

Hampstead Parish
Church
**Magazine for
March 2026**

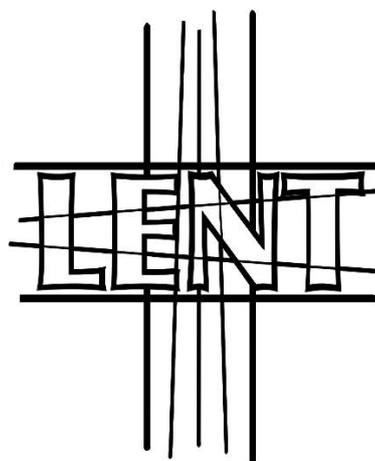
**BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF
CHRISTIAN LOVE, FAITH, WITNESS AND ACTION**

In this **National Year of Reading** Mthr Carol presents some sobering statistics and looks at the joy reading can bring

Charity News
The Sherriff Centre
And an update from the Diocese on ALMA;s work in Mozambique

John Harrison
250th anniversary

Agrippina's Betrayal
Charles Wood's St Mark
Passion
Stainer's Crucifixion –
A feast of music for Lent



HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH

[Registered Charity No. 1129264]

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Youtube: youtube.com/c/hampsteadparishchurch

Sunday worship:

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Choral Holy Communion (Common Worship)

5.00pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

Weekday worship:

Mon – Fri: Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5.00pm

Wednesdays Holy Communion at 10.15am

Thursdays Rosary prayer on Zoom at 8.30am

Saturday Evening Prayer at 5.00pm

But please check the weekly email—sometimes we have to make changes to our pattern of worship*

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Home Communion and Home Visits

please contact The Vicar

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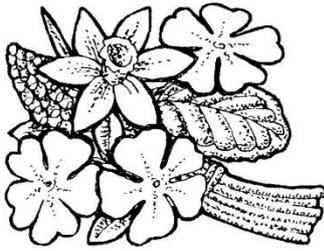
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March
2026

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Diary for March

Sunday 1st Lent 2

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Choral Holy Communion
5.00pm Choral Evensong

Mon 2nd 7.00pm Hampstead Collective concert – see page 23

Wed 4th 10.15am Holy Communion
7.30pm Lent Group with Handley Stevens at his home

(For details of the Lent groups see weekly email or notices in church)

Thu 5th 12.00 Stations of the Cross
7.30pm Community Choir

Fri 6th Women's World Day of Prayer

Sat 7th 10.00am Gardening group meets

Sunday 8th Lent 3

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Choral Holy Communion
5.00pm Choral Evensong



Wed 11th 10.15am Holy Communion
7.30pm Lent Group with Handley Stevens at his home

Thu 12th 12.00 Stations of the Cross
7.30pm Community Choir

Sat 14th 3.00pm OperaBites – see posters in church
3.30pm Lent Group with Mthr Carol in the vicarage

Sunday 15th Mothering Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Choral Holy Communion
5.00pm Choral Evensong



Wed 18th 10.15am Holy Communion
7.30pm Lent Group with Handley Stevens at his home

Thu 19th *Joseph of Nazareth*
 12.00 Stations of the Cross
 7.30pm Community Choir
 Sat 21st 3.30pm Lent Group with Mthr Carol in the vicarage
 4.00pm Organ recital – see page 26

Sunday 22nd Lent 5 / Passiontide begins

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Choral Holy Communion
 5.00pm St Mark Passion – see page 24

Wed 25th *The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary*
 10.15am Holy Communion
 7.30pm Lent Group with Handley Stevens at his home
*(Installation of Archbishop of Canterbury,
 the Most Reverend Sarah Mullally DBE)*

Thu 26th 12.00 Stations of the Cross
 7.30pm Community Choir
 Fri 27th 7.30pm Community Choir concert:
 Stainer's Crucifixion – see page 25

Sunday 29th Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Choral Holy Communion with
 singing of the Passion
 5.00pm Choral Evensong



Holy Week

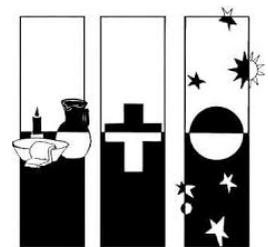
Mon – Wed 12 noon Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

6.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Supper and Vigil

Good Friday 3rd April

12 – 2pm A Time for Personal Reflection
 3.00pm The Liturgy of Good Friday
 6.00pm Choral Tenebrae



Easter Eve 4th April

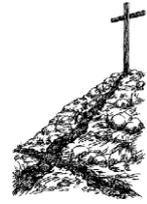
8.00pm Vigil and Lighting of New Fire

Easter Day 5th April

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Choral Holy Communion

No Evening prayer



The Vicar writes

In January 2026 the Department of Education launched a National Year of Reading to address *'the worrying decline in reading for pleasure, especially among young people which has dropped to its lowest level since 2005, with just one in three 8 to 18-year-olds saying they enjoy reading in their spare time and teenage boys affected the most—in 2025, just 25% of boys aged 8-18 said they enjoy reading, compared to 39% of girls.'*

I learned to read with my Mum at three and was pretty fluent by the time I went to school aged four. I have always loved reading for pleasure and my tastes are very broad. As a teacher I could see that reading for pleasure exercises the creative muscle in young people—it enhances the imaginative skills and is a wonderful stress-buster. It is very sad to think that our young people are not accessing this great gift.

