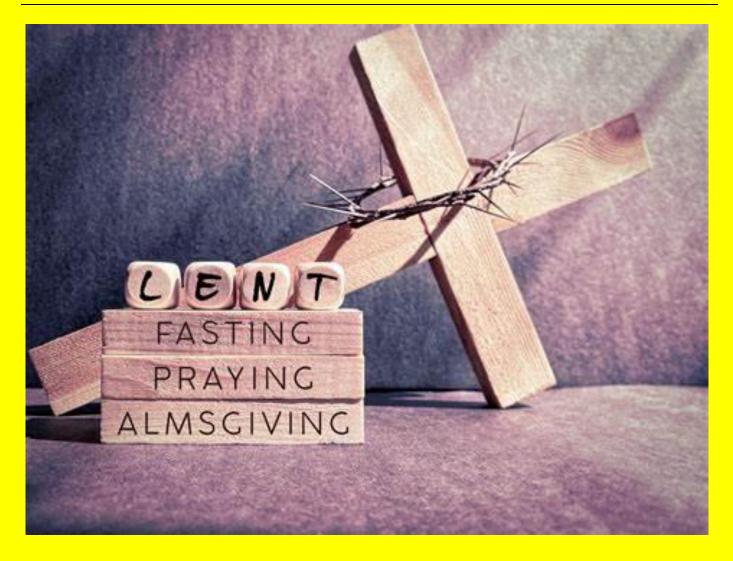


The Parish Magazine of St Mary the Virgin Stanwell and St Matthew's, Ashford

ISSUE 121 • MARCH 2025





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Parish Magazine

Contributors: Fr Stuart King Julie Bell Fr John Hillman Alan Joel

The Parish Magazine is published on the first Sunday of the month. Compiler: Belinda Rayner-Tickner Matter for publication should be submitted to <u>magazine@smam.org.uk</u> Copy deadline is 20th of the month and articles should be no longer than 750 words. News items or reports should be factual and no longer than 250 words. Articles are copyright to the author and may not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the author or Editor. The Editor's decision is final regarding content.

Disclaimers: The Editor does not necessarily agree with all of the views expressed in this magazine.

Advertisers: We are grateful to all who advertise in our Parish Magazine, thereby allowing us to produce a higher quality publication.

Disclaimer:

Whilst reasonable care is taken when accepting advertisements, the Editorial Committee of the Parish Magazine cannot accept any responsibility for any resulting unsatisfactory transactions.

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SERVICE TIMES

Time	Service		Place		
Weekdays:					
08:30	Lauds - Morning Prayer		Online		
18:00	Evening Prayer & Holy Hor	ur - Tuesday	St Matthew's		
19:00	Low Mass - Tue		St Matthew's		
12:30	Low Mass – Wed		St Mary's		
09:15	Low Mass - Thurs		St Matthew's		
18:00	Evening Prayer & Holy Hor	ur - Fri	St Mary's		
19:00	Low Mass - Fri		St Mary's		
Saturdays	;				
09:00	The Holy Rosary		Online		
Sunday					
09:30	Parish Mass		St Matthew's		
11:00	Parish Mass		St Mary's		
18:30	Evensong & Benediction		St Matthew's		
REGULA	R EVENTS –				
Wednesday	y: Morning Café	10:00-12:00 before Ma	SS		
Thursday:	Coffee Morning	After 09:15 Mass			
	Bell Ringing *	19:00			
Friday:	Choir Practice	20:00			
*(Alternate	between St Mary's and St Ma	atthew's please contact the	e Tower Captain for		
more detail	s.)				
		PASTORAL CARE			
Feasts, Sain	ıt's days, Holy days and				
other specia	al occasions occur through	Please advise Fr Stuart or one of the			

other special occasions occur through the year; see notices in Church, in the weekly news sheet and the website for details. Please advise Fr Stuart or one of the Pastoral Team of those who are sick at home or in hospital, so that they can be prayed for and visited as appropriate.

PASTORAL OFFICES

Preliminary information and relevant forms for Baptism and Marriage can be collected from the parish office at the advertised times. Baptisms usually take place on the first Saturday or third Sunday at St Mary's and St Matthew's. If you would like to have your child baptised, then come along any Sunday for the main Mass and meet us there!

