

# St Thomas', Trowbridge and St John's, West Ashton Monthly News March 2026



The way I see  
it, if you want  
the rainbow,  
you gotta put up  
with the rain. —  
*Dolly Parton*

# March 2026

Here we are in March, with Lent in full swing, and Easter is coming soon. Lent is a time of preparation, and I hope you all are finding encouragement and benefit from our Desert Mother and Father series – do engage with that as much as you can. Use this season for all it brings.

As I shared at the beginning of Lent, I am currently challenged and inspired by the words of Colossians 4.2

Devote yourselves to prayer,  
being watchful  
and thankful



Wisdom in the Desert  
Lent 2026

**Devote yourselves to prayer,  
being watchful  
and thankful**

Colossians 4v2

This is a time where we should lean in and draw near to God, devoted to prayerfully seeking Him. A time where we examine ourselves, personally and corporately together as a local and a global church.

Where we see God move we then gratefully thank Him for the blessings He brings.

I have just returned from the New Wine Leadership Conference in Harrogate, a beautiful place I'd not visited before. It was certainly more salubrious than the Bath and West Showground, albeit a lot further away!!

The theme for this conference was "passionate pursuit of God". There was a strong theme that we live in incredible times. We heard of many accounts of people just turning up to Church, either after having the urge to read the bible, or other incredible events like dreams where God asks them to get to know Him and His son, Jesus. This has been supported by YouGov polls initiated by the Bible Society. The first, in

2019, come back as expected; churchgoers were found to largely be older and female, with little or falling engagement at the younger age groups. The re-testing five years later surprised everyone. The spike in active church attendance encompassed 18–25-year-olds - and includes a resurgence in the 65+ age range. Statistics are all well and good, however it is backed up by first-hand experience too. I am very thankful to say that includes us here at St Thomas'!

God is good, and on the move. Our job is to see where the Holy Spirit flows... and jump right in! And, so we will, prayerfully, being watchful, and thankful.

I'm pleased our next series, after Easter, will be looking at the whole bible. This will be inspirational for us all, but especially so for our newcomers who seek to find out how to read and understand the bible and get to know our loving God. This feels timely, and I would encourage everyone to engage as much as you can. It is never too late to join a small group, and you are always welcome to journey with us.

For new people exploring the faith, and those who have been Christians for years. We all need to be able to delve the depths of this incredible faith. To understand the love freely given, and to be in a better place to point others into those welcoming arms of Jesus.

All signs are that this is just the beginning.

Let us be prepared for this Holy outflowing.  
Devoted in prayer,  
watchful,  
and thankful.

Amen.

Simon

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Deadline for submissions for April's magazine is Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

# St John's Update

February was a quiet month at St John's - although we suffered storms and the rain making the ground very wet. The daffodils are just flowering and it's a joy to see their colour in these dreary/murky days. A new entrance poster was erected - see separate picture. A PCC meeting was held, and the month saw two services - Service of the Word at the beginning of the month and Holy Communion mid-month. The Lightning Conductor was inspected and certification provided. The damp wall situation is ongoing, and contact had been made



to the Church Building Team of the Diocese of Salisbury. A letter will be written to the Archdeacon re List B Application for approval of any work undertaken with this matter. Thanks go to Peter Holland for spearheading this project.

The bare Lent Cross is in place (see separate picture). St John's has three services in March, these being:

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March - Service of the Word - 10.30am

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday - Holy Communion - 10.30am

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March - Palm Sunday Morning Worship - 10.30am

(Gentle reminder that British Summer Time Begins on 29<sup>th</sup> March - Clocks Spring Forward One Hour - Don't be late for Church!)

A warm welcome awaits you.

The last few days of March we head into Holy Week - a time for reflection on the sadness that Good Friday brings and the ultimate sacrifice Jesus gave for us. Yet on Easter Sunday we celebrate with joy Jesus' resurrection. Amen.

