

CHESTERFIELD

Saint Mary & All Saints

PARISH CHURCH

Lent 2025



The Once and Future Church

This year the Lent reflections will offer some prayerful thoughts on the Church, where it has come from, what is it doing, and where is it going.

Lent Reading

Searched Me Out and Known Me is a book by the pastoral priest and theologian Charlie Bell, taking texts from the Psalms and asking some serious and challenging questions about our own faith and action in response to the scriptures. There are twenty copies available free of charge from the church Gift Shop, and additional copies can be ordered from Church House Bookshop.

A rich variety of multimedia Lent resources can be found on the Church of England website, <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter>

Evensong Addresses

There will be a series of addresses given by the Vicar at **Evensong** on the first five Sundays of Lent, asking what the Church has needed and still needs in order to flourish, and what that might look like in the future.

Sunday 9th March: From Community to Institution

Sunday 16th March: A Society of Believers

Sunday 23rd March: Power Games and Reforms

Sunday 30th March: Belonging and Believing

Sunday 6th April: Quantum Faith to Divine Life

Stations of the Cross

Parishioners will lead Stations of the Cross devotions during Passion Week

1.00 p.m. on Monday 7th April at Saint Leonard's

7.00 p.m. on Friday 11th April at the Parish Church

There will also be Stations of the Cross at 1.30 p.m. on Good Friday at the Parish Church.

Confessions

The clergy are very happy to hear **confessions** by appointment. Making a formal confession of sin in the presence of a priest has been a part of the life of the Church of England all the way through the Reformation and to the present day.

Please be assured that all clergy are bound to respect professional **confidentiality** regarding what is heard in the course of a formal confession.

Lenten Discipline

Many people like to observe Lent by giving something up or some other formal **penance**. Please consider how your discipline will serve your own spiritual growth or can be of service to others.

The traditional **Fast Days** in Lent are **Ash Wednesday** and each **Friday**. If you feel able to go without a meal on these days, you may wish to donate the money you would have spent to others who are in need.

Lent Music

In line with ancient tradition, this year the music during Lent will be more austere than usual, and we will be observing the rule that the organ will only be used to accompany singing, and not for voluntaries and other incidental liturgical music.

Holy Week and Easter

Weather permitting, the **Procession of Palms** will begin outside the Saints Parish Centre, moving across the churchyard into the church.

The Bishop of Repton will offer a series of meditations throughout Holy Week, following the theme: 'The Cross of Jesus and Hope for Today's World'.

Palm Sunday—The Foolishness of the Cross

Monday—The Strength of the Cross

Tuesday—The Love of the Cross

Wednesday—The Cross of Jesus in Everyday Life

On Maundy Thursday, the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** will include the **Washing of Feet** in commemoration of our Lord's commandment of love and service. The **Watching** in the Holy Cross Chapel will conclude with the reading from John's Gospel of the **Last Discourse of Christ**, starting at 11.00 p.m.

On **Good Friday**, there will be a Stations of the Cross devotion from 1.30 p.m., followed by the **Liturgy** at its traditional time of 3.00 p.m.

On **Good Friday** evening at 7.00 p.m. there will be a 'Come & Sing' performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion*. For anyone wishing to sing in this, the rehearsals will begin at 4.30 p.m.

The **Easter Vigil** will begin after sunset, at 8.30 p.m. on Holy Saturday. It should end by 10.30 p.m., and champagne and chocolate eggs will be on offer to round off the celebration!

Praying through Lent

Please find in the remainder of this booklet a form of prayer which you may wish to use daily during Lent.

Suitable Scripture readings could include the Mass readings of the day (find these online at <http://almanac.oremus.org> and clicking or pressing View), or you could read through the Book of Exodus chapter by chapter (40 chapters for 40 days of Lent), or chapter by chapter through Luke's Gospel, which is read at Sunday Mass this year, or through the Book of Psalms (using maybe the Prayer Book Psalter as used in Charlie Bell's book—or all three!

