



## **First Sunday of Lent**



**22nd Feb 2026  
Joint Parish Service  
St John's**

[www.kidhp.org.uk](http://www.kidhp.org.uk)

## Hymn:

Amazing grace - how sweet the sound -  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was bound, but now I'm free.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we've first begun.

John Newton (1725-1807)

## The Gathering and Welcome

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

**Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

## Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

We have done what was wrong in the Lord's sight  
and chosen what displeased him.  
Yet as a mother comforts her child,  
so shall the Lord himself comfort us.  
So let us come to him who knows  
our every deed and thought.

Lord have mercy  
**Lord have mercy**  
Christ have mercy  
**Christ have mercy**  
Lord have mercy  
**Lord have mercy**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Collect

Heavenly Father,  
your son battled with the powers of darkness,  
and grew closer to you in the desert:  
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that  
we may witness to your saving love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word *Please sit*

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

“God who gives to life its goodness,  
God creator of all joy,  
God who gives to us our freedom,  
God who blesses tool and toy;  
Teach us now to laugh and praise you,  
Deep within your praises sing,  
Till the whole creation dances  
For the goodness of its King.

God who fills the earth with beauty,  
God who binds each friend to friend,  
God who names us co-creators  
God who wills that chaos end;  
Grant us now creative spirits,  
Minds responsive to your mind,  
Hearts and wills your rule extending  
All our acts by Love refined.”

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 4: 1-11 *Please stand*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’

But he answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.'

Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon:** *'Giving to Grow 1' : The First in a Series of Three talks for our Lent focus on Stewardship.*

Reflection on our financial giving starts with God and moves to our response and our responsibilities. We give because God gave first and continues to give. Our personal and shared ministries are in response to God's call to love and serve.

"God who gives to life its goodness,  
God creator of all joy,....  
God who binds each friend to friend,  
God who names us co-creators....

### ***Who Are We as a Parish?***

*Our Mission Statement:*

***Sharing the Love of God Joyfully***  
***LOVING – WELCOMING – EXPLORING – GROWING***

*And from our web site home page:*

*We are a welcoming Church of England parish serving all sectors of the local community in Kidlington and Hampton Poyle. We are inclusive and creative with a wide variety of groups for prayer, study, fellowship, discussion, music, and crafts which help us come close to God in our different ways. We enjoy a varied pattern of Sunday and midweek worship across our three churches and online. Our three churches each have a distinctive character: St Mary's Kidlington, St John's Kidlington, and St Mary's Hampton Poyle. We also run a range of groups for pre-school children, children and families during the week (Kidlinks) and offer safe-space parent support groups and workshops (Parentlinks).*

Like an elephant.... how one person experiences the ministry of this parish will not be the same as another. Some come to Kidlinks but don't know anything about evensong. Others come to Meditation Group but don't know about amazing ministry in Lincroft Meadow....

***Today we celebrate it all and say thank you to everyone involved.***

## Prayers of Thanks

*Please mention aloud something that you can give thanks for in our parish ministry and we will all respond:*

For ..... **we give you thanks**

***So.....***

***Is this Ministry in all its Variety Worth Funding?***

## Prayers of Intercession *Please sit or kneel*

*These responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy

**Receive our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## The Peace *Please stand*

Christ came and proclaimed the gospel,  
peace to those who are far off  
and peace to those who are near.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Offertory Hymn:

Sweet sacrament divine, hid in thine earthly home,  
lo, round thy lowly shrine, with suppliant hearts we come;  
Jesu, to thee our voice we raise,  
in songs of love and heartfelt praise,  
sweet sacrament divine, sweet sacrament divine.

Sweet sacrament of peace, dear home of ev'ry heart,  
where restless yearnings cease, and sorrows all depart;  
there in thine ear all trustfully we tell our tale of misery,  
sweet sacrament of peace, sweet sacrament of peace.

Sweet sacrament of rest, ark from the ocean's roar,  
within thy shelter blest soon may we reach the shore;  
save us, for still the tempest raves,  
save, lest we sink beneath the waves,  
sweet sacrament of rest, sweet sacrament of rest.

Sweet sacrament divine, earth's light and jubilee,  
in thy far depths doth shine the Godhead's majesty;  
sweet light, so shine on us, we pray,  
that earthly joys may fade away,  
sweet sacrament divine, sweet sacrament divine.