Jean R



# The PCC An Introduction for Church Members

Here at St Thomas' we are part of the Church of England, and as such have a particular legal structure that contributes to the leadership of the church. It is called the PCC, which stands for the Parochial Church Council. This leaflet is a brief introduction to the history of PCCs, its role and how it operates.

The PCC is an important body in the life of the church. Please do pray for it as it makes decisions which affect the mission and ministry of St Thomas'

If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask your PCC secretary, details in the church address book.



## The parish system

A parish is the geographical area committed to the care of an incumbent or parish priest by the Bishop. So, everyone in England lives in a parish, whether or not they attend the parish church.

The parish system developed gradually. By the end of the 13th century the country was covered by parishes which have been sub-divided as the population grew.

Each parish has two churchwardens (normally) and a Parochial Church Council.

PCCs were first given legal status in 1919. Prior to the legal recognition of PCCs, the administration and finances of the parish church were in the hands of the incumbent and churchwardens only, which gave scope for abuse or neglect, and often failed to use the skills and gifts of other members of the congregation.





**It exists to ensure legal compliance with charity law and ecclesiastical law, in particular in the areas of finance, employment and appointments.**

PCC members are trustees of a charity and therefore under obligation

to fulfil charity law with due care to governance guidelines. Whilst this should not be seen as overly burdensome, it is

important that PCC members understand their care of duty. Key areas here are safeguarding, financial oversight (including receiving regular financial updates; ensuring procedures exist to appropriately approve

payments and that all cheques are signed by two authorised PCC members; ensuring that the service offertories and other monies are appropriately supervised; generating the Annual Report and Accounts and submitting these documents to the APCM for approval), health and safety, disability, insurance, risk assessment, data protection, and acting as a good employer of any paid workers.



**It exists to care for the buildings and churchyard so that they may be best suited for the purpose of the church's ministry and mission.**

The PCC is responsible for maintenance and repair of the church building, inside and out, especially work recommended by the inspecting architect in the Quinquennial (five-yearly) Report. The PCC looks after 'movable goods' e.g. chairs, rails, candlesticks, lectern, communion plate, vestments, and the upkeep of the churchyard and any buildings, trees or paths in it, and walls, fences or hedges around the churchyard. It is involved in any application to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for a faculty (permission to effect a change to the church, or its contents, or the churchyard).



**It exists to be a channel of consultation within the wider Church through its synodical structures on matters that affect the Church locally and nationally.**

These structures were put in place to ensure a means by which the Church of England could 'talk' about important matters, enabling local churches to have a voice in wider Church issues, and decisions of the wider Church to be permeated down through the life of local churches.

The PCC has the following functions:

- Co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
- The consideration and discussion of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question.
- Making known and putting into effect any provisions made by the diocesan synod or the deanery synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the council on any particular matter.
- Giving advice to the diocesan synod and the deanery synod on any matter referred to the council.
- Raising such matters as the council consider appropriate with the diocesan synod or deanery synod.



**It exists to enable the church to play its part in God's mission to his world.**

This often surprises people. They think the PCC is about looking after the fabric of the church or keeping the books. But the first stated purpose is about mission and suggests a model of co-operation between the minister and the PCC. This is about helping a church fulfil its purpose, to keep before a church why it exists. Just as PCCs can easily lose their sense of purpose, so too can churches. On behalf of the church a PCC constantly grapples with the questions of 'Why does this church exist?' and 'Where is God leading us at this time as we seek to fulfil Christ's mission and ministry in this area?' Such mission planning involves an up-to-date and active parish mission plan, which asks and answers the following questions: (i) What is the mission of God in our parish? (ii) What ministries do we need for this mission? (iii) What resources do we need for these ministries?



## **It exists to co-operate with the minister in sharing leadership.**

Again, this often surprises people. Sometimes people's experience of a PCC has led them to think they exist to frustrate everything the minister wants to do. Others' experience suggests it exists to rubber-stamp whatever the minister wants to do. But it exists to co-operate with the minister, to work alongside in sharing responsibility for discerning how it will enable the church to be about God's mission and ministry in that place. The minister isn't the head of the church, nor any other member of the PCC. Jesus is the head of his Church, and the minister and PCC together are called to take their lead from Jesus. Jesus sets the agenda for his people, and the PCC and minister are tasked with the process of discerning what this might be at this time in the life of a church, and how it might be lived out. However, the incumbent also has some unique responsibilities in the life of the church, including the 'cure of souls.

