



St Mary's News and Notices

Sunday Next Before Lent

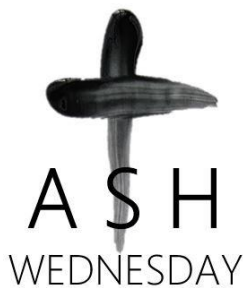
15 February 2026

Sunday Next Before Lent

15 February 2026 10.00am Holy Communion

The Reverend Chris Moore will preach and preside at our 10.00am service

10.00am Ash Wednesday Service on 18th February 2026 led by Bishop Sam Corley, Bishop of Stockport



Lent is fast approaching and as well as our Lent course to help us through Lent this year (see below) we are also very pleased to welcome Bishop Sam to lead and officiate for us at our 10.00am morning Holy Communion Ash Wednesday Service on the 18th of February.

Bishop Sam kindly supported our services last year and we are blessed that he can come and lead our 10.00am Ash Wednesday service which will have four hymns and, in many ways, be similar to our usual Sunday service.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-Day period of reflection and preparation for Holy Week and Easter, the day itself is characterized by a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for repentance, as we reflect on our lives and seek to grow closer to God.

It will be a unique occasion at St Mary's to have a Bishop presiding over our Ash Wednesday service, and we hope that as many people as possible will come to church to welcome and support him.

Lent Course 2026 – Draw Near – Life giving habits for Lent

This year's Lent course is from the Church of England and is called 'Draw Near' life giving Habits for Lent. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Room on **Monday afternoons at 2pm** from the first Monday in Lent for anyone who wishes to join us. Everyone is welcome to join us for any week or all the Lent Course, please come along when you can.



We have a small booklet with daily readings and thoughts for you to use at home and this will form the springboard for our weekly get togethers.

We'll meet in the Fellowship Room at 2.00pm -3.30pm for a relaxed time of discussion and reflection, with the famous St Mary's refreshments.

Join us on **Mondays 23rd February, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th March**. Please see Derek Buckthorpe or Ian Bunday for a booklet and to express an interest.

'Draw Near' offers us the opportunity to strengthen our habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

Each week a different contributor explores a different aspect of Christian discipleship -

worshipping together, **praying**, **exploring the Bible**, sharing **communion**, offering **service** and **sharing the good news** with others. There is also a special version for children.

The course has a supporting book 'Dancing to the Heartbeat of God' which includes a foreword and afterword by the Archbishop of Canterbury-designate, Dame Sarah Mullaly, and an introduction by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. It offers a confident and hopeful vision of faith lived out in everyday life.

You can also sign up to the Everyday Faith App which will carry reflections based on the booklet.

Wardens' Words – from Liz and George

While some of you will already have picked up the news, we wanted to be sure you were all aware that the Bishops have agreed to our going ahead to recruit a new Rector subject to our satisfying the Archdeacon that our ability to pay the full parish share within 3 years is realistic. We are hoping to have a meeting with him very soon.

You may have seen the handout which the Rural Dean provided when he preached on Thanksgiving Sunday (and which we are sending round with this weekly sheet) it shows that with careful management, David thinks we can balance the books this year, but we are paying just 80% of our parish share, so there is a little way to go.

We know you will all think prayerfully about giving and we are hugely grateful for all gifts of time talent and money as we move forward. Your generosity in raising more than £500 in Epiphany gifts has made an excellent start to 2026. Thank you.

St Mary's Prayer Circle - A gentle reminder

The St Mary's Prayer Circle still exists, and we are praying regularly for several people but have had no new requests since July 2025. Whilst we would love to think that we and all our friends and relations are well, we know that for many that is not the case.

The Prayer Circle is a group of members of our church family who commit to praying for any person or situation where there is concern and a need for prayer. The requests remain confidential and are not included in public intercessions.

Please do remember, we would be very happy to pray for anyone who needs it. To make a request please email me or speak to me, Jill Wasey. My details appear at the bottom of the weekly sheet every week.





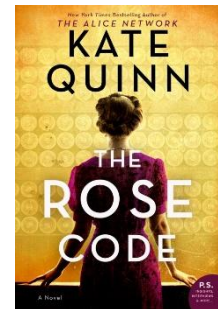
Big Clean – Save the Date

Our next Big Clean will be on **Saturday 28th March 9.00am – 11.30pm**, to get our church building ready for Easter. We need as many pairs of hands as possible on that day to brush away the winter dust and make our church sparkle again. Please do lend a hand if you can – an hour or two really helps us to achieve a lot.

St Mary's Bookworms

Our St Mary's Bookworms meet again on Tuesday, 3rd March at 8.00pm at 81 Mardale Crescent. All new readers are very welcome to join us for a very informal discussion of a book we have all read together.