For information about preparing your own or a loved one's funeral, please contact the parish office.

LET US PONDER TOGETHER...

FR. STUART PONDERS LENT AS A TOOL FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

As we approach the season of Lent, I reflect on the true purpose of this time of penance and prayer. Lent, often viewed through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, is so much more than a period of self-denial. It is, in fact, a spiritual discipline, a tool given to us by the Church to grow in Christian virtues. For Christians, Lent is not merely about giving up chocolate or social media; it is an invitation to deepen our relationship with Christ and become more like Him daily.

The Christian virtues—faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance—are not qualities we can cultivate independently. They are gifts from God that we are called to develop through cooperation with His grace. This is where Lent comes into play. The practices of Lent are not arbitrary rituals but rather means of training ourselves to live more virtuously and more closely aligned with Christ's example. Lent, in its essence, is a time of spiritual discipline. Like an athlete training for a race, we are invited to enter a period of intentional preparation for the great feast of Easter. The Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us to grow in the virtues that Christ Himself modelled during His life on earth.

Take, for example, the virtue of temperance. During Lent, we are called to fast—not only from food but also from distractions and excesses that keep us from focusing on God. By fasting, we learn self-control, an essential part of the virtue of temperance. We are reminded that true happiness is not found in indulgence but in focusing our hearts and minds on the things of God. Fasting helps us to detach from worldly comforts and, in doing so, cultivates within us a spirit of moderation and discipline.

The virtue of charity is also central to Lent. Almsgiving is one of the three main pillars of Lent, and it is an invitation to grow in love for others. Lent challenges us to think beyond our own needs and comforts in a world that often encourages selfishness. By giving to those in need, we are drawn closer to the heart of Christ, who came to serve and not to be served. Almsgiving teaches us to see the face of Christ in the poor and the marginalized, and it deepens our capacity for compassion and generosity.

Lent is also a time for prayer—an essential practice for growing in the virtue of faith. Through daily prayer, whether reciting the Rosary, attending Mass, or spending quiet time in personal reflection, we draw closer to God and open ourselves to His grace. Prayer strengthens our relationship with God and helps us to discern His will for our lives. It reminds us that, apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). Through prayer, we also grow in hope, trusting that God will lead us through any trial and that His promises are true.

Finally, Lent provides a chance to grow in fortitude. The trials we face during Lent—whether the challenge of fasting or the temptation to abandon our Lenten commitments—serve as opportunities to practice courage and perseverance. Fortitude is the virtue that helps us to endure hardships for the sake of the greater good, and during Lent, we are called to persevere in our spiritual discipline, trusting that our efforts will bear fruit in the Easter joy we will soon celebrate.

In conclusion, Lent is a powerful tool for Christian growth. It is not simply a time to give up small pleasures or endure temporary discomforts. It is a season of grace, where we are invited to cultivate the virtues that help us to become more like Christ. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are called to a deeper, more virtuous life, preparing ourselves to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord fully. Let us embrace this season with open hearts, ready to grow in the virtues that will bring us closer to the God who loves us so deeply.

Yours in Christ

Fr Stuart



NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

If you attend St Matthew's and St Mary's you will notice that we are trialling a brand new Card donations system. This scheme has also given us the option of signing people up for monthly giving, or a one-off donation, via our website and the QR code below. If you are not presently someone who has signed up to gift aid and regular giving, please consider doing so. If you already give regularly, we are grateful for your continued support.

Please support the work of this Parish with a donation via:



For bank details for online payments, please email treasurer@smam.org.uk Julie Bell PCC Treasurer

NOTE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Please note that our office is extremely busy, and we may not always be able to answer telephone calls immediately. This could be due to our team being in church, attending to someone in person, or managing deliveries. To ensure your inquiry is addressed as efficiently as possible, we kindly ask you to consider the following:

• Email: The best way to reach us is via email at office@smam.org.uk.

• Voicemail: If you prefer to call, please leave a message, and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Please be aware that messages left during the weekend may not be answered immediately.