### **The role of the PCC**

In summary, the PCC exists to co-operate with the minister in sharing leadership of the parish so that we may all:

- Play our part in God's mission and ministry in this place.
- Steward our buildings and churchyard for the furtherance of God's kingdom.
- Contribute to the wider life of the Church of England.
- Conduct ourselves in ways which fulfil best practice in safeguarding, finance, and employment.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

PCC members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which is held between 1 January and 30 April. Members are elected for 3 years. To be eligible you must be over 16, on the electoral roll for at least 6 months, a regular communicant and able to legally be a charity trustee. All clergy licensed to the parish, the churchwardens, and any members of the deanery, diocesan or general synods on the electoral roll are ex officio on the PCC. Readers are not automatically members, though they are often elected on.

## MEETINGS

Our PCC meets 6 times a year and has a standing committee to carry on routine business between meetings. The minutes of the meetings are available on request to the office once they have been approved at the subsequent meeting and the PCC secretary aims to provide a summary of the important points in the monthly news.

### What is the PCC responsible for?

Its powers and duties are defined by certain Acts of Parliament and other legislation, principally the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. It states: 'It shall be duty of the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance in the parish.'

Adapted from CPAS PCC tonight

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## Flame International Mission to Nigeria

### 5-21 February

The team says they 'are so grateful for all your prayers and support during this unpredictable mission. We have learned to expect the unexpected. The team have remained in excellent spirits and have been in very good relationship and worked well together throughout.'

In their first week the team ministered to over a hundred pastors and clergy who serve communities threatened by several terrorist organisations. They then ministered to over 100 war survivors. The numbers increased over the week to over 500! In the second week the team ministered to 40 war survivors who suffer from addictions.

Many came to faith, many were healed and were able to release their anger and experienced release as they forgave.

Please continue to pray for those who attended and for peace in Nigeria.

# Deanery Synod

St Thomas' Church is in the Bradford Deanery which includes, all the Anglican churches in Trowbridge, Melksham, Bradford on Avon and the surrounding villages. St Thomas' is allowed to send three Reps to Deanery Synod, and these Reps are elected at the APCM and serve for a term of three years. There are 3 Deanery Synod meetings a year held in different churches around the Bradford Deanery. The Reps are also automatically elected to St Thomas PCC and act as a link between St Thomas' and the Deanery. PCC meetings are held on a Tuesday evening, 6 a year plus the APCM.

The last five years have been very dynamic and exciting in the Deanery with all but two benefices having interregnums and appointing new clergy. This means we now have a significantly younger set of clergy and lots of innovative and exciting things happening at all the different churches.

At the meeting, there's a visiting speaker invited to talk about various topics (e.g. Bridge project, Anna Chaplains, Making Jesus Known initiative), refreshments and then reports from our Rural Dean, Rev Jake Eggertsen from St James's, the treasurer and then John Joy the lay chairman, who reports on Kadugli, our Sudan link. One of the most positive aspects of Deanery Synod is an Agenda item called 'Making Jesus Known' where churches share what has been happening and how they have been reaching out to their communities. It is also a great opportunity to get to know some of our local clergy and laity.

We have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your Deanery Synod Reps for the last three years. At the APCM, in April, these three roles will be coming up for re-election. Please talk to our vicar, Rev Simon Pope or one of us if you are interested in standing for election.

Marjory W, Christine W, Ruth C

# Deanery Synod Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026

This meeting was held at St Katherine's church, Holt and was opened by Rev. Ruth Mecredy who welcomed us and gave an update on Holt church saying they had recently appointed a married couple who were working with the children and families in the parish and were pleased to say they had a lot of young children now in the congregation which had grown and they now faced a parking problem.

