

CLAPHAM :: KEASDEN :: AUSTWICK :: ELDROTH CHURCHES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

"Who told you that you were naked?"

No.296. 22 February 2026, The First Sunday of Lent

**9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion;
4.00 Keasden Pancake Praise**

Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-11

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. **16** And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' **2** The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; **3** but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' **4** But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; **5** for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. **7** Then the

eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. **8** Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the



*Adam and Eve eating the Forbidden Fruit in the Garden of Eden
on a stained glass window in the the Cathedral of
St. Michael and St. Gudula, Brussels*

garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" **10** He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." **11** And he said, "Who told you that you were naked?"

Psalm 32

- 1 Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered.
**2 Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile.**
3 For I held my tongue;
my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long.
**4 Your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up like the drought in summer.**
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and my iniquity I did not hide.
**6 I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,'
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**
7 Therefore let all the faithful make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
in the great water flood, it shall not reach them.
**8 You are a place for me to hide in;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with songs of deliverance.**
9 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.
**10 'Be not like horse and mule which have no understanding;
whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you.'**
11 Great tribulations remain for the wicked,
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
**12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. Amen**

Matthew 4.1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
2 He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' **4** But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' **7** Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; **9** and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' **10** Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' **11** Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Prayers

The Church of Ireland, The Most Revd John McDowell.

Austwick School with newly appointed headteacher Beth McHardy.

Those who are unwell: Jack Taylor, Nick Trenholme...

Remembering: Roger Moore, Gina Wallbank, Alec Deary, Jesse Jackson...

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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. **Amen**

Post Communion

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

MUSIC IN OUR MORNING SERVICES

Sunday 22nd February

9:30 Austwick Holy Communion;

11:00 Clapham Holy Communion

Opening hymn: 67 Forty days and forty nights

Gradual hymn: 353 Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Music before Communion: 383 Jesu, lover of my soul

Closing hymn: 333 All my hope on God is founded

I am Somebody!

I am
Somebody!
I may be poor,
But I am
Somebody.
I may be young,
But I am
Somebody.
I may be on welfare,
But I am
Somebody.
I may be small,
But I am
Somebody.
I may have made mistakes,
But I am
Somebody.
My clothes are different,
My face is different,
My hair is different,
But I am
Somebody.
I am black,
Brown, or white,
I speak a different language,
But I must be respected,
Protected,
Never rejected.
I am God's child!
I am
Somebody!

*Reverend Jesse Jackson,
1941-2026*

Everybody's welcome to the Afternoon Fellowship

Austwick Parish Hall

Wednesday February 25th, 2.00 - 3.30pm

Rob Gale

Twixt Alps and Dales:

**A life spent seeking hills,
gentle thrills and good coffee**

Rob has spent his life working in the outdoors, using his experience in mountaineering, caving, rock-climbing and fell-running to support young people with multiple disadvantages with a range of outdoor education providers and charities. He has also worked with corporate teams and leaders, and as an International Mountain Leader in the European Alps.



**Rob's talk will be followed by refreshments
Come along; bring a friend; meet new friends!
No charge: £1 donation invited towards our costs**

Our Church Services to Easter

1 March Lent 2

9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
6.30 Newby Chapel Easy Church

8 March Lent 3

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

15 March Mothering Sunday

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Easy Church
6.30 Eldroth Taizé service

22 March Lent 5

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
4.00 Keasden A Hot Cross Service

29 March Palm Sunday

10.30 Clapham Benefice Holy Communion
7.00 Clapham New Inn Church in the Pub

2 April Maundy Thursday

6.30 Eldroth Last Supper

3 April Good Friday

2.00 Austwick Reflections by the Cross

5 April Easter Sunday

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion (Revd Steve Rathbone)
9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
4.00 Keasden Short Service and Easter Egg Hunt

Bowland and Ewecross Deanery
Lent Series 2026

Music of our Hearts

Settle Parish Church, 7.00-9.00pm
Wednesdays February 25th,
March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

A series of meetings to hear about, experience, and enjoy, a variety of music and hymnody from our Christian traditions old and new. The final session on 25th March will include a Songs of Praise and will conclude with an organ recital by Benjamin Saunders.

All welcome.