We appreciate your understanding and patience during this busy time and look forward to assisting you.

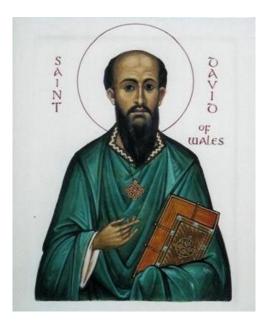
Sat	1st	S. David, patron of Wales
Sun	2nd	8 th Sunday in Ordinary Time – parish ministry
Mon	3rd	All who are housebound
Tues	4th	Street cleaners
Wed	5th	Web designers
Thurs	6th	Those in financial difficulties
Fri	7th	Peace for Ukraine and Gaza
Sat	8th	Our clergy
Sun	9th	1 st Sunday of Lent – penance
Mon	10th	The Commonwealth
Tues	11th	Builders and decorators
Wed	12th	Pilots and cabin crew
Thurs	13th	Newborn babies
Fri	14th	Ashford hospital – staff and patients
Sat	15th	Aircraft maintenance staff
Sun	16th	2 nd Sunday of Lent – reading the Word
Mon	17th	S. Patrick, patron of Ireland
Tues	18th	Our Servers
Wed	19th	S. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thurs	20th	Thank God for Spring
Fri	21st	Gardeners
Sat	22nd	His royal highness King Charles
Sun	23rd	3 rd Sunday of Lent – our prayer life
Mon	24th	School caretakers
Tues	25th	The Annunciation of the Lord
Wed	26th	Our local Post Offices
Thurs	27th	Friends and neighbours
Fri	28th	The sacrament of marriage
Sat	29th	Time spent with God
Sun	30th	4 th Sunday of Lent – our giving
Mon	31st	Safety on the roads
		Prayer is conversation with God. Clement of Alexandı

LECTIONARY PAGE

Date	Sunday	Readings
2 nd Mar. 2025	8 th Sunday in	• Sirach 27:4-7
	Ordinary Time	• Psalm 92(91):2-3. 13-14. 15-16. 🕅
		cf. 2a
		• 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
		• Luke 6:39-45
9 th Mar. 2025	1 st Sunday of Lent	• Deuteronomy 26:4-10
		• Psalm 91(90):1-2. 10-11. 12-13.
		14-15. 🕏 cf 15b
		• Romans 10:8-13
		• Luke 4:1-13
16 th Mar. 2025	2 nd Sunday of	• Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
	Lent	• Psalm 91(90):1-2. 10-11. 12-13.
		14-15. Ř CF 15B
		 Philippians 3:20-4:1
		• Luke 9:28b-36
23 rd Mar. 2025	3 rd Sunday of Lent	• Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
		 Psalm103(102):1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8, 11. R8a.
		• 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12.
		 Luke 13:1-9
30 th Mar. 2025	4 th Sunday of Lent	• 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.
	,	• Psalm 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. Ř 1
		• Ephesians 5:8-14.
		• John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38.
6 th Apr. 2025	5 th Sunday of Lent	• Isaiah 43:16-21
*	,	• Psalm 126(125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6.
		Ř3
		• Philippians 3:8-14
		• John 8:1-11

SAINTS FOR MARCH

MARCH 1ST: ST DAVID (520 - 589)



St. David, in Welch Dewid, was son of Xantus, prince of Ceretica, now Cardiganshire. He was brought up in the service of God, and being ordained priest, retired into the Isle of Wight, and embraced an ascetic life, under the direction of Paulinus, a learned and holy man. He later became eminent as abbot and bishop at the site now known as St David's, but formerly Mynyw, from which the present diocese of Menevia is named.

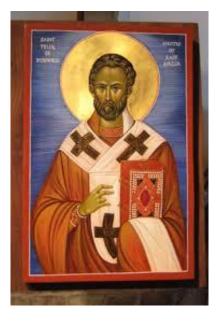
He is credited with a monastic rule based on the example of the Eastern Fathers, and also with a

Penitentiary. He was invited to preside at the synod of Llandewibrefi, where he denounced the Pelagian heresy. Monks trained at his monastery evangelized South Wales and made foundations in Cornwall, Brittany and Ireland.