Jake then welcomed the guest speakers for the evening, Marilyn Flower from Beanacre and Penny Bradshaw from Warminster who spoke about the work of the Anna Chaplaincy.

They explained that the organisation which helps the older members of the community especially those in care home or with dementia is run as a part of the Bible Reading Fellowship and was named after the prophetess Anna in Luke (2:36–38) and was set up by Debbie Thrower and now has about 500 chaplains around the UK. Anna Chaplains are licensed by the Bishop and usually work with a team of volunteers.

Marilyn and Penny explained how they came to be involved in the work and gave some instances of how it was working in their parishes: visiting care homes, home visits, small gatherings and assistance with form filling for Attendance Allowance and Blue badges. They also mentioned that there was now a Messy Vintage i.e. Messy Church for the elderly.

After questions Jake thanked Marilyn and Penny and we had a refreshment break.

The official part of the meeting opened with Jake welcoming Jenny Nelson, Holy Trinity BoA, as the new Deanery Vice Chair and reminded us that we still needed a new Deanery Treasurer and new Diocesan Synod reps will be elected in June. A curate, Craig Bain, will be going to St Johns Upper Studley for a 6-month period whilst they are still in interregnum. He also reported that in 2025 the Deanery had paid 83.9% of their share and 16 out of the 21 parishes had paid in full.

John Joy gave an update on Kadugli and encouraged us to continue to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters there.

We concluded the evening by sharing encouragements and following from his comments earlier that one of the main functions of the Deanery was to foster relationships between the churches asked us to ask a member of another church what encouragements they had. Some of these were then shared with everyone and it is good to hear positive news from so many churches.

We closed the meeting in prayer.

Marjory, Chris and Ruth

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## New Wine Summer Festival 2026

28th July to 2nd August

New Wine is a great opportunity for live Spirit-led worship, Bible-based teaching, fellowship and fun alongside thousands of other Christians from across the UK and beyond. There are age-specific groups for children and young people aged from 0 to 18, where they also receive excellent teaching, opportunities for worship, prayer and fun. It all happens at the Royal Bath and West Showground outside Shepton Mallet, less than an hour's drive from Trowbridge. You can either camp with us on site, stay in a local B&B or drive in daily, or just visit for the day.

If you feel able to give your time to help the event happen, there are opportunities to volunteer on one of several teams too.

There are already several of us going from St Thomas' this summer, and you're welcome to join us. If you'd like to know more, please ask Stephen or Alice B or Simon or Lyndsey W, or visit the New Wine website: [new-wine.org](http://new-wine.org)

# Church Weekends Away: 2025 & 2027!

As a church we enjoyed a very successful weekend away last November at Hill House in Somerset. If you weren't there and would like to read about it there was an article in the December Monthly News.

We're starting to think about plans for a Church Weekend Away in the autumn of 2027, and it would be very useful to receive any feedback on the 2025 weekend that might help in making decisions about 2027. We're not asking you to fill in a detailed questionnaire but are inviting you to send any feedback to the church office. You can comment on anything you like, but the following questions might give some ideas for your feedback.

## **Venue:**

What did you like or not like about Hill House?

If we had a choice between Hill House and Hebron Hall (Dinas Powys) for 2027, which would you prefer, and why?

Do you know of any other venues that might be suitable for this kind of weekend?

## **Food:**

How did you feel about the self-catering arrangements for meals and refreshments, and would you be happy if we did this again?

## **Programme:**

What did you feel about the programme and sessions? Would you do anything differently?

## General:

Do you have any comments on dates? We are currently thinking about late September or early October (avoiding half term) in 2027, though it may depend on availability of venues.

If you didn't attend the church weekend in 2025, is there anything we could change that would encourage you to attend next time?

It would be helpful to have your feedback by the end of March at the latest, but the sooner the better. Please e-mail directly to the office ([office@stthomastrowbridge.org](mailto:office@stthomastrowbridge.org)), mentioning 'CWA feedback' in the subject.

And just a reminder: you don't have to wait until 2027 for an opportunity to go away with the church family. We have a weekend away this year at Viney Hill, 18-20 September 2026. If you haven't yet booked then pick up a leaflet at the back of church or contact the church office. There is also information about how you can join with others from our church at the New Wine festival in the summer.

# Ushuaia Report (Section 1)

This trip was spawned from a brief discussion while on the Bolivia mission trip I went on in the summer of 2023. Retired Bishop Maurice Sinclair, from Birmingham, who was a Bishop in Argentina during his working career, mentioned to me a journey to the south of Argentina to visit the place where a pioneering missionary in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Allen Gardiner ended his days. Allen Gardiner and his small team, unfortunately had starved to death while on a mission to reach out to the indigenous people of Tierra Del Fuego. Their bodies were found in Spanish harbour about 92 miles east along the Beagle channel from Ushuaia, now the most southerly city in the world. Bishop Maurice had been able to be in a group of Mission leaders who had felt led to visit this resting place. They had miraculously been able to land in rough conditions after a 6-hour trip on an Argentinian Navy frigate and, with the help of local navy help, cement a commemorative plaque up in a waterlogged cave 150 years after the event. This really excited my heart and I soon researched more on Allen Gardiner's life.

I quickly found out that it was beyond my means to visit the place where Gardiner and his crew had perished, but I was interested in visiting Ushuaia and the beautiful area. To increase my passion for a trip, when Azaria and David, missionaries from Guatemala visited my church St Thomas' in Trowbridge to thank us for our support of them, and mentioned that they had visited Ushuaia for a South American Conference, my heart jumped with excitement twice more as they individually mentioned the conference where they had also gotten engaged. I shelved this passion once more until a friend of mine's grandson visited St Thomas' and talked about Ushuaia as the place where he would go to fulfil a dream of his to see the Antarctic. That was it, I was decided! The next week I was visiting Bath, went into a travel agents and bought a ticket to Buenos Aires, and Ushuaia. I would do this on my own as I was used to travelling abroad from my younger days as a back packer.

The plan was to spend three days in the capital of Argentina, Buenos Aires, flying from Heathrow, London, late on the 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 26, a sixteen-hour flight, arriving at mid-day on the 7<sup>th</sup>, then fly domestically to Ushuaia, in the far south of Argentina, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> for nine days, a three-hour flight arriving about 3.30pm. I knew the main aim of the trip was time in Ushuaia where I had already been in contact with Pastor Javier Campero of Gran Rey Iglesia (Church of the Great King), but it would be a good experience to spend time in the big city of Buenos Aires too.

On arriving at Buenos Aires International Airport on Wednesday at mid-day, I knew I had to Change money and find transport to my booked Airbnb in the suburb of Belgrano, which was close to the domestic airport. The best way was to get a taxi which was beneficial because I sat in the front with a very friendly driver and was able to practice my Spanish. After a 50-minute drive I found my apartment, which was quite basic but had a great view of the city. I had found out that it was quite expensive eating out in Argentina, so I went out in the evening and bought provisions from a supermarket, which included two large pork chops. I visited a close by church to get some spiritual grounding and later cooked myself a hearty meal.

The next day I thought I would explore the locality by walking to the next suburb called Palermo, which I had heard was a tourist area. I came across a couple practicing their tango on a bandstand in the local park and then further on my route popped into a nice café for a cup of tea. Some very nice retired ladies, who spoke some English helped me order. I said that I was going to Ushuaia on Saturday. One of the ladies said that it was very windy down there. That word windy, or wind stuck with me and I realized that the Holy Spirit came like a mighty wind on Pentecost. I couldn't wait to get back to study about the wind and the Spirit. After reaching Palermo I had some lunch, then got on a bus back to my apartment and found some material on the word "spirit". I was reminded that in the Old Testament, the word for "spirit" is "ruach". The Hebrew word "ruach" can mean "spirit," "wind," or even "breath." In the New Testament, the word for "spirit" is "pneuma", which can also mean "wind" or "breath." "ruach" and "pneuma" can mean

“spirit,” “wind,” or “breath.” Now, if I was called upon, I had something to say to the people in Gran Rey Iglesia in Ushuaia. I also booked a boat tour on the Tigre Delta which was a network of rivers which was about 20 miles north of Buenos Aires.