The Today Show on Radio 4 has been focusing on the National Year of Reading, inviting authors to talk about their favourite books. And so I have learned that Pat Barker recommends *A Mind of My Own* by Kathy Burke, for Roddy Doyle it's *Just William* by Richmal Crompton and Marian Keyes recommends *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote. Perhaps it would be interesting to compile a list of favourite books amongst the congregation as part of this year's events, though I think that many of us would struggle to nominate just one text!

The National Literacy Trust has also been active as part of this year's initiative. It's sobering to read their statistics: *'in England 18% of adults aged 16 to 65, or 6.6 million people, can be described as having "very poor literacy skills." This means they can understand short straightforward texts on familiar topics accurately and independently, and obtain information from everyday sources but reading information from unfamiliar sources or on*

unfamiliar topics could cause problems. One lady interviewed on Radio 4 explained how she had not learned to read as she was absent from school due to illness and was 'left behind'. She left school without the ability to read, using an elaborate system of visual clues to help her navigate the daily tasks of her adult life. Learning to read as an adult is her proudest achievement and she now helps other adults to learn this vital skill.

A friend of mine is turning 40 this year. Her mum has set her a challenge—a list of 40 recommended books to read during this year (she did the same thing when my friend turned 30). It struck me as a wonderful challenge, perhaps one that we could start with our own children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces or godchildren.

So, what's your favourite book?

best wishes, Mthr Carol

March

Judy East

“What's your favourite book?” Mthr Carol asks. Seriously, we'd be happy to have some suggestions – maybe they'd fuel our reading in the months to come. For Lent, to begin with, there are plenty of suggestions around. Our Lent book, Rowan Williams' *Being Christian* of course. Then there are some suggestions further on in this issue – *Wardrobes and Rings*, no prizes for guessing which writings that focusses on. Lent with Frodo and Lucy? Why not? Or *Dappled Beauty*, a different Gerard Manley Hopkins poem for each day. Perhaps *Meeting God in John* by David F Ford is more your thing? But we'd much rather have your favourites than rely on the Church Times or Parish Pump. Perhaps we could start a regular, monthly reading item. Let us know.

Also, as always, there are details of the month's music, which this Lent includes *Stainer's Crucifixion*, sung by the Community Choir and Charles Wood's *St Mark Passion* sung by the church choir - and the singing of the Passion on Palm Sunday. You can read more about those in

Geoffrey's Music Notes below. And then there's one of our monthly Organ Recitals, the regular Hampstead Collective concert, and "OperaBites" – a new addition to our calendar but one which has apparently been operating successfully in the area for some time. Details were in last month's magazine and are available on leaflets around the church.

And don't miss the 250th anniversary of John Harrison's death on 24th March 1776. The website clocktime.co.uk expects "a year of events around the world" – at the very least I expect we'll see an increase in visitors to what is possibly already the most visited tomb in the churchyard.

And finally a poem written by Gerard Manley Hopkins in 1877 - "*A particularly wet year*"

Spring

Nothing is so beautiful as spring -

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?

A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden - Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Reflection for Ash Wednesday

Mthr Carol

Ash Wednesday is one of the most important days in the Christian calendar—it falls on a weekday and outside of Holy Week it is probably the biggest weekday devotion for Christians. So we come to church—it is more than a habit, more than a duty (though it is a ‘Red Letter Day’ in the Lectionary or a ‘Holy Day of Obligation’, if you prefer). There are words to say and actions to make.

The words that we speak resonate across the centuries. They are stark and unadorned, they are powerful. ‘Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’ We face the reality of our mortality, we acknowledge that we are human, finite. And as a tangible reminder of this we allow ourselves to be marked with ashes.

In our reading Jesus reminds us of this by asking us to think about the things that we own, that we value. These very things will also decay, they will moulder, they will fall apart. Everything will—in the end—decay. This is the truth of organic existence—we will all be dust and ashes. The world may try to convince us otherwise but as one writer says *‘these words of simple, absolute truth give us a perspective the world tries both to hide and to deny – and that we usually do our best to ignore’*. However, within the dust and ashes there can also be hope. Hope because we are created by God, and he gives us our lives as a gift. He breathed life into us, he moulded us, as Psalm 139 says:

*For you yourself created my inmost parts; ♦
you knit me together in my mother s womb.*

*I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; ♦
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you, ♦
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.*

*Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; ♦
already in your book were all my members written,*

God hallows things—he makes them holy, even the humble dust. The ashes that we accept on our foreheads today are mixed with holy oil and blessed. If we look closely we can discern that being reminded that we are dust is another way of remembering that God has us encompassed all around, from beginning to end, in birth and in death. We receive his cross in oil at baptism, we receive his cross in oil at extreme unction—the ‘Last Rites’.

