



# The Parish of St. Peter, Bushey Heath March 2026



## From the vicar

Lent serves many purposes from helping us deal with our besetting sins to encouraging us to be stronger in the faith. It is a time to look forward to Easter and to the moment when we greet the risen Lord. It is also a time we can use to re-visit past issues and crises to make sure that we have moved on with our lives. This became evident to me a couple of weeks ago whilst reflecting upon the Old Testament readings chosen in the lectionary for Fridays. These readings did more than just tell the story of the Israelites as a preparation for the coming of the Messiah. They introduced critical themes in our relationship with God. Briefly I will mention two of them.

The first comes from 1 Samuel. The author relates how the Israelites petitioned the priest and prophet Samuel for a king. Hitherto they had been governed by judges who settled disputes and offered guidance to the people in the ways of the Lord. Along with the prophets and priests the judges served well for many years. The people were not satisfied with God's provision however and demanded a king to rule over them and to fight their battles for them. This may seem like a sensible political expediency as other nations had kings and it seemed to them to be an advantage. For Israel though this was a mark of disloyalty because God was their king and in reality they needed no other. Samuel warns them, but they will not listen and God is rejected.

*Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint for us a king to govern us like all the nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, "Hearken to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. (1 Samuel 8: 4-7)*

Are there times when we are disloyal to God? Are there times when we fail to put our trust in him and instead place our reliance upon human agency? This could be through our political thinking or simply in our day to day decision making. The question for reflection during Lent is, 'does God rule every part of our lives, in every situation, every day of the week?' If not, there is still time to do something about it.

The second narrative comes in 2 Samuel chapter 11. The author relates how King David's human desires lead him to commit mortal sin. He takes a liking to Bathsheba the wife of Uriah the Hittite and seduces her. When he finds out that she is expecting his child he tries various ruses to give the impression that the father is actually Uriah. When they fail he arranges for Uriah to be killed. It is one of the more shocking stories in the bible.

*When the wife of Uri'ah heard that Uri'ah her husband was dead, she made lamentation for her husband. And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord. (2 Samuel 11: 26-27)*

Are there times when we fail to take responsibility for our actions and try to cover up the bad things that we have done? Do we ever think that God does not know or that we can fool him also? Might we also presume on his mercy knowing that he is a God who forgives? If the latter, we just heap one sin on top of another. God knew what David had done and he knows about us as well. Following the death of Uriah God sent Nathan the prophet to challenge the King. It is a brilliant and memorable work as Nathan traps David in his own deceit, finishing with the declaration, 'You are the man'.

*Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? (2 Samuel 12: 9)*

David stands accused here, but should we be joining him? Lent gives us time to consider where we stand, to repent and turn to the Lord. If there are historic issues to re-examine then we should re-visit them in a spirit of humility and under the guidance of the Spirit repent and turn back to the Lord.

## PRAYER FOCUS

Please continue to pray for an end to conflict in the Near East, Ukraine and in countries beset by violence. Remember the faithful suffering persecution and all those living under the shadow of civil unrest especially the people of Iran.

## From the diary...

Usual Sunday services: 8.00am Holy Communion; 9.30am Parish Mass

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 8.00pm

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00pm

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 8.00pm

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 8.00pm

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 8.00pm

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

11.00am

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 8.00pm

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 12 noon

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 10.00am

8.00pm

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 10.00am

### First Sunday of Lent

Mass

Stations of the Cross

Mass

### Second Sunday of Lent

Mass

Stations of the Cross

Mass

### Third Sunday of Lent

Mass

Stations of the Cross

Mass

### Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

Mass

Stations of the Cross

Mass

### Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)

Annual Church Meetings in church

Mass (**Annunciation of our Lord**)

Stations of the Cross

Mass

Darts Evening at the Three Crowns (*see below for details*)

### Palm Sunday

Chrim Mass at Chelmsford Cathedral

Mass (Tuesday in Holy Week)

Stations of the Cross

Mass (Wednesday in Holy Week)

*In addition to services at 8am and 9.30am: Family Service at 11.15am.*

## Easter Triduum

**Maundy Thursday** 8.00pm

Maundy Mass and Vigil

**Good Friday** 12 noon

Devotions, 'Tools of the Trade'

2.00pm

Liturgy of the Passion

**Holy Saturday** 8.30am

Morning Prayer and Litany

7.00pm

Easter Liturgy

**Easter Day** 8.00am

Mass

9.30am

Parish Mass



### From the registers

#### Baptism

15<sup>th</sup> February Mahtab Khosrofar

#### Funeral

19<sup>th</sup> February Ann Hutton (95 years)

### Darts Night

Saturday 28th March from 7pm at The Three Crowns, Bushey Heath.

Cost £6.50 per person to include a finger food buffet. Drinks to be purchased at the bar. Please put names down on the sign-up sheet at the back of church and payment to Ranjan David by Sunday 22nd March.

### Contact details:

Vicar: Fr. Andrew Burton SSC, a priest of the Society. (020 8950 1424). Usual day off Monday.

Churchwardens: Mr. Simon Farley (020 8950 4073) and Mr. Tony Quinn (07786 332654)

[www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk](http://www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk) / [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)