

# CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

## MARCH 2025



### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

#### **Sunday next before Lent Quinquagesima**

10am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments  
God's Gang meets during the service

### **Tuesday 4<sup>rd</sup> March Shrove Tuesday**

4pm to 6pm Pancakes at the Vicarage

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Ash Wednesday**

10am Holy Communion (BCP) with imposition of Ashes

12.15pm Christian Aid lunch at St George's

5pm Evening Prayer

8pm Choral Eucharist with imposition of ashes

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

10.30am World Day of Prayer at Salvation Army, The Grove

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

9.30am Working Party

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **First Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

7.30pm Lent Study Group

### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

7.30pm Mothers Union 'The Way of the Cross'

### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March Ember Day**

10am Holy Communion

2pm First Steps service. If you are a family with pre-school children, come and join in the fun.

5pm Evening Prayer

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Lent Study Group

5.30pm Installation of new honorary canons at Rochester Cathedral

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Second Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments  
God's Gang meets during the service

### **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

7.30pm Lent Study Group

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March St Joseph of Nazareth**

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Lent Study Group

2.30-4pm Mustard Seed – Chat, Tea, Cake, Good Company

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

#### **Third Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

7.30pm Lent Study Group

### **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Lent Study Group

### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

9.30am Preparing Mothering Sunday Flowers

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March **CLOCKS GO FORWARD****

#### **Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with God's Gang followed by refreshments

### **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

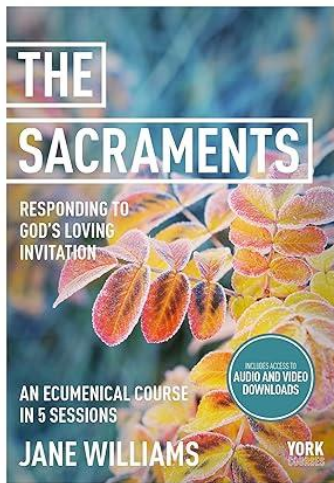
7.30pm Lent Study Group

## Electoral Roll

Every six years the church prepares a new electoral roll (membership list). Everybody needs to fill in a registration form (even if you have been on previous rolls). Forms will be available in church from 14<sup>th</sup> March to 20<sup>th</sup> April. The form asks for some basic information but this does not give us permission to use that information for any other purpose – there will be an additional slip to give permission for us to keep details of your email and address for news and pastoral use. The form explains qualification and if you have any questions about the form please speak to Michael Charles (Electoral Roll Officer) or one of the clergy. The new roll (names only) will be published for two weeks before the Annual Church Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May.



## Lent Learning



Lent study groups will begin in the week of 9<sup>th</sup> March on Monday evenings at 7.30pm and Thursday mornings at 10am, meeting in the choir vestry. Come to which suits you best – or mix and match according to your commitments. We will be looking at the book *Sacraments: Responding to God's Loving Invitation* by Jane Williams.

*Acknowledging that the sacraments can seem confusing, divisive or (frankly!) incomprehensible, she reveals them to be a glorious expression of God's love for the world in all its beauty and brokenness. The sacraments invite us to enter into the mystery that the world has meaning and purpose and that all things come together in Jesus. If we*

*are willing, in loving response, to become part of the action ourselves, we will surely find ourselves not only refreshed but re-enchanted.*

Books are now available from the Vicar - £6 each.

## Honorary Canons announced

Bishop Jonathan has announced seven new honorary canons to join the College of Canons as part of the Cathedral Foundation, including our Vicar, Andrew.

The canons have a particular role in helping the Cathedral maintain its links with the Diocese and the wider Church, as well as helping the needs and concerns of the Diocese and its communities to be heard at the Cathedral.

In confirming the appointments, Bishop Jonathan says: "The nomination of clergy to be honorary canons is an affirmation of the ministries of those particular people, very often with an eye to that which they offer beyond the scope of their substantive post or appointment. It can also be an affirmation of particular roles and callings – the value of those callings and that of the wider diocese and church.



Andrew will be installed in his canon's stall in Rochester Cathedral at a service of evensong on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm. Everyone welcome – no need to book.

# LENT

## SUNDAYS

8am Holy Communion  
10am Parish Eucharist

## Making time for God

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY

8.30am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAYS

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

**LENT OFFERING+MOTHERING SUNDAY+PASSIONTIDE**

MONDAYS 7.30pm

THURSDAYS 10am

**LENT STUDY**

*The Sacraments  
Responding to God's Loving Invitation*

## CHRIST CHURCH MILTON - NEXT - GRAVESEND Branch News - March 2025



Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to reorganise our March meeting and we shall now be joining in "The Way of the Cross" using prayer beads with Reverend Andrew.

We shall meet in the Church Hall at 7.30 on Tuesday 11 March. Cost £3 per person with refreshments.

Why not come along and use this opportunity to continue your Lenten journey. Non members are very welcome to join us at all our meetings.

New appointments: it has been announced that the Mothers' Union has a new Patron - Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh. Her Highness supports the strengthening of families and communities and also the promotion of women's development into leadership.

Our new Worldwide President Kathleen Snow will be commissioned along with Zonal Trustee Julia Jamieson at Canterbury Cathedral this month. We are also very happy to hear that the new Rochester Diocesan Chaplain is to be Father Michael Payne of St Aidans who will be commissioned at our Triennial Service at the Cathedral on Saturday 22 March.