The next day, which was my last full day in Buenos Aires, I met two Brazilian couples on the boat tour at separate times, and had very interesting chats, both the couples being Christians. This increased my interest in visiting Brazil sometime in the future. The second couple were both teachers and they both spoke to their students about Jesus. I had a short prayer time with them.

I slept well but woke up early on Saturday and continued my study of the Holy Spirit, wind and breath. Later I got a taxi outside the apartment for the short ride to the domestic airport for my 12pm flight south to Ushuaia. In the queue I met an English couple who had a relation in Southwick, close to where I live in Trowbridge. We arrived on time about 3.30pm and I was able to get details of how to get into my Booking.com apartment on WhatsApp. I got a short taxi ride to my apartment and entered easily thanks to the great information I had received. It was a very clean and modern place which was ideally situated on the main street in Ushuaia. I contacted Pastor Javier to let him know that I had arrived, he was not available till the church meeting at 7.30pm the next day.

I found a good supermarket, quite close after a bit of exploration, and again bought supplies for myself and cooked myself a tuna and veg stir-fry. I thought that I would take some exercise and decided to do a dry run by walking up to the church which would be about half an hour up the hill as Ushuaia was built on a slope. I found the church reasonably easily thanks to Google Maps. How did we ever manage without all this technology?

On Sunday morning I went for an early walk along the front and decided to visit the Maritime Museum which was housed in an old prison building. There was so much to see including models of the sort of ships that the early pioneers and missionaries would have used. Also, information on the indigenous tribes and a room with an artist's

impression of Allen Gardiner's missionary effort. I went home for an early lunch, rested up, then went for a walk up the hill. It was a lovely day and I just kept on walking until I got to the entrance of the walk up the mountain to Martial Glacier, a popular trek for tourists. I turned around as I had church in the evening at 7.30pm and my feet were getting sore.

I left in good time to get to church before 7.30pm, had a very friendly welcome on the door and was directed to the front row as the Pastor's guest. I briefly met and had a welcoming hug and prayer from Pastor Javier, and was seated between two English speakers, Dylan a young man from the church and the visiting speaker. I was told that they would like me to say a few words at the next meeting I attended. It was a very lively charismatic service with lots going on, which I really enjoyed despite being all in Spanish. I spoke to Javier afterwards via a translator and he said that he would take me up a mountain tomorrow to pray, as I had previously mentioned that was one of the things I felt God wanted me to do on my visit. I also said that I would be coming to The Tuesday evening prayer meeting and next Sunday's meeting. I then walked home and slept well.

Below – View out of Buenos Aires Apartment, On a walk around Ushuaia

Robert J



# Bible Society

As one of the Christian charities we as a church support, we will be welcoming James Markham from the Bible Society to speak to us on 12th April. Formerly known as The British & Foreign Bible Society, the Society was formed in 1804 with its objective of making the Bible available to all - either free or at an affordable price and in a language which the reader could understand. Supporters of the Bible Society are kept informed of their work in various parts of the world. We have heard recently of the Bible Society colleagues in Kyiv, Ukraine who provide the Bible as an “emergency item” to civilians and soldiers and read the Bible in groups and find a shared spiritual healing. We have also heard of Nahid who is an Iranian Bible Society worker. She is aiming to get one million Bibles in Farsi into Iran for the vastly growing number of Christians in that country. Nahid works outside of Iran - the Bible Society being expelled from Iran in 1990.

Back in 1814 a group was formed in Trowbridge in support of the work of the Bible Society and has continued ever since. Do take time to read the details of the first meeting which will be on the Bible Society's display. (Interestingly quite a few of the first supporters have now turned into Trowbridge road names!). This support is now continuing in the form of Trowbridge Action Group which raises funds for the work of the Bible Society. The group consists of folk from various local churches who are interested in supporting the work and who meet together to arrange fund raising activities, thus creating fellowship between churches. The next event organised by the Action Group is a Quiz Afternoon, details of which are below.

Celia R



# Afternoon Tea



## Quiz



## in aid of Bible Society



St James Church Hall, Trowbridge

Tuesday, March 10th 2026

2-30 pm

Join us for an afternoon of tea, cake and fun.

No charge but donations for Bible Society appreciated.

Teams of 4 or come along and join a team on the day.

# Spreading the Easter Message

## on Paxcroft and Castle Meads

We now have confirmed dates for our Easter Experience presentations in The Mead School and Castle Mead School (mornings of 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March respectively). Through a combination of activities and interviews with people playing characters from the gospels, we bring to life the Easter story in a way which reinforces what the children have been learning in their R.E. lessons. Please do pray for God to speak to all involved through the presentations and that the children will come away wanting to find out more about the events of the first Easter. We will put a few prayer pointers in the church notices over the next few weeks. It would be great to have **one or two more volunteers** to help the children with the activities in the Easter Experience.



We will also be running our annual Easter Egg Trail around the Paxcroft Mead area on Easter Monday, starting and finishing at The Red Admiral pub, who are keen to welcome us back again. (They got in touch with us to ask whether we would be running the trail this year.) We need some **volunteers to help run the Easter Egg Trail** (either based in the pub handing out leaflets and prizes, or along the trail helping people find their way around). We also need **prizes for the trail** (Malteser Chocolate Bunnies or chocolate eggs (approximately crème egg size)), please leave them at the church office or give them to one of us.

If you can contribute or help, please speak to one of us.

Thank you – Stephen and Alice B



Photo of St Thomas' before the reordering

## Lenten Journey

Our Lenten journey leads us on, with Jesus as our light,  
Towards a place of sacrifice upon Golgotha's height.  
There, in the distance, gaunt and rough, there stands a wooden cross  
A sign of human cruelty of suffering and loss.  
But in death can never be the end, nor leave the world forlorn;  
Remember that the darkest hour comes just before the dawn.  
The light will triumph in the end, defeating evil's gloom;  
A bright new day will come to birth within an empty tomb.  
So, when life's burdens weigh you down and make it hard to cope,  
Lift up your head, for Easter joy will fill your heart with hope.

**P English**

## Posers??

1. A Wiltshire farmer sent his son to market with £100. He said go and buy 100 animals

A Donkey costs £5. A Horse costs £1 and 20 sheep cost £1

Buy at least one of each kind and there has to be no money left over.

WHAT DID SON BUY?

2. A lad worked in a stable. Looking around he counted 22 heads and 72 legs.  
How many horses were in the stable??

3. Which of these places is the odd one out??

Manchester. Dundee. Cardiff. Leicester. Exeter. Ventnor. Ipswich.

## Dingbat answers

steps  
steps  
pets

Two steps forward, one  
step back

arupms

Up in arms

standing  
miss

Misunderstanding

d  
u  
c k  
/ /

Sitting duck

## World Day of Prayer 2026 Nigeria

Our sisters in Nigeria invite us to join them for the World Day of Prayer on

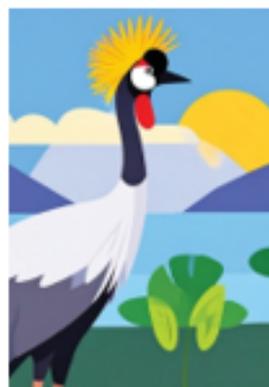
**Friday 6 March 2026.**

**10.30 am at St James Church**

**All are welcome**

The service they have prepared reflects on the theme,

**"I will give you rest."**



Each year, women from a different country prepare a service, sharing their unique spiritual journey and culture. For 2026, the women of Nigeria have



created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

St John's Church, West Ashton



St John's Church, West Ashton  
Township, Wiltshire

*Warmly Invite You To Celebrate*

# MOTHERING SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, 15 MARCH, 2026**

10.30 am  
**Communion**

*Holy  
Service*



*God Could Not Be Everywhere And  
Therefore He Made Mothers*

*Proverb:*

# ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH, WEST ASHTON



**W**armly invite you to worship and witness the following Easter Services

## **PALM SUNDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Join us in our Palm Sunday Service - 10.30am

## **GOOD FRIDAY, 3<sup>th</sup> April, 2026**

An Hour by The Cross - 2.00pm

**The reading of the Passion of our Lord's Death on the Cross.**

There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall,  
Where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.  
We may not know, we cannot tell, what pain he had to bear.  
But we believe it was for us, he hung and suffered there.