St David is said to have sent a Mass rite to Ireland. At his death his contemporary St Kentigern, founder of St Asaph's in North Wales, witnessed in vision his joyful entrance into the joy of his Lord. His holy relics have been found hidden in the fabric of St David's Cathedral, where they are carefully preserved. He was canonized by Pope Callistus II in 1123.

REFLECTION: Grant, we beseech you, almighty God, that the loving intercession of Saint David, your confessor and bishop, may protect us, and that while we celebrate his festival we may also imitate his firmness in defending the catholic faith.

MARCH 8TH: FELIX OF BURGUNDY (- 647or 648)



Felix of Burgundy, also known as Felix of Dunwich was the first bishop of the East Angles. He is widely credited as the man who introduced Christianity to the kingdom of East Anglia. Almost all that is known about the saint originates from *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, completed by Bede in about 731, and the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. Bede praised Felix for delivering "all the province of East Anglia from long-standing unrighteousness and unhappiness".

Felix, who originated from Burgundy, may have been a priest at one of the monasteries in Francia founded

by the Irish missionary Columbanus: the existence of a Bishop of Châlons with the same name may not be a coincidence. Felix travelled from his homeland of Burgundy to Canterbury before being sent by Honorius to King Sigeberht of East Anglia's kingdom in about 630, (by sea to Babingley in Norfolk, according to local legend). On arrival in East Anglia, Sigeberht gave him a see at Dommoc (possibly Walton, Suffolk or Dunwich in Suffolk). According to Bede, Felix helped Sigeberht to establish a school in his kingdom "where boys could be taught letters". He died on 8 March 647 or 648, having been bishop for seventeen years. His relics were translated from Dommoc to Soham Abbey and then to the abbey at Ramsey.

After his death, Felix was venerated as a saint: several English churches are dedicated to him. The Suffolk seaside town of Felixstowe is purportedly named after him.

REFLECTION: Lord God, who made blessed St Felix a bishop in your Church, eminent for his ardent love and that faith which overcomes the world, at his intercession grant that we ourselves, persevering in faith and love, may join him in your glory.

CROSSWORD

(solution on P20)

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Across

Tardy (4)
 Undying (8)
 Ungraciously curt (7)
 Cold (5)
 Concur (5)
 Kidnap (6)
 Kidnap (6)
 Spanish rice dish (6)
 Bird with a long curved bill (6)
 Light weight (5)
 Path of a planet (5)
 Cradle song (7)
 Shunters (anag.) (8)
 Capri, for example (4)

Down

- Unauthorised passenger (8)
 Tender (5)
 Noon (6)
 Possessed (5)
 Characteristic (7)
 Short narrative poems (4)
- 8 Strata (6) 13 Bronte heroine (4,4)
- 15 American whisky (7)
- 17 Handsome Greek god (6)
- 18 Resides (6)
- 20 By and by (5)
- 22 Approaches (5)
- 23 The two of them (4)

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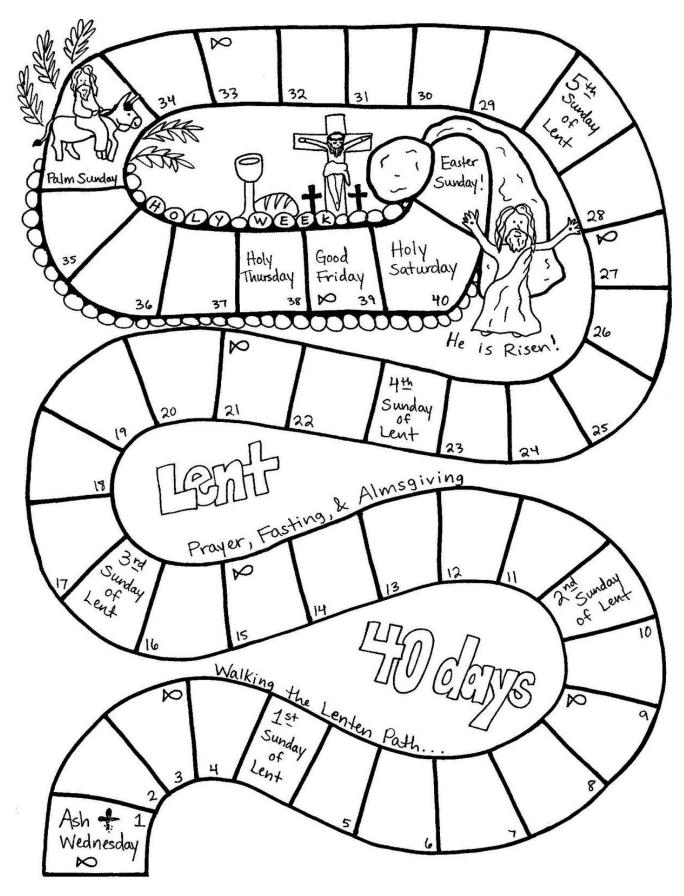
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MARCH MAGAZINE