We are once again holding a raffle to win a Simnel Cake kindly donated by David Williams. Tickets are £1.50 each and the draw will take place on Mothering Sunday.


If you would like to know more about the Mothers' Union or are thinking of joining us, please do let us know.



The heart of mission is prayer  
**A PRAYER FESTIVAL**  
to explore different ways of praying



**Keynote speaker:**  
**Simon Burton Jones, Bishop of**  
**Tonbridge**



With workshops on pilgrimage, Christian meditation,  
Celtic prayer, labyrinth, praying with Ignatius, potter,  
icons, creative prayer, creative prayer writing, the  
Jesus prayer

Saturday 7 June 2025 at West Malling: St Benedicts,  
Malling Abbey and the Pilsdon Community

Suggested donation £10-20

To book please email [bookings@stbenedictscentre.org](mailto:bookings@stbenedictscentre.org)



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*...a place apart*

## Welcoming Archdeacon Sandra

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February we welcomed The Venerable Sandra McCalla as the new Archdeacon of Rochester. The cathedral was packed to see Sandra and the new Archdeacon of Tonbridge The Venerable Nick Cornell vested in the Archdeacons' copes and received into their stalls in in the choir. The cathedral nave looked stunning with Luke Jerram's installation *Mars* dominating proceedings.



## World Day of Prayer

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am** Service in the Salvation Army Citadel, The Grove.

All welcome

The World Day of Prayer, promotes prayerful living and worship for men, women and young people, helping raise awareness of the lives and concerns of others throughout the world, especially those who write the service. This year's service has been prepared by women living in the Cook Islands.

On the first Friday in March the Day of Prayer begins on the international dateline, in Samoa. Early in the morning, Christian women begin praying for our world. As the earth rotates, a great wave of prayer begins to build. It sweeps across the Pacific, touching Fiji and New Zealand, rolling on through Asia: Japan, the Philippines, Korea, and Bangladesh. The countries of Africa, and the Middle East are next. The wave reaches the shores of Europe as the day dawns there. Across the Atlantic, it moves onwards, the Caribbean, the Americas, and on to the Pacific again until the sun finally sets over American Samoa where the final service takes place. A worldwide circle of prayer is complete.

Cook Islands 2025 - I made you wonderful

## PRAYER CALENDAR for March

	THE COMMUNITY	CHURCH
1	The Elderly Those who are housebound or isolated	Those who use our church hall
2	Those with poor mental health	Our preschool
3	The armed services	Our clergy – Andrew, Jacqueline & Chris
4	GPs and community health workers	Our Churchwarden Our Parochial Church Council
5	Schools	The children in our church Tots' Group, God's Gang and First Steps
6	Young people at university & college, or in work or apprenticeships	For vocations in the church, and those in training for ordained and lay ministry
7	All who seek to promote peace in our world	Street and school Pastors
8	Our parliament and MP	Churches Together in Gravesend
9	The victims of racism and discrimination	Our companion dioceses in Estonia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania All who struggle for racial justice
10	Social workers	Neighbouring Parishes
11	All who have served in war and conflict	Our lay ministers
12	Prisoners and prison staff	Prison chaplains
13	Refugees and asylum seekers	Our Cathedral in Rochester
14	Those who support people in the workplace	Those preparing for marriage
15	Our neighbours of other faiths	Those who are new in our church
16	Our local hospitals	Hospital chaplains
17	All who work with young people School pastors	Inclusive Church and all who work for inclusion and equality
18	Those living with dementia	Our safeguarding team
19	Musicians and artists	Our organist, choir & Semiquavers
20	The unemployed	
21	Our councillors and council	Those who are persecuted for their faith
22	All involved in the production and distribution of food	Mustard Seed
23	All who work on the river RNLI	Our Bishops Jonathan and Simon Archdeacon Sandra
24	Victims of domestic abuse	Those who care for our buildings
25	All who work for peace	Mediators and peace makers
26	Those who are affected by modern day slavery	Baptism families
27	Foodbanks and those who use them The homeless	Those who help communicate God's message
28	Local businesses	The bereaved
29	Our emergency services	Christian Aid
30	Family life	Our Mothers Union
31	Those who live and work in care homes	The housebound and isolated

## Join us as we journey through Holy Week

### Palm Sunday 13th April

- 8am Holy Communion  
10am Palm Procession & Parish Eucharist  
with dramatic reading of the Passion Story

### Monday 14th April

- 7.30pm The Stations of the Cross  
prayers, readings and reflections on  
the way of the cross

### Wednesday 16th April

- 7.30pm Short address and Night Prayer

### Maundy Thursday 17th April

- 8pm Eucharist of the Last Supper and vigil  
Recalling Jesus' final meal with his friends, finishing  
with time to watch and pray

### Good Friday 18th April

- 10am Good Friday service *for all ages*  
A service exploring the meaning of this holy day with  
crafts and hot cross buns

### 12 noon-3pm Good Friday service

'Healing wounds' Three meditations followed by  
the liturgy of the day at 1.30pm. You are  
welcome to come for all or part of the service.

## Celebrate the Resurrection Easter Day 20th April

- 6am Dawn Service  
*A service of light welcoming the risen Christ  
followed by breakfast*
- 8am Holy Communion BCP
- 10am Easter Eucharist  
*Followed by refreshments and Easter eggs*
- 6pm Choral Evensong



**Christ is Risen:  
Alleluia!**  
**We wish you joy this  
Eastertide.**

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