The book for this month is *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn. A beautiful blue-blooded debutante, a tart-tongued London shopgirl, and a shy crossword-solving spinster join the war against Nazi Germany as codebreakers of Bletchley Park, only to find that the real puzzle lies inside the Park itself as a traitor sets them against each other in a betrayal reaching past the end of the war.



Coffee/Tea - new rota out for March and April

Thank you to all those who are enabling us to have tea and coffee after every service now. A new rota is now available to sign up for March and April. Please help if you can. If you've never done it before, we can show you what to do – please just ask. The more people who can help, the fewer times it comes round for everyone. Enjoy your coffee and tea!

Prayer during our Church Vacancy

To help us in our worship during our Church Vacancy a special prayer has been developed which we hope everyone will be willing to use and to pray daily, at our services on Sunday or whenever we meet as a group. It is important that we ask for God's help in everything we do and especially as we go forward working together to bring a new Rector to St Mary's. We all have a part to play in what is happening and we can all influence the outcome. With God's help we will succeed in getting the right person to help us grow in faith and to lead us forward in whatever God puts before us. **Derek and Ian.**

Vacancy Prayer




O God our Father, send your Holy Spirit to our Church of St Mary's Lymm, to fill us with vision, energy, and love. Help us to bring new life to our community and fellowship, and in unity and expectation, remain ever faithful to your calling.

Guide with your heavenly wisdom those involved in bringing a new minister to this Church that whomever we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd. We pray that the minister of your choice will hear your call and respond in faith, ready to serve us with joy, and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Services February/March 2026

Sunday Next Before Lent 15 February 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Chris Moore
Ash Wednesday 18 February 2026	10.00am Ash Wednesday Service Bishop Sam, Bishop of Stockport

1 st Sunday of Lent 22 February 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Christina Westwell	
2 nd Sunday of Lent 01 March 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Keith Hine	12.00pm Holy Baptism Reverend Keith Hine
3 rd Sunday of Lent 08 March 2026	10.00am Holy Communion (with Godly Play in FR) Priest Reverend Anita Raggett	
Mothering Sunday 15 March 2026	 10.00am Mothering Sunday Family Service	6.30pm Said Holy Communion Reverend Keith Hine
Passiontide Sunday 22 March 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Christina Westwell	
Palm Sunday 29 March 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Chris Moore	
Maundy Thursday 02 April 2026	Chester Cathedral Service TBC	6.30pm Holy Communion with Foot Washing Reverend Keith Hine
Good Friday 03 April 2026	10.30am Reflective Service	12.00 noon Churches Together Service at the Cross
Easter Sunday 05 April 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Chris Moore	7.00am Sunrise Service at Lymm Dam (CTLD)
2 nd Sunday of Easter 12 April 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Keith Hine	
3 rd Sunday of Easter 19 April 2026	10.00am Holy Communion (with Godly Play in FR) Priest Reverend Anita Raggett	
4 th Sunday of Easter 26 April 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Christina Westwell	

Green Tips – Make your Pancakes the Fairtrade way

It's Shrove Tuesday on the 17th February and time to make pancakes. Our traditional toppings of lemon and sugar taste so good, don't they? Just remember to sprinkle Fairtrade sugar on your pancakes to ensure someone else has a good day because of your pancakes too! Billingtons is a brand with Fairtrade options, but look along the shelves in your local supermarket as other fairly traded sugars are also available.

Please Pray

- For our Churchwardens, Lay Readers, visiting clergy and all involved in running our church during our period of vacancy
- For the humanitarian effort bringing help to many in Gaza
- All those suffering as a result of conflict in Ukraine
- Remember in prayer those in the Book of Remembrance for today and the next week
- For those being prayed for by St Mary's Prayer Circle

Contact Details

Website - www.stmaryslymm.org

Rector: Vacancy

Lay Readers: Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810 Ian Bunday 01925 755286

Church Wardens: Elizabeth France 07956 408300 George Bainton 01925 757732

PCC Secretary: Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810

PCC Treasurer: David Young 01925 759919

Choir Director / Organist: Susan Gadd 07398 399121

Church Hall Secretary: Kath Hough Telephone: 01925 754435

Pastoral Care Team: Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810, Pauline Buckthorpe 01925 752810 Ian Bunday 01925 755286

St Mary's Prayer Circle – Co-ordinator for Prayer Requests Jill Wasey 01925 754265 email jhwasey@yahoo.co.uk Members - Susan Brooks 01925 755735 Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810, Pauline Buckthorpe 01925 752810 Ian Bunday 01925 755286 Vanessa Lees 01925 757471, Angela Roberts, Jill Wasey

Church Wi-Fi Wifi name = St Marys Church Wifi code = Welcome2Everyone **FIRE EXITS VIA THE MAIN ENTRANCE, THE DISABLED ENTRANCE BY THE TOILETS AND THE EXTERNAL DOOR VIA THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM**