

# Weekly Link

Sunday 21st February: Lent 1

Sharing the love of Jesus with All

## The week ahead:

### Tuesday 23rd February

⇒ 7:30pm: Evening Prayer online

### Wednesday 24th February

⇒ 9:10am: Morning Prayer online

⇒ 11am: Holy Communion @ All Saints' (please book with Sue Moore)

⇒ All Day: All Saints Open for Private Prayer

### Thursday 25th February

⇒ 12:30pm: Lent lunch online (see details over page)

Service materials can be found on our website:

[www.allsaintsandstmarks.com](http://www.allsaintsandstmarks.com) and on our Facebook page:

All Saints' Weston & St Mark's Shavington

## As a parish we pray for:

**Monday:** Fairtrade Fortnight. The UK chocolate industry is worth £4billion, while cocoa farmers live in poverty, earning just 74p a day.

**Tuesday:** Covid vaccination centres, the NHS staff, volunteers and the centres manufacturing the vaccine

**Wednesday:** Children and young people working at home and anxious to return to school to learn and be with their friends

**Thursday:** The Emergency Services

**Friday:** Those who live in Chalfont Crescent and Back Lane

**Saturday:** Our friends and neighbours, especially the lonely, housebound and locked down

**Sunday:** the Bishops and clergy of Chester Diocese

## Services Today:

10am Morning Worship online

11:30am Holy Communion at St Mark's (please book with Margaret, there are plenty of spaces for services at St Mark's)

## Sunday 28th February: Lent 2

10am Morning Worship online

11:30am Holy Communion at All Saints (please book with Sue Moore)

Vicar: Rev. Rachael Griffiths

01270 582 585, [vicar@allsaintsandstmarks.com](mailto:vicar@allsaintsandstmarks.com)

Usual days in the parish Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday services.

### Booking contacts:

Margaret Hodgkinson (01270) 841577

Sue Moore (01270) 587566

If you would like to have anything included in the Weekly Link, please send to Becky ([admin@allsaintsandstmarks.com](mailto:admin@allsaintsandstmarks.com), 01270 582 585) by Wednesday evening.

## A Prayer for Lent

As the days lengthen and the earth  
spends longer in the light of day,  
grant that we may spend  
longer in the light of your presence.  
O Lord, and may those seeds of your World,  
which have been long-buried within us,  
into love for you, love for people;  
to become a visible declaration  
of your Lordship in our lives.  
Grant, Father,  
that this Lent there may be a springtime  
for our life in Christ, Amen

## Hearts of Hope

To brighten up our days and for something to spot on our daily exercise it would be brilliant if people could put up individual hearts or heart displays in their front windows so that people walking past can see them and they can bring some cheer.



The hearts can be any colour, be on their own or as part of a design. It doesn't matter really, it is all about the community coming together and looking forward together. We hope that you will join in and spread hope with us.  
All Saints' & St Mark's Church



Ideas of windows already created

## St Mark's and All Saints' 2021 Lent Challenge: Walk to the Cross

Are you looking for something different to do this Lent? Would you be up for a challenge that will help improve your fitness and raise valuable funds for our parish churches? Something that you can do even if we are still in lockdown?

'Walk to the Cross' is a virtual walking challenge from our parish to Jerusalem, a distance of 4,688km. To take part in the challenge, you will need to walk as many kilometres as you can for each of the six weeks of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup> February) and ending on Maundy Thursday (1<sup>st</sup> April). You will need to calculate your total weekly mileage in kilometres, starting on Ash Wednesday, and then send it to Rachael. You will need to let Rachael know your total weekly mileage on the evening of each of the following Thursdays: 25<sup>th</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Rachael will keep a running total of how many miles we have collectively walked and there will be a weekly update about how far along the route to Jerusalem we have reached.

To take part in the Lent challenge, you will be invited either to make a donation or ask for sponsorship (forms available on request). All money raised will go to church funds. For more information or to sign up to the virtual walking challenge, please contact Rachael.

## Lent Lunches

This year, Lent lunches will take place via Zoom on Thursdays at 12.30pm. You are warmly invited to attend the meeting with your sandwiches from the comfort of your own home! The lunches will be informal with plenty of time to chat. We will also watch a short reflection prepared by different members of our congregation with the opportunity for a time of sharing and discussion afterwards.

The lunches will be no more than an hour long on the following dates:

Thursday 25th February

Thursday 4th March

Thursday 11th March

Thursday 18th March

Thursday 25th March

Thursday 1st April

The Zoom link for all of the meetings will be:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84243586497?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84243586497?pwd=L1orTnJDVExYd2sydVE3cjYV2c4Zz09)

[pwd=L1orTnJDVExYd2sydVE3cjYV2c4Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84243586497?pwd=L1orTnJDVExYd2sydVE3cjYV2c4Zz09)

Meeting ID: 842 4358 6497, Passcode: 351929

The recorded reflections will also be available to view via our website and on our parish Facebook page. Rachael

## Please can we have your clear plastic bottles?

We want to make some Easter flowers to display outside the churches and we need as many bottles as you can spare. Please either leave them in church or we could collect from you when you have a few. Thanks Gaynor and Sara.

**Knit for Peace Update** They are continuing to operate despite the national lockdown, as the need for warm clothes and blankets remains.

This week the first donation of completed items has been delivered to me - hats, scarves and mittens.

If you need patterns, completed items collected or any other information please contact Margaret H (01270 841577 or email [margarethodgkinson6@gmail.com](mailto:margarethodgkinson6@gmail.com))

It will cost us £8.42 to send 15kg in weight of items made for this project, If you don't knit or crochet but would still like to be apart of this project we would be delighted for any donations to help cover this cost.



## St Paul's Pantry Update

The foodbank is currently short of:

- UHT milk
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned vegetables
- Pot noodles/ instant noodles
- Instant pasta and sauce
- Tinned sandwich meat
- Jam
- Rice

## Lent Week 1: Pilgrimage

Our journey though Lent is a pilgrimage – a time of letting go of the old and letting in the new. Pilgrimage can help us to focus on what really matters and gain a greater appreciation of life's gifts.



### Something to read:

'Pilgrimage is a meaningful journey to a sacred space. It provides the opportunity to step out of the non-stop busyness of our lives, to seek a time of quiet and reflection. It gives us chance to 'walk through' those issues that we have on our minds, whatever they might be. It is a time of simply 'being' rather than always 'doing'.'

([www.pilgrimswaycanterbury.org](http://www.pilgrimswaycanterbury.org))

### Something to watch:

There are a number of films exploring pilgrimage including the following that are currently available to watch on Amazon Prime Video about the Camino de Santiago (The Way of St James), a centuries old pilgrimage route along northern Spain:

*Camino* (2020) – Martin de Vries documents his 70 day journey from France to Spain along the Way of St James.

*The Pilgrimage* (2013) – The story of two brothers who walk the Camino looking for adventure, inner wisdom and peace of mind.

*The Way* (2011) – Martin Sheen stars in this story of a doctor whose son is killed walking the Camino. He decides to do the pilgrimage himself in order to follow

in the steps of the son he has lost.

There is also a DVD of the BBC2 series *Pilgrimage* with Simon Reeve that was first aired in 2015. Some of the episodes from the series are available to watch on YouTube. Here is the link to the episode where he travels to Jerusalem: <https://youtu.be/FozaJKIVfNU>

### Something to do:

Sacred spaces don't have to be well-trodden, world-famous pilgrimage routes. A sacred space is anywhere you are able to take time out of the busyness of life to connect with God. It might be a particular stretch along a canal, a quiet spot at the bottom of your garden or a moment to yourself in an empty church. During Lent, take time out with be God in places that give you chance to think, reflect and pray. You might like to keep of photo journal of the sacred spaces you journey to over the coming weeks. Or you could sign up to take part in the 'Walk to the Cross' Lent challenge as we journey together in our hearts and minds to Jerusalem.

### Something to pray:

You call us, Lord,  
to leave familiar things and to leave our "comfort zone".  
May we open our eyes to new experiences,  
may we open our ears to hear you speaking to us  
and may we open our hearts to your love.  
Grant that this time of Lent  
may help us to see ourselves as we really are  
and may we strive to become the people you would have us  
be. Amen.