Items for the next issue should be received by **SUNDAY 23rd FEBRUARY.** These may be sent via emailed to – magazine@smam.org.uk

COLOURING PAGE



RECIPE PAGE

RECIPE: SPINACH LASAGNA

INGREDIENTS (serves 6-8)

- 1 stick salted butter
- 2 tsp. kosher salt, plus more to taste
- 12 lasagna noodle sheets
- 3 bunches fresh spinach, trimmed
- Black pepper, to taste
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups whole milk
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 3/4 cups grated parmesan cheese
- 1 lb. whole-milk ricotta cheese
- 2 large egg yolks
- 1 cup fresh parsley, roughly chopped
- 4 scallions, chopped
- 8 oz. ounces deli-sliced low-moisture mozzarella cheese

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Preheat the oven to 400°. Use 1 tablespoon butter to grease a 9x13-inch flame-proof baking dish. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the noodles and cook about 3 minutes shy of the package cooking time. Drain and rinse under cold water.
- 2. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the spinach, season with 1/2 teaspoon salt and some pepper; cook, stirring, until wilted, 3 to 4 minutes. Add half of the garlic and cook 1 to 2 minutes. Drain and let cool slightly, then wrap in a clean kitchen towel and wring out the liquid.
- 3. Wipe the saucepan clean. Add the remaining 5 tablespoons butter and melt over medium heat. Whisk in the flour and cook, whisking, until smooth and thick, about 2 minutes. Add the remaining garlic and 1 teaspoon salt and cook until sizzling, about 30 seconds. Slowly stir in the milk and heavy cream. Bring to a simmer, stirring constantly; cook, stirring, until thickened, about 5 minutes. Whisk in 1 cup parmesan and remove from the heat.
- Stir together the ricotta, egg yolks, parsley, scallions, 1/2 cup parmesan, 1/2 teaspoon salt and some pepper in a medium bowl.



- 5. Spread 1 cup of the sauce in the baking dish. Arrange 4 noodles lengthwise in the dish. Spread with another 11/2 cups sauce. Layer half of the mozzarella over the sauce, then spread with half of the ricotta mixture and half of the spinach. Repeat the layering (noodles, sauce, mozzarella, ricotta and spinach). Top with the remaining 4 noodles and spread with the remaining sauce (about 1 cup). Sprinkle with the remaining 1/4 cup parmesan.
- 6. Cover with foil, tenting it so it doesn't touch the lasagna. Place on a baking sheet and bake until the edges begin to bubble, about 20 minutes. Uncover and bake until golden brown on top, 30 to 35 minutes. Switch the oven to broil and broil 1 minute to brown the top. Let sit 15 minutes before serving.



Back to contents TOUR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

The Second Letter to the Corinthians is the most personal of all of Paul's extant writings, and it reveals much about his character. In it he deals with one or more crises that have arisen in the Corinthian church. The confrontation with these problems caused him to reflect deeply on his relationship with the community and to speak about it frankly. One moment he is venting his feelings of frustration and uncertainty, the next he is pouring out his relief and affection. The importance of the issues at stake between them calls forth from him an enormous effort of personal persuasion, as well as doctrinal considerations that are of great value for us. Paul's ability to produce profound theological foundations for what may at first sight appear to be rather commonplace circumstances is perhaps nowhere better exemplified than in Second Corinthians. The emotional tone of the letter, its lack of order, and our ignorance of some of its background do not make it easy to follow, but it amply repays the effort required of the reader.