Each year we *allow ourselves* to receive the imposition of a cross of ash (which is the reason why the proper title for the act is an ‘imposition of ashes’ rather than ‘ashing’). In this we remind ourselves that not only do we *receive* the cross of ash, we do so willingly, remembering of what we are made, and of what Jesus was willing to surrender for us—his very life. In doing so we look forward both to Good Friday and Easter morning. For when we return to dust we do so—as our Prayer of Committal puts it—‘in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ’. In this, our cross of ash become a promise of salvation.

Salvation born of love—God’s great love of us, God’s great desire to draw close to us. And to allow that closeness to develop and grow, we take up our Lenten disciplines, whatever they may be. Prayer, fasting, spiritual or practical work, whatever resonates with us at the time and in this year, because every year is different. Whatever is right for you and me this year—whether public or private—knowing that our reward will be in heaven, not here. Knowing that there is no need to put on a dismal face or a pious display. Knowing that God knows the secrets of our hearts, he made us and he loves us, and we will grow in strength and love as we respond to him this Lent.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Introduction given by Revd Dr Philip Buckler

It is a great delight to be invited back to introduce this Concert with some memories of Martindale and Barbara Sidwell.

Martindale nearly caused an accident on the American Highway (many may think of the numerous near accidents he and Barbara almost had in their Capri between here and St Clement Danes – but that is another story). It was in America that the father of one of his last choristers in Hampstead was driving, when on the radio came the announcement that it was the birthday of the British Musician Martindale Sidwell, 'I very nearly drove off the highway in surprise' he said – realising perhaps for the first time how fortunate his son had been to have sung under such a figure.

Martindale had been Organist here for 40 years when I was appointed Vicar. 'You'll have to get rid of him' I was told by the Bishop. And indeed 40 years is a good stint by any reckoning – even without it concerning the one I described as having turned the Vicar – Organist relationship into an art form.

But I had known of Martindale for many years prior to this, for my brother had often spoken admiringly of him as one who taught him the piano at Highgate Junior School in the mid-1950s. I had also come from St Paul's Cathedral where many of the choir men had lauded his skills.

So I bided my time and before long we had established a relationship that worked, and the music continued to be offered with a flourish – and the occasional mischief. I recall at my daughter's baptism the organ voluntary at the end had people trying to guess

something familiar – not in fact a Bach Fugue, but a Sidwell Variation on *Rock-a-bye Baby*.

But it was inevitable that age began to take its toll, and despite Barbara's loyal support (indeed we all depended upon her to produce Martin at the right time in the right place) nevertheless the time had come for retirement – both for the sake of the parish and its music, and for Martin's own dignity and reputation.

I vividly recall the PCC meeting at which I had asked him finally to give me his resignation. Five to eight – no sign of Martin, three minutes to eight I walked along the path hoping to meet him but no sign. Then as eight o'clock struck he appeared with the letter in his hand.

'You will kill him if you sack him' many said to me. But I did not sack him, nor did he lie down and die. In fact he remained a regular worshipper here until his death.

Martindale was notorious for many things, and so some were surprised when at his funeral I suggested he might be in line for canonization - being made a saint. My reasoning, impeccable as it was, stemmed from a miracle performed after death (one of the qualifications for sainthood). For as some of you will recall, we had professional singers queuing up to sing at Martindale's funeral – and to sing for free! Here surely was evidence of miracle.

Hampstead's musical tradition owes so much to Martindale and also, of course, to Barbara – a fine musician of the harpsichord in her own right. It is appropriate that tonight's concert pays tribute to them both.

But to me, the most important thing was not just his musicality – I would say that towards the end you could hear more music in his organ introduction to Schubert's Gloria than in many who got all the notes right! But for me it was his deep commitment to the music being offered in the worship of God – that was what mattered above all to him. It was to be the offering of the very best – and nothing less would do.

His inspiration continues – on American highways, across cathedrals and churches in this and other lands and in concerts and performances down to this very evening.

We remember them both, with affection and gratitude.



If, like me, you think of St James' Church, West Hampstead, as "that church with the Post Office" you may be wondering why the Community Choir chose it for their concert charity this month? Well, there's more to it than stamps.....

The Sherriff Centre at St James' Church is a not-for-profit organisation registered charity, number 1155848. From their website we learn:

"We are a registered charity and have a trading subsidiary that operates our Post Office, the café, soft play plus events and private hire. Profits from our trading activities go to fund the work of our charity to provide services to the local community. Our vision has always been to use the profits from our commercial services to help us deliver services that support our local community. We currently run the following projects:-

Debt advice

We run a free, confidential and impartial debt advice service which is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and are members of Advice UK. We employ a highly qualified and experienced debt advisor who sees clients by appointment.

Our service can help with a wide range of debt issues including utility debt, rent and council tax arrears, credit debts, overpayment of benefits and tax credits. We also aim to assist in emergencies, for example, repossession, eviction or disconnection.

To make an appointment please get in touch with Paul, our advice worker, either by email at debtadvice@thesherriffcentre.co.uk or by calling and leaving a message on 07806 807730.

The Food Share Project

We aim to reduce food waste by providing space within our premises to share surplus food. We have a Community Fridge and receive donations from our community and local business, for example, Gail's bakery.

We also provide emergency food parcels for anyone experiencing food poverty. We do this by referral only. Our debt advisor can refer clients or any other support service, for example, social worker, doctor or other health workers.