## **EASTER SUNDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Communion Service

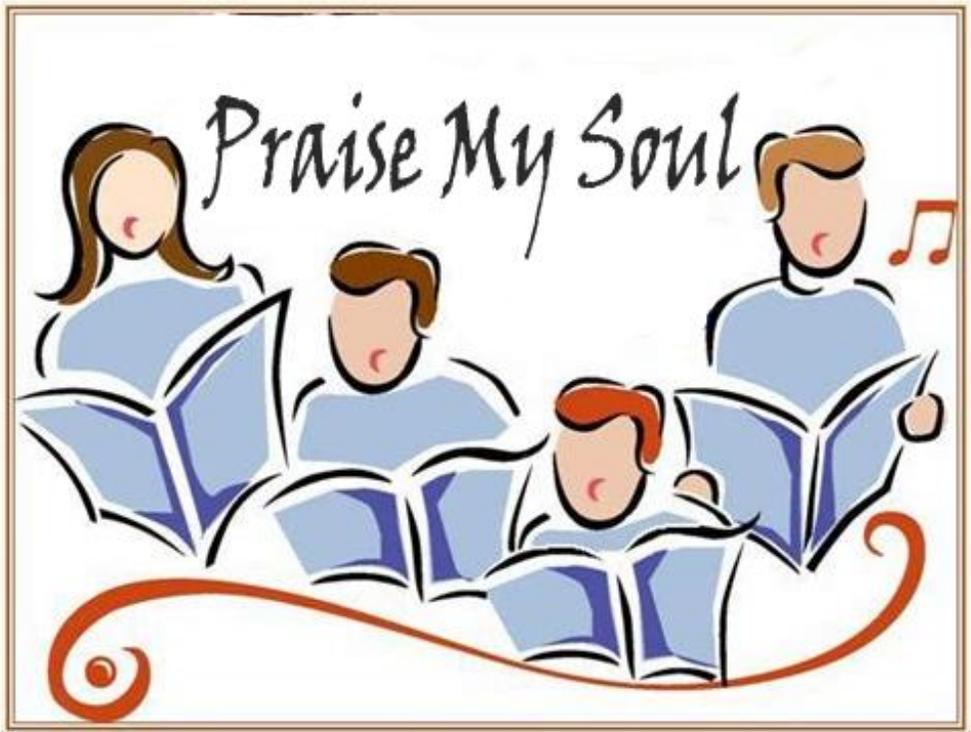
Please Note New Time 10.00am.

The Day of the Resurrection  
Christ is Risen He is Risen Indeed – Alleluia  
We remember the first Easter Day  
Bringing a New Beginning and Hope to God's People



Good Friday is a time of sadness, Easter is a time of gladness. On Good Friday Jesus died, but rose again at Eastertide

**All Thanks and Praise to God.**



**If you like to sing hymns, then make a date in your diary for Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.**

You're invited to St Thomas' Church at 4pm to share in the singing of some favourite hymns with the recently repaired organ. All are welcome. We anticipate the worship will last about an hour and will include prayer and readings. Afterwards there will be refreshments.

If you have a hymn that means something special to you, you're invited to tell us why and we may be able to include it. We'd particularly like you to tell us why your chosen hymn speaks to you. If you would like to share a few words of testimony or explanation, that would be great! If you don't want to do it in person, write down your reflection and we'll try to incorporate it.

Let us know if you'd like to share some thoughts on a favourite hymn.  
John C & Jane B