Second Corinthians is rich and varied in content. The interpretation of Exodus in chapter 3, for instance, offers a striking example of early apologetic use of the Old Testament. Paul's discussion of the collection in chs 8–9 contains a theology of sharing of possessions, of community of goods among Christian churches, which is both balanced and sensitive. Furthermore, the closing chapters provide an illustration of early Christian invective and polemic, because the conflict with intruders forces Paul to assert his authority. But in those same chapters Paul articulates the vision and sense of values that animate his own apostolate, revealing his faith that Jesus' passion and resurrection are the pattern for all Christian life and expressing a spirituality of ministry unsurpassed in the New Testament.

The letter is remarkable for its rhetoric. Paul falls naturally into the style and argumentation of contemporary philosophic preachers, employing with ease the stock devices of the "diatribe." By a barrage of questions, by challenges both serious and ironic, by paradox heaped upon paradox, even by insults hurled at his opponents, he strives to awaken in his hearers a true sense of values and an appropriate response. All his argument centers on the destiny of Jesus, in which a paradoxical reversal of values is revealed. But Paul appeals to his own personal experience as well. In passages of great rhetorical power (2 Cor 4:7–15; 6:3–10; 11:21–29; 12:5–10; 13:3–4) he enumerates the circumstances of his ministry and the tribulations he has had to endure for Jesus and the gospel, in the hope

of illustrating the pattern of Jesus' existence in his own and of drawing the Corinthians into a reappraisal of the values they cherish. Similar passages in the same style in his other letters (cf. especially Rom 8:31–39; 1 Cor 1:26–31; 4:6–21; 9:1–27; 13:1–13; Phil 4:10–19) confirm Paul's familiarity with contemporary rhetoric and demonstrate how effectively it served to express his vision of Christian life and ministry.

Second Corinthians was occasioned by events and problems that developed after Paul's first letter reached Corinth. We have no information about these circumstances except what is contained in the letter itself, which of course supposes that they are known to the readers. Consequently the reconstruction of the letter's background is an uncertain enterprise about which there is not complete agreement.

The letter deals principally with these three topics: (1) a crisis between Paul and the Corinthians, occasioned at least partially by changes in his travel plans (2 Cor 1:12–2:13), and the successful resolution of that crisis (2 Cor 7:5–16); (2) further directives and encouragement in regard to the collection for the church in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:1–9:15); (3) the definition and defense of Paul's ministry as an apostle. Paul's reflections on this matter are occasioned by visitors from other churches who passed through Corinth, missionaries who differed from Paul in a variety of ways, both in theory and in practice. Those differences led to comparisons. Either the visitors themselves or some of the local church members appear to have sown confusion among the Corinthians with regard to Paul's authority or his style, or both. Paul deals at length with aspects of this situation in 2 Cor 2:14–7:4 and again in 2 Cor 10:1–13:10, though the manner of treatment and the thrust of the argument differ in each of these sections.

Scholars have noticed a lack of continuity in this document. For example, the long section of 2 Cor 2:14–7:4 seems abruptly spliced into the narrative of a crisis and its resolution. Identical or similar topics, moreover, seem to be treated several times during the letter (compare 2 Cor 2:14–7:4 with 2 Cor 10:1–13:10, and 2 Cor 8:1–24 with 2 Cor 9:1–15). Many judge, therefore, that this letter as it stands incorporates several briefer letters sent to Corinth over a certain span of time. If this is so, then Paul himself or, more likely, some other editor clearly took care to gather those letters together and impose some literary unity upon the collection, thus producing the document that has come down to us as the Second Letter to the Corinthians. Others continue to regard it as a single letter, attributing its inconsistencies to changes of perspective in Paul that may have been occasioned by the arrival of fresh news from Corinth during its composition. The letter, or at least some sections of it, appears to have been

composed in Macedonia (2 Cor 2:12–13; 7:5–6; 8:1–4; 9:2–4). It is generally dated about the autumn of A.D. 57; if it is a compilation, of course, the various parts may have been separated by intervals of at least some months.