Our services are available to residents in Camden, Brent and Westminster.

Additional needs soft play sessions

We run additional needs sessions within our soft play for children and young people who have special needs, or a disability that may make participating in regular play sessions difficult for them and their parents.

These are entirely private sessions, the entire soft play is available, along with additional sensory equipment, our café also remains open for these sessions. For dates and more information please contact softplay@thesherriffcente.co.uk



Standing with our Brothers and Sisters in Mozambique

In January the parish magazine carried an article about the work of ALMA, the London Diocesan link with the church in Angola and Mozambique.

This update has recently been sent out by the Diocese:

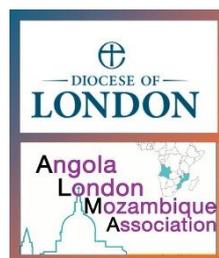
“Since mid-December 2025, Mozambique has suffered from severe flooding, displacing communities and damaging homes, churches, and schools. Churches within our partner dioceses in Mozambique are serving as emergency shelters for families who have lost homes and possessions. Classrooms and church buildings are now places of refuge, with local congregations sharing what they have so that others can be safe.

“Local Anglican churches are often the first point of support in both rural and hard-to-reach communities. Clergy and lay leaders are providing shelter, coordinating supplies, and caring for people who are distressed and exhausted. They are responding faithfully and sacrificially, but resources are stretched and needs continue to grow.

“Through ALMA, the Diocese of London is calling for prayer and donations to fund urgent relief and recovery, and to stand in practical solidarity with affected dioceses. Please see their website for further information and prayer points:

london.anglican.org/articles/standing-with-our-brothers-and-sisters-in-mozambique/#firstMeaningfulContent

Or to donate go to justgiving.com/page/alma-london-mozambique-floods



Bishop Sarah Mullally to be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury on 25th March

In a special service at St Paul's Cathedral, at her Confirmation of Election, Bishop Sarah Mullally DBE legally became the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January.

The Confirmation of Election is a legal ceremony, set within a church service, at which Bishop Sarah, the Archbishop-Elect, legally became the Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Sarah's first act as Archbishop was to take up the Primatial Cross and give the blessing at the end of the service.

The Confirmation will be followed by an Installation service at Canterbury Cathedral on 25th March, where Archbishop Sarah will preach her first sermon as Archbishop of Canterbury.

Between her Confirmation of Election and Installation, Archbishop Sarah will pay homage to The King and meet with the leaders of other Christian denominations and other faiths in the UK. She also co-chaired at the Church of England's General Synod in London in February, where she delivered the Presidential Address.

By tradition, Archbishop Sarah will begin her public ministry and full programme of public engagements following her Installation.

Bishop Sarah said: "It is an extraordinary and humbling privilege to have been called to be the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. In this country and around the world, Anglican churches bring healing and hope to their communities. With God's help, I will seek to guide Christ's flock with calmness, consistency and compassion.

"These are times of division and uncertainty for our fractured world. I pray that we will offer space to break bread together and discover what we have in common – and I pledge myself to this ministry of hospitality.

"I want us to be a Church that always listens to the voices of those who have been ignored or overlooked, among them victims and survivors of church abuse who have often been let down.

“I am committed to equipping the Church to be a kind and safe place that cares for everyone, especially those who are vulnerable, as we rise to the challenge of God’s call to justice, equity, peace and the care of creation”.

From Parish Pump

Music Section

Music Notes ~ March 2026

Geoffrey Webber

This year, instead of singing one of the Passions of J. S. Bach in place of Evensong on Passion Sunday, we perform *The Passion of Our Lord according to St Mark* by Charles Wood, as part of our celebrations marking the centenary of Wood’s death in 1926. Wood composed the work at the request of the Dean of King’s College, Cambridge, Dr Eric Milner-White, who famously introduced the service of Nine Lessons and Carols to King’s College (the basis of which had been established at Truro Cathedral in 1880 by Bishop Benson). Whilst recovering from appendicitis in a Cambridge Nursing Home, Milner-White wrote a detailed letter to Wood in 1920 outlining what he had in mind, including the following:

We wanted badly this year during Holy Week to do some Passion Music at King’s. Mann [Organist Arthur Mann] and I went through everything that exists...and could find nothing. The Bach Passions are too vast...the Cantatas also unsuitable, not in length but in words and idea. So the College asked me to invent a Passion Cantata or a Passion Chorale. Also, it is about time that the bigger parish churches superseded Stainer’s Crucifixion – or at least had an alternative.

He then described several ideas for the libretto and suggested that the two of them should meet to discuss the matter more fully, ending “But I do feel in this matter, I speak for a tremendous and growing need of the Church”. By August the work was complete, and it’s clear that Wood had some important suggestions to make about the nature of the interpolated elements, as they both sought to find something more

English, or indeed more universal, than the Lutheran chorales used by Bach. The work is book-ended by the great plainsong hymn *Pange lingua*, 'Sing my tongue the glorious battle', and Wood uses English metrical psalm-tunes including one of the finest by Thomas Tallis. The chorus occasionally takes over some of the narration, and after the death of Jesus the Confession is said by all, and Milner-White gives instructions for the appropriate kneeling and standing, and other details.

Also on the subject of Passions, this year we will complete a cycle of Passion settings by Orlando di Lasso, having sung those for St Mark and St Luke over the last two years following the liturgy as set for Palm Sunday, with St Matthew coming up this year. As with the other two, we will hear most of the text chanted in English, but the choral sections (representing the crowd) will be sung in Latin. However, I have intervened a little more than usual as some of the sections require more than our usual four voices in the choir, so I have adapted these to fit our singing team. (We will sing the most famous Renaissance setting of them all, by Victoria, as usual during the service of the liturgy on Good Friday.)

A notable rarity this month is a 'Penitential' setting of the Evensong Preces & Responses by Sir Robert Prescott Stewart, recently edited by David O'Shea from sources in Dublin. Stewart was a leading figure in Irish music during much of the 19th century: his posts included being Organist at both St Patrick's and Christ Church Cathedrals, and Professor of piano, organ, harmony and counterpoint at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. A letter written by Stewart mentions his Preces & Responses as follows: "Our Dean has just found...the set of Penitential Responses written by me for the obsequies of Arthur, Duke of Wellington, in 1852... We have sung them at Christ Church all this Lent, and everyone (even D., who likes and praises nothing) likes them! They differ from all other responses, in being either jubilant or sad, according to the character of the suffrages." Also notable is the Minister's part which contains composed lines rather than the usual chant formulas.

CHOIR NEWS

I am pleased to announce that a replacement has now been found for our 'Evensong' soprano, Rebecca Hardwick, who left us last summer: Olivia Hugh-Jones. No stranger to singing with us in recent months, including on Christmas Day, she will join us as a regular singer this month. A biographical note will be added to the Music section of the website soon. GW

Music List ~ March 2026

Sunday 1st March – Second Sunday of Lent

10.30 am. Holy Communion

Organ Prelude *Prelude on 'Rhosymedre'* Ralph Vaughan Williams

Opening Hymn 438

Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Missa Sanctae Crucis* (Op. 151)

Josef Rheinberger

Gradual Psalm 121 Tone vii/6

Offertory Hymn 102

Communion Motet *Tretet her zum Tisch des Herrn* Max Reger

Post-Communion Hymn 374

Organ Postlude *Benedictus* Max Reger

5 pm. Evensong

Organ Prelude *Clarifica me Pater* William Byrd

Introit *Have mercy upon me, O God* Thomas Tomkins

Preces & Responses *Penitential Set* R. P. Stewart

Psalm 135.1-14 Francis Pott

Canticles *The Second Service* Thomas Tomkins

Anthem *Ubi caritas et amor* Paul Mealor

Hymn 212

Final Amen William Mundy

Organ Postlude *Processional* William Mathias

Sunday 8th March – Third Sunday of Lent

10.30 am. All-Age Holy Communion

Organ Prelude *Prelude on 'Picardy'* John Joubert

Opening Hymn 489

Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Communion Service in D* Kenneth Leighton
Gradual Psalm 95 Tone iii/4
Offertory Hymn 386
Communion Motet *Peccantem me quotidie* Cristóbal de Morales
Post-Communion Hymn 371
Organ Postlude *Prelude in G minor* John Gardner

5 pm. Evensong

Organ Prelude *O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig* (BWV 618) J. S. Bach
Introit *A Litany* William Walton
Preces & Responses *Penitential Set* R. P. Stewart
Psalm 40 George Thalben-Ball
Canticles *Evening Service in D major* T. A. Walmisley
Anthem *Wash me thoroughly* S. S. Wesley
Hymn 562
Final Amen William Mundy
Organ Postlude *Jésus accepte la souffrance* (La Nativité)
Olivier Messiaen

Sunday 15th March – Fourth Sunday of Lent

10.30 am. Holy Communion (Mothering Sunday)

Organ Prelude *Petit canon* Nadia Boulanger
Opening Hymn 106
Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Missa L'ora passa* Ludovico da Viadana
Gradual Psalm 127.1-4 Tone ii/1
Offertory Hymn 492
Communion Motet *Whoso hath this world's goods* Alice M. Smith
Post-Communion Hymn 461
Organ Postlude *Andante* Joséphine Boulay

5 pm. Evensong

Organ Prelude *Christe, du Lamm Gottes* (BWV 619) J. S. Bach
Introit *Out of the deep* Charles Wood
Preces & Responses *Penitential Set* R. P. Stewart
Psalm 31.1-8 John Goss
Canticles *Magnificat & Nunc dimittis in F on Psalm tones*
Charles Wood

Anthem *Hear my prayer* Felix Mendelssohn
Hymn 486
Final Amen William Mundy
Organ Postlude *Intermezzo* (Sonata No. 8) Josef Rheinberger

Sunday 22nd March – Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)

10.30 am. Holy Communion

Organ Prelude *Ricercare* (Tone iv) G. P. da Palestrina
Opening Hymn 126
Mass setting (K/S&B/AD) *Missa brevis (quatuor vocum)*
Domenico Scarlatti
Gradual Psalm 130 Tone i/8v
Offertory Hymn 124
Communion Motet *Heu mihi Domine* Vicente Lusitano
Post-Communion Hymn 129
Organ Postlude *Fugue in A minor* G. F. Handel

