.

May peace and every blessing be upon you all,

*Bob*

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Facebook: St John's Church, Whorlton, Westerhope

### **DIARY DATES**

11am-1pm, Sat. 21st March: Coffee Morning

5-8pm, Sat. 18th April: St George's Night

2-4pm, Sat. 16th May: Spring Fayre

2-4pm, Sat. 13th June: Afternoon Tea

1pm, Sat. 4th July: Tynemouth Walking Tour - led by Martin Stait

5pm, Sat. 15th August: Meal at the Engine Inn

5-7pm, Sat. 12th Sept.: Pub Quiz with Pie and Peas supper

12 noon, Sun. 4th Oct.: Harvest Lunch

2-4pm, Sat. 21st Nov.: Christmas Fayre

6:30pm, Sun. 13th Dec.: Christmas Carols by Candlelight

*Mothers' Union meets on the last Monday of the month – programme to be confirmed.*

*The Women's Group meets 8pm, first Tuesday of the month at The Chapel Park.*

*Men's Breakfast meets at Dobbies at 10am on the first Saturday of the month.*

*Friday Bible Study group -please speak to Rev'd Bob if you are interested in joining this group.*

### **SUNDAY SERVICES AND BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH**

1<sup>st</sup> March Genesis 12: 1-4a; Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17

8<sup>th</sup> March Exodus 17: 1-7; Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42

15<sup>th</sup> March 1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9:1-41

22<sup>nd</sup> March Ezekial 37: 1-14; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45

29<sup>th</sup> March Liturgy of Palms: Matthew 21: 1-11;

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Philippians 2; 5-11;

Matthew 26: 14-end of 27

### **Easter Services:**

Maundy Thursday service 2<sup>nd</sup> April 6pm led by Reverend Bob

Good Friday service led by Bob and Sue, Church Hall at 10am with tea/coffee and Hot Cross Buns

Easter Eve service 6pm 4<sup>th</sup> April led by Reverend Bob

Additional services are also being held at Holy Nativity church throughout Easter

### **Defibrillator maintenance**

We have now installed our defibrillator in the car park at St John's church. The defibrillator is accessible from Stamfordham Road and is available to all who require assistance in the event of a cardiac emergency. We have kept the just giving page open to allow organisations and individuals to donate to the annual maintenance.

<https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/community-projects/25-072/>

**Reminder to be collecting those coins for the tubes of smarties to be returned at Easter to use as funds toward the defibrillator maintenance.**

If you are new to St John's Whorlton and wish to register your contact details temporarily until the next electoral roll revision please collect a form from the back of church and give to Martin or Lesley (church wardens).

### **HALL BOOKINGS**

***We're open to taking new bookings: do get in touch with the parish office for details or with any enquiries (whether for a regular booking or one-off event): 0191 271 2992.***

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