The principal divisions of the Second Letter to the Corinthians are the following:

- I. Address (1:1–11)
- II. The Crisis between Paul and the Corinthians (1:12-7:16)
 - A. Past Relationships (1:12–2:13)
 - B. Paul's Ministry (2:14–7:4)
 - C. Resolution of the Crisis (7:5-16)
- III. The Collection for Jerusalem (8:1–9:15)
- IV. Paul's Defense of His Ministry (10:1-13:10)
- V. Conclusion (13:11-13)



LENT COURSE THE CREED



at St Mary's Stanwell Mondays throughout lent Starts at 19:00 with Mass

www.smam.org.uk

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HOLY BAPTISM



01/02/2025Elizabeth Marsden01/02/2025Oliver Tollman01/02/2025Oscar Tollman01/02/2025Max Tollman22/02/2025Phoebe Weetman

We have been called by the Lord to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people he acquired for himself. Let us ask him to show his mercy on those who have received the graces of baptism, for their parents and godparents, and to all the baptized everywhere. Amen

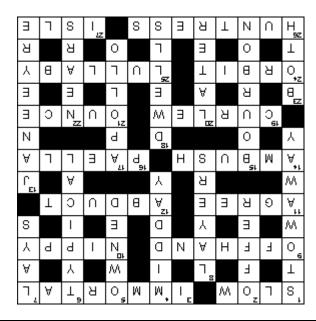
FUNERALS



06/02/2025	Monica Marden
20/02/2025	Lee Flint
20/02/2025	Anthony Morris

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who mourn their passing May the souls of the departed rest in peace and rise in Glory. Amen

CROSSWORD SOLUTION SUDOKU SOLUTION



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The Parish Magazine of St Matthew's, Ashford & St Mary's, Stanwell



Saturday 21st December 2024



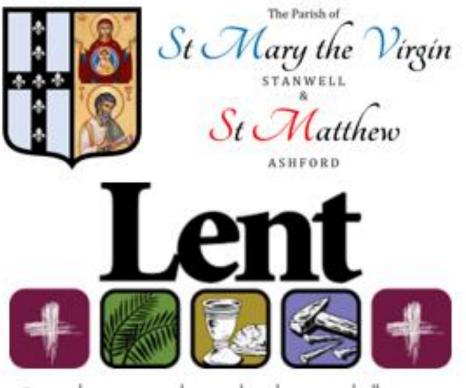
Saturday 18th January 2025 Saturday 15th February 2025 Saturday 15th March 2025

between 1500 - 1700 hrs

St Mary the Virgin, Church Approach, Stanwell, TW19 7JS



There is no cost for attending these sessions For all the family! Children must bring a grown up office@smam.org.uk 01784-259093



Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.