5 pm. The Passion of Our Lord according to St Mark

Liturgy by Eric Milner-White, Music by Charles Wood
Evangelist - Aidan Coburn, Christ - James Geidt,
Organ - Francesca Massey

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

10.30 am. Holy Communion

Organ Prelude *Ach Herr, mich armen Sünder* Dieterich Buxtehude
Introit *Pueri Hebraeorum* Mode i
Processional Hymn 648
Gradual Psalm 31.9-16 Tone iii/5
Gospel *The Passion according to St Matthew* Orlande de Lassus
Offertory Hymn 121 (omit v. 4)
Mass setting (S&B/AD) *Communion Service in E flat* Charles Wood
Communion Motet *Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum*
G. P. da Palestrina
Post-Communion Hymn 116
Organ Postlude *Praeludium in A minor* (BuxWV 153)
Dieterich Buxtehude

5 pm. Evensong

Organ Prelude *Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele* (BWV 654) J. S. Bach

Introit *O saviour of the world* John Goss

Preces & Responses *Penitential Set* R. P. Stewart

Psalm 80 Crotch/Ashfield

Canticles *The Gloucester Service* Herbert Howells

Anthem *Timor et tremor* Francis Poulenc

Hymn 108 (t. 169/ii)

Final Amen William Mundy

Organ Postlude *Fugue sur le nom d'Alain* Maurice Duruflé

Aidan Coburn *Director of the Junior & Community Choirs*

Geoffrey Webber *Director of Music*



The Hampstead Collective

Monday 2nd March at 7.00pm

Agrippina's Betrayal

Rebecca Hardwick / Jacob Garside

The Players of the Hampstead Collective

Featuring music by Handel, Schütz and Buxtehude

Monday 6th April at 7.00pm

Piano Recital: Matthew Fletcher

Featuring Schumann's *Fantasia in C*

Monday 4th May at 7.00pm

Purcell: *Dido and Aeneas*

The Hampstead Collective / The Players of the Hampstead Collective

Tickets and more information at www.thehampsteadcollective.com



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST JOHN-AT-HAMPSTEAD



St Mark PASSION

Liturgy by Eric Milner-White Music by Charles Wood

Sunday 22nd March 2026 at 5.00 pm

The Choir of Hampstead Parish Church
Evangelist: Aidan Coburn Christ: James Geidt
Organist: Francesca Massey

Conductor Geoffrey Webber

Expected finish time 6.15 pm

*Free admission with a retiring collection for
Mission and Ministry of The Diocese of London*

Church Row
London NW3 6UU
020 7794 5808

hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk
fom@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk



HAMPSTEAD COMMUNITY CHOIR
Conductor Aidan Coburn

THE John Stainer
CRUCIFIXION



Friday 27th March 2026 at 7.30 pm

There will be a retiring collection for the

 Sherriff
Centre

Information:
020 7794 5808

HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH
CHURCH ROW, NW3 6UU

Tube: Hampstead (Northern Line) Buses: 46, 268
Parking is difficult in the immediate vicinity



Organ Recitals

Saturday 21st March at 4.00pm

George Inscoe, *St Paul's Cathedral, London*

Music by Bach, Byrd, Langlais and Dupré

Saturday 18th April at 4.00pm

Ed Gaut, Oxford - Music by Whitlock, Elgar, and Byrd

Further recitals on

23rd May, 20th June and 18th July

There's no charge for these organ recitals but we welcome donations to help cover costs.

Readings for March

10.30am

5.00pm

Sunday 1st Lent 2

Genesis 12.1-4a

John 3.1-17

Numbers 21.4-9

Luke 14.27-33

Sunday 8th Lent 3

Exodus 17.1-7

John 4.5-42

Joshua 1.1-9

Ephesians 6.10-20

Sunday 15th Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2.1-10

John 19.25b-27

Micah 7 or Prayer of

Manasseh

James 5

Sunday 22nd Lent 5

Ezekiel 37.1-14

John 11.1-45

St Mark Passion

Sunday 29th Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms Matthew 21.1-11

Isaiah 50.4-9a or Philippians 2.5-11

The Passion according to Matthew

Isaiah 5.1-7

Matthew 21.33-end

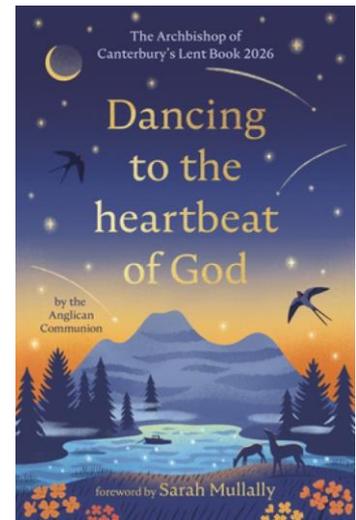
Lent Reading

Whilst in our Lent groups we're concentrating on Rowan Williams' *Being Disciples* it's sometimes good to have another Lent book as well. Here are a few suggestions:

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2026

Dancing to the Heartbeat of God explores many aspects of discipleship.