*Francis Stanfield (1835-1914)*

## Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to set before  
you, which earth has given and human hands have  
made. It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to set before  
you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he that comes in the name of the  
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks.  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *Please sit*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*You are welcome to receive communion. We have the choice of receiving the wine from the silver chalice, or receiving wine by intinction (the bread dipped for you into the wine) Please just indicate how you would like to receive.  
If you prefer a blessing, please do come forward too.*

## Communion Hymn:

Be still and know that I am God. x3

I am the Lord that healeth thee. x3

In thee O Lord I put my trust. x3

## Prayer after Communion

Lord God,  
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true  
and living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word that proceeds  
from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*We say together*

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Notices

*For Services and Groups for Lent please see the back page and please do take this booklet home with you - along with the 'Giving to Grow' Stewardship pack.*

## The Blessing *Please stand*

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Hymn:

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive afresh against the foe,  
should strive and should prevail;

And that a higher gift than grace  
should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence and his very self,  
and essence all-divine.

O generous love! that he, who smote  
in Man for man the foe,  
the double agony in Man  
for man should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,  
and on the cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

J H Newman (1801-90)

# Lent 2026



## ‘Come and See’

This Lent, we're inviting you to *Come and See* - an opportunity to explore the profound meal at the heart of Christian life. Whether you're new to faith, returning after a break, or have been part of church for years, this is a chance to pause, reflect and explore what the Eucharist might have to say to you. In addition to the group, you can also sign up to receive free daily Lent emails with short reflections, plus a weekly video from Bishop Steven. You do not need to sign up to take part in the group, but if you wish you can sign up here: <https://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>

We'll be running *Come and See* at St Marys on **Mondays from 2:30pm - 4pm, starting on February 23rd**, in a discussion group similar to previous years.

## The Making Group: Lent 2026

The Making Group is convening again to respond to the Diocesan Lent Course "Come and See" in our own unique way. The group will meet on Friday afternoons in Lent, on the following dates:- **Friday 20th and 27th February, 6th, 13th, 20th March, with 27th March as the day to put it all together. The Refectory, 2:30-4:00pm.**

All are welcome, and no particular skill is required. Just bring your imagination, an open mind, and a willingness to use your hands to create something special for Lent.

Please let Rosemary Meara know if you would like to join the group.

[Rosemary.meara@gmail.com](mailto:Rosemary.meara@gmail.com)

## Compline Services and Talks – St Mary's Kidlington 8.45-9.15pm

On each Sunday evening during Lent and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, starting at 8.45pm, there will be a short address picking up the themes from 'Come and See' followed by the service of Compline (starting at 9pm).

The ancient office of Compline is a service of quietness and reflection at the end of the day.

**Holy Week:** Below are the details of all our services in all our churches from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. These services on **Palm Sunday, 29th March**, will lead us into Holy Week:

- St Mary's Kidlington, 8am and 10am, Holy Communion
- St John's Kidlington, 10am, Holy Communion
- St Mary's Hampton Poyle, 10am, Holy Communion
- St Mary's Kidlington, 8.45pm, Talk followed by Compline at 9pm

***Please do join us for any service of preparation during this Holy Week:***

**Monday 30th March**

- St John's, 7.30pm, BCP Evening Prayer & Litany
- St Mary's Kidlington, 8.45pm, Talk followed by Compline at 9pm

**Tuesday 31st March**

- St John's, 7.30pm, Holy Communion using an Iona-style liturgy
- St Mary's Kidlington, 8.45pm, Talk followed by Compline at 9pm

**Wednesday 1st April**

- St Mary's Kidlington, 11am, Holy Communion
- St John's, 7.30pm, Stations of the Cross
- St Mary's Kidlington, 8.45pm, Talk followed by Compline at 9pm

**Maundy Thursday 2nd April**

- St Mary's Kidlington, 7pm, Agape service with Washing of Feet and simple Agape meal leading into Vigil until midnight.
- St John's, 8pm, Holy Communion with Washing of Feet, followed by Stripping of the Altar and Vigil until midnight

**Good Friday 3rd April**

- St Mary's Kidlington, 12noon to 3pm, Reflections at the Cross
- St John's, 2pm, Reflections at the Cross
- St John's, 4pm, Family Service

Churches Together in Kidlington will be holding their usual **Good Friday Walk of Witness**, starting from St John's at 9.45am. Our Online Pause for Prayer will be held at 10am, Monday and Wednesday (but not Good Friday or Easter Monday).

All details can be found on:

<https://kidhp.org.uk/lent-and-easter-2026>