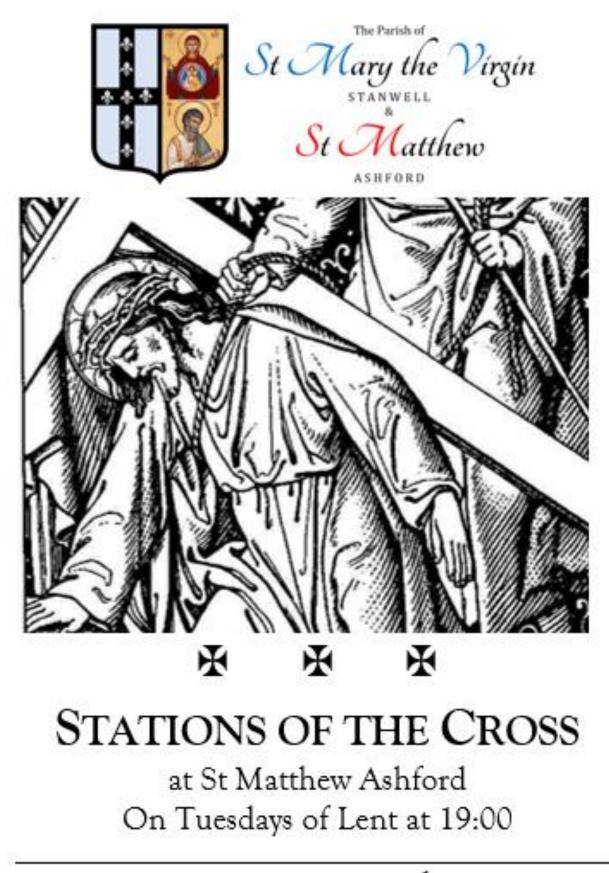


ASH WEDNESDAY

5th March 2025

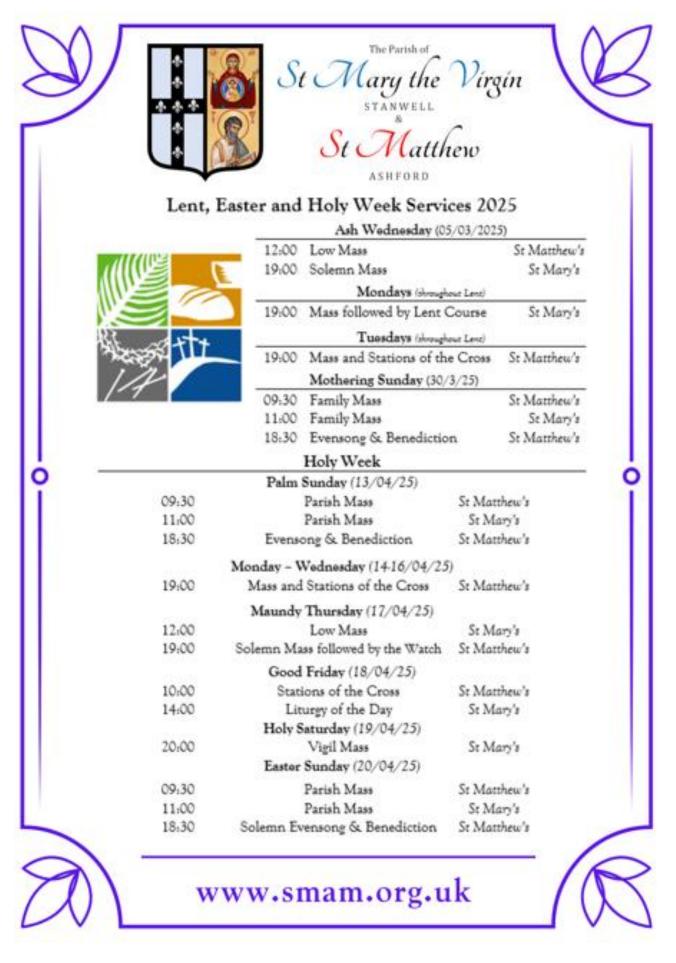
Masses 12:00 St Matthew's Ashford 19:00 St Mary's Stanwell

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ASHFORD



MOTHERING SUNDAY

30th March 2025

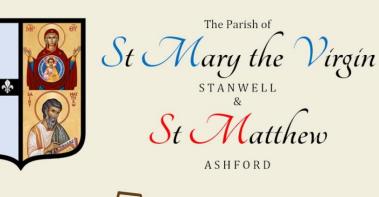
Masses

09:30 St Matthew's Ashford 11:00 St Mary's Stanwell

Evensong & Benediction 18:30 St Matthew's Ashford

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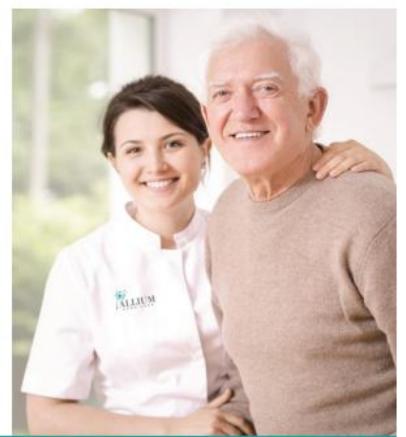


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