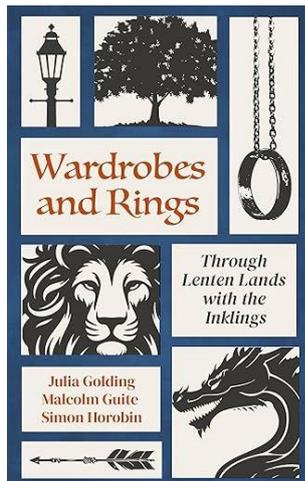
With a foreword and an afterword by the Archbishop of Canterbury designate, an introduction by the Archbishop of York, and chapters by around thirty authors drawn from across the globe, the volume creates a sense of excitement, dynamism and faithful witness in its gloriously diverse writers and readers alike.



Includes prayers and questions for reflection.

Its testimonies and stories aim to encourage people in the Church of England and across the Anglican Communion to share their faith with others.

Wardrobes and Rings: Through Lenten Lands with the Inklings



Journey through Lent with the insight and imagination of the Oxford Inklings - a group of writers who reshaped Christian thought and storytelling in the twentieth century. Drawing on the work of some of the Inklings' most well-known members, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, as well as friends of the Inklings such as Dorothy Sayers and T.S. Eliot, *Wardrobes and Rings* explores through their eyes a faith which is tinged with seriousness, creativity and joy. This devotional draws on their writings - fiction, poetry, and essays - offering daily readings and reflections that illuminate the path to the cross and resurrection. Weekly themes such as temptation, time, nature and creativity guide the way. Written by Julia Golding, Malcolm Guite and Simon Horobin:

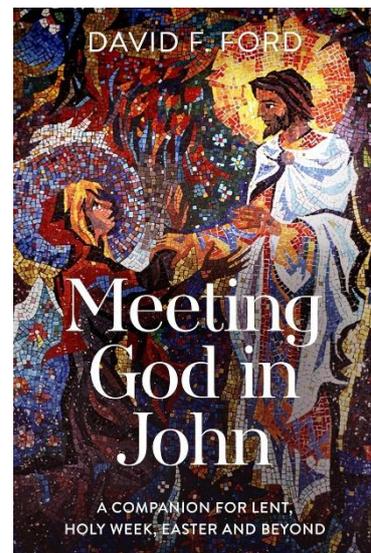
a novelist, a poet-priest, and an Oxford professor all deeply immersed in the Inklings' world and wisdom, Wardrobes and Rings invites you to rediscover Lent through the lens of imagination-infused faith.

£11.95

Meeting God in John

Whether you are completely new to John's Gospel or have read it many times before, Meeting God in John will help you see the Fourth Gospel with fresh eyes and gain a deeper understanding of its essential meaning and purpose.

David Ford, one of the world's most widely respected theologians and author of *Theology: A Very Short Introduction* and *The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary*, offers an accessible and absorbing introduction to the main message of John's Gospel, packed with compelling observations into the personality and impact of Jesus, both in the first century and today.



Meeting God in John explores what the Gospel reveals about God through the person of Jesus Christ. Essential reading for anyone seeking a richer grasp of the gospel message, it will leave you with a renewed appreciation of and enthusiasm for John's writing, and the desire to return to it over and over again. Ford's straightforward and illuminating approach also makes it eminently helpful for new Christians just starting out on their faith journey.

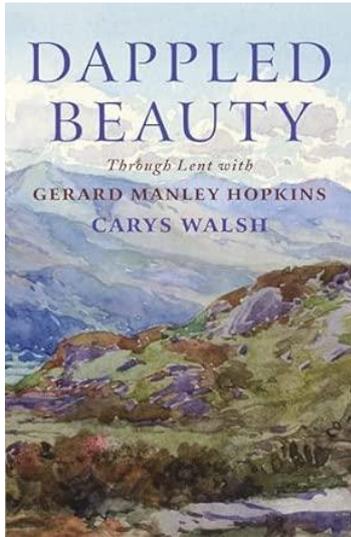
Each chapter includes questions for reflection or discussion, making Meeting God in John ideal for Bible study, whether individually or in small groups.

With its focus on the Passion narrative, it also serves beautifully as a Lent devotional.

Simple yet profound, this is an invitation to all who long to deepen their understanding of John's Gospel - and, through it, to meet the God revealed in Jesus Christ.

£10.99

Dappled Beauty



Gerard Manley Hopkins is one of English literature's most celebrated religious poets and a powerful companion through the Lenten season. In this beautifully crafted devotional, Carys Walsh invites readers on a journey of reflection and renewal, guided by Hopkins' vivid imagery, inventive language and deep theological insight. As Lent draws us towards the cross and the hope of Easter, these meditations offer a fresh way to deepen reflection, devotion and spiritual discovery. Whether you are new to Hopkins or a long-time admirer, *Dappled Beauty*

opens a poetic and prayerful path through the season, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day.

C £12.99

Prices are approximate – they are widely available with reductions.

John Harrison, clockmaker

March this year sees the 250th Anniversary of the death of John Harrison and most people nowadays probably recognise his name as having “something to do with longitude”. But what exactly?

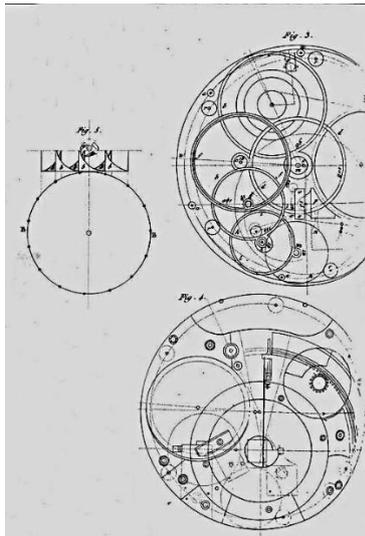
Harrison and the Longitude Act

John Harrison, a self-taught clockmaker (originally a carpenter) designed a series of



precision longcase clocks far more accurate than any other clocks of the time. He then turned his attention to the problem of Longitude which required a portable clock that would keep time to within three seconds a day. With his eye on the reward offered by the Longitude Act of 1714 he came to London

Who was John Harrison?



John Harrison was a carpenter by trade, following in his father's footsteps, but taught himself to make clocks in his spare time. Born in Yorkshire in 1693, the family moved to Lincolnshire in about 1700. Here John showed an early interest in clocks though he followed his father's occupation as a carpenter. Being also much interested in music he became choirmaster at Holy Trinity, Barrow on Humber.

Illustration of H4 taken from Wikipedia

He and his brother continued to build increasingly accurate longcase clocks - and if you understand clockmaking I recommend the Royal Observatory website and Wikipedia's John Harrison entries.

The Harrisons didn't move to London till about 1730 when, attracted by the prospect of the Longitude Prize, he contacted Edmond Halley and was given a grant to continue his work. It took him many years and many prototypes before he eventually came up with the prototype "sea-watch" H4. H1-3 had all been clocks rather than watches and of course H4 wasn't a straightforward watch. But it passed the required test in 1765. So Harrison got the reward? Well, no. The Board decided it needed much more testing and weren't convinced of its accuracy. So Harrison set to work on H5, enlisted the help of the King (George III), who duly tested the clock, found it be accurate and directed the Board to award Harrison the prize. So now he got the reward? That must have clinched it, mustn't it? This is the King directing them to make the award after all. Well, again, no. Although

Harrison was given some financial recognition of his work he never received the actual award (no one did). Harrison died in 1776 and is buried in our churchyard – just outside the south door.

A footnote from Wikipedia:

After the First World War Harrison's timepieces were rediscovered at the Royal Greenwich Observatory by the retired naval officer Lieutenant Commander Rupert Gould. The timepieces were in a highly decrepit state and Gould spent many years documenting, repairing and restoring them, *without compensation for his efforts*. Hmm.

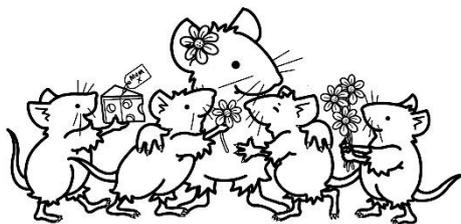
Disability Project awarded £5 million in funding

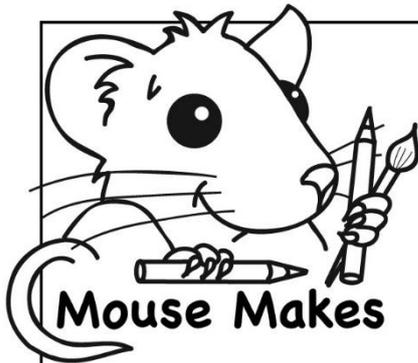
The Church of England is awarding £5 million over the next three years to the Disability Project as part of its commitment to the participation of deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people in the life of the Church.

The Disability Project is to receive funding for a series of programmes between 2026 and 2028 including leadership training, children and youth work, further training for members of the diocesan disability advisers network, and learning disabilities research.

By the end of next year, more than 50 disabled and neurodivergent church leaders, both lay and ordained, will have had the chance to take part in accessible and in-depth leadership development.

From Parih Pump





The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19

Across

- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
- 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
- 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
- 9. **Jesus'** mother
Acts 1:14

Down

- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
- 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2



Answer the questions then put them into the crossword

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Looking ahead

April

Mar 30th – Apr 4th HOLY WEEK

Sun 5th EASTER SUNDAY

Mon 6th The Hampstead Collective

Sat 18th Organ Recital

May

Mon 4th The Hampstead Collective

Thu 14th ASCENSION

Sat 9th or 16th Craft Fair (tbc)

Mon 18th Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sat 23rd Organ Recital

Sun 24th PENTECOST

Fri 20th/Sat 30th Hampstead Players 50th anniversary event

Sun 31st TRINITY

June

Mon 1st The Hampstead Collective

Sat 20th Organ Recital

Fri 26th Community Choir Summer Nights concert

Sat 27th Hampstead Chamber Choir concert

July

Thu 2nd – Sat 4th Hampstead Players Summer production

Mon 6th The Hampstead Collective

Sat 18th Organ Recital