Opening Prayers

We stand before the throne of God
with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.

**Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Confession

Man born of woman has but a short time to live.
We have our fill of sorrow.
We blossom like a flower and wither away.
We slip away like a shadow and do not stay.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

In the midst of life we are in death;
where can we turn for help?
Only to you, Lord,
who are justly angered by our sins.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

Shut not your ears to our prayers,
but spare us, O Lord.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

You know the secrets of our hearts;
forgive us our sins.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

Eternal and merciful judge,
both in life and when we come to die,
let us not fall away from you.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and merciful Saviour,
do not abandon us to the bitterness of eternal death.**

A Scripture Reading – either from the Mass of the day, or from one of the suggested books of the Bible

A time of silent reflection – on the reading, on the issues and needs of the day, followed by:

Verses from Psalm 130

Out of the depths I have called to you, Lord.
Let your ears be open to hear my voice.

My hope is in God's word.

If you recorded all our sins
who could come before you?

My hope is in God's word.

There is forgiveness with you:
therefore you shall be feared.

My hope is in God's word.

My soul is longing for the Lord,
more than those who watch for daybreak.
My hope is in God's word.

O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy.
My hope is in God's word.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
My hope is in God's word.

Profession of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

*Intercession – you could name people and situations if you wish as part of
these prayers*

Blessed are you, eternal God,
to be praised and glorified for ever.

Hear us as we pray for your holy catholic Church:
make us all one, that the world may believe.

Grant that every member of the Church
may truly and humbly serve you:
that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.

Strengthen all who minister in Christ's name:
give them courage to proclaim your Gospel.

Inspire and lead those who hold authority
in the nations of the world:
guide them in the ways of justice and peace.

Make us alive to the needs of our community:
help us to share each other's joys and burdens.

Look with kindness on our homes and families:
grant that your love may grow in our hearts.

Deepen our compassion for all who suffer from sickness,
grief or trouble:
in your presence may they find their strength.

We remember those who have died:
Father, into your hands we commend them.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered
your eternal glory:
bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Our Father...

Lent Collect Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy Week & Easter 2025
Chesterfield Parish Church—The Crooked Spire
Witnessing to New Life through
the Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Palm Sunday 13th April

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (1662)	<i>Fr Mark</i>
10.30 a.m.	Procession of Palms & Choral Mass	<i>The Vicar</i>
6.30 p.m.	Choral Evensong & Holy Week Address	<i>The Bishop of Repton</i>

Monday 14th April

12.15 p.m.	Mass	
7.30 p.m.	Compline & Holy Week Address	<i>The Bishop of Repton</i>

Tuesday 15th April

9.30 a.m.	Mass	
7.30 p.m.	Compline & Holy Week Address	<i>The Bishop of Repton</i>

Spy Wednesday 16th April

9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (1662)	
7.30 p.m.	Compline & Holy Week Address	<i>The Bishop of Repton</i>

Maundy Thursday 17th April

7.30 p.m.	Mass of the Lord's Supper <i>followed by watching until Midnight (Holy Cross Chapel)</i> <i>(reading of the Last Discourse at 11.00 p.m.)</i>	<i>The Vicar</i>
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Good Friday 18th April

11.00 a.m.	Ecumenical Walk of Witness & Service	<i>Town Hall</i>
1.30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	
3.00 p.m.	The Liturgy	<i>The Vicar</i>
7.00 p.m.	<i>Crucifixion—Stainer</i>	<i>Come & Sing</i>

Holy Saturday 19th April

8.30 p.m.	The Easter Vigil	<i>The Vicar</i>
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Easter Sunday 20th April

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (1662)	<i>Fr Iain</i>
10.30 a.m.	Procession & Solemn Choral Mass	<i>The Vicar</i>
6.30 p.m.	Festival Choral Evensong & Procession	<i>The Vicar</i>