



Celebrating Second Sunday of Lent Weekly update Sunday 25th February 2024

In our bookshops there are plenty of books on self-discovery, self-fulfillment and self-realisation, and these subjects have spilled over into a lot of Christian literature - as if this were a central part of our faith. However, this is hard to reconcile with Jesus telling his followers that if they want to be his disciples they must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him. This was the experience of many in the early church, and even to this day in certain parts of the world Christians face persecution and even martyrdom. For them Lent means giving up more than chocolate or biscuits for a few weeks!

Verse of the Week

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. Mark 8:35

Collect for today!

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Bible Readings

This week's bible readings; Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 and Mark 8:31-end

Next week's bible readings; Exodus 20:1-17 and John 2:13-22

Services in the Parish this week beginning Sunday 25th February 2024



8.00am Holy Communion (BCP), Lady St Mary, Wareham

9.00am Breakfast Church, Sandford St Martin's

10.00am Holy Communion Service, Lady St Mary, Wareham

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP), St John the Evangelist, East Holme

10.30am Holy Communion, Sandford St Martin's

10.30am Parish Online Service - Watch here: <https://tinyurl.com/warehamchurches>

you can listen to the service by dialling: 01202 078008 (charged at local rate)

Wednesday 28th February at 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – St Martin-on-the-Walls

Services in the Parish for beginning Sunday 3rd March 2024

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP), Lady St Mary, Wareham

9.00am Breakfast Church, Sandford St Martin's

10.00am Communion Service with Angel Voices, Lady St Mary, Wareham

10.30am Morning Worship, Sandford St Martin's

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP), St Nicholas, Arne

10.30am Parish Online Service - Watch here: <https://tinyurl.com/warehamchurches>

you can listen to the service by dialling: 01202 078008 (charged at local rate)

Wednesday 6th March at 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP), St Martin-on-the-Walls

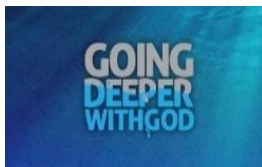
What is happening in the Parish?

During Lent you may wish to read one of the **Lent Books available from the Church Bookstall books for Lent:** Finding Mercy on the Way of Sorrows, 40 daily reflections from Lamentations by Robin Ham £2.99 Heaven How I got there, the story of the thief on the cross by Colin Smith £2.99.



Open House - at Sandford St Martin's Church - **Thursday 29th February 2024, at 2 pm.** Talk on "A Lighthearted Account of My Dealings with Bats", followed by a cup of tea, chat, and a raffle. All are most welcome.

Men's Breakfast - The next Men's breakfast will be on **Saturday 2nd March at 8.45am** at Not Just Sundaes Café. The guest speaker this month will be Marion Cotton, Deputy Mayor of Wareham. Whether you are a regular at men's breakfasts, or have never been before, you are most welcome to come along. **Please contact the Parish Office no later than the Wednesday before to book your place, on 01929 550905 or email: parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk**



Going Deeper: Our next Going Deeper evening at Sandford St Martin's church, a time of worship, input from God's word, and time to pray together will be on **Sunday 10th March.** All are welcome.

The Showing of the God's Outlaw Film

This film tells the remarkable story of William Tyndale the man responsible for translating the Bible into English. It will be shown in the Parish Hall, Wareham on **Friday 22nd March 6.30pm for refreshments, showing 7pm finishing at 8.30pm** and **Saturday 23rd March 2.30pm for refreshments, showing 3pm finishing at 4.30pm.**

Tickets are £5 each and are available from the Parish Office and A F Joy, North Street. Please do tell your friends and family and thank you for your support. This event is in aid of Parish Fund Raising for 2024.

Parish of Wareham Pilgrimage 2024

This year's Pilgrimage will depart Wareham on Sunday 13th October for 7 days and we will be visiting Yorkshire. Please contact Pat Cherrett on 552087 for further information.



Prayer Focus:

We give thanks to God for

- Being full of compassion and mercy: slow to anger and being of great goodness. As we continue to receive your mercy and compassion, open our hearts that we may love all our fellow human beings as you love us.
- Your grace for all of us who, despite our best intentions, have succumbed to temptations and fallen back into our human ways of sin. We pray for direction and the means to return to you and the infallible, eternal truth of your Word, with a penitent heart and our faith strengthened.
- The Holy Spirit which is our refuge and the source of our strength, shielding us from harm, protecting us from adversity and danger, and breathing life into us every day.
- Drawing us closer to understanding and enacting your will by creating space for us to reflect upon the suffering, death and sacrifice of your son, Jesus Christ, as we commit our lives of service to Him.

We pray to God for:

- World Day of Prayer on 1st March: the ecumenical movement led by Christian Women of many traditions focusing this year upon the Christian Women of Palestine. We pray for all to experience the richness of our Christian faith, and to bear with one another in love.
- The strengthening the World-wide Christian church; its diversity amidst unity in service and worship of the Lord. We especially pray for those who meet, pray, and worship in dangerous situations. Shine your light into their darkest places.
- Integrity and wisdom for all World leaders, that they may preserve human rights and work for the people they serve so all may be free from fear and able to live in safety and stability.
- Equitable and sustainable sharing of God-given, human-made, and natural resources so that everyone can live in contentment and harmony, by the grace of the abundant mercy of the Lord.

Those asking for prayer:

Mervyn Lloyd, Terry Holloway, Rose Diment, Mary Binks, Anne Mills, Peter Wood, Sheila Chant

Those who have died recently and those who mourn:

Carol Selwood, Nelsie Hardingham

Our Mission Prayer: Thank you, heavenly Father, for the vision Malcolm and Yanet Taylor and team have for this year to be one of expansion for the YWAM Series 23 ministry in San Pedro in Dominican Republic. Thank you for your many blessings and growth in the different ministries. Please provide a Centre building for all this work. In Jesus' name Amen.

Parish Prayer Meetings We are now holding our Tuesday prayer meetings at 7.30pm via Zoom which will be sent out by email each Friday or please contact Debs at the Parish Office Tel: 550905. Please see below:

Month	Meetings by Zoom on Tuesdays	3 rd Wednesday Sandford Prayer*
February	27 th	

*The Sandford meeting is in Sandford St Martin's Church. All are welcome to join us to pray.

Prayers for Peace

With the conflict in Israel and Gaza continuing and open warfare persisting on many other parts of the world (much of it not covered by the media) we should, as a church, have a renewed concentration on praying for peace. Prayers are said every day in Lady St Mary church at 5pm for all this affected, please do join us if you can, and if you cannot why not stop for a minute or two at home or work to pray for all affected.



Confirmation Classes

Are you interested in confirmation classes? We have some people that are interested but it would be nice to have a group of people so if you would like to find out more, please talk to a member of the Ministry Team.

GREEN TIP - Moving our money to more ethical investments and diverting it away from industries that are harming the environment is a huge achievement, with long term impact both for people and the planet.



Readings for Daily Morning Prayer:

*Indicates Festival

	Psalm (s)	Old Testament	New Testament
Monday 26th February	32	Genesis 43:16-end	Hebrews 1
Tuesday 27th February	50	Genesis 44:1-17	Hebrews 2:1-9
Wednesday 28th February	35	Genesis 44:18-end	Hebrews 2:10-end
Thursday 29th February	34	Genesis 45:1-15	Hebrews 3:1-6
Friday 1st March	41	Genesis 45:16-end	Hebrews 3:7-end
Saturday 2nd March	25	Genesis 46:1-7, 28-end	Hebrews 4:1-13

Parish Office - The Parish Office is open on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** 9am to 1pm. At all other times enquiries and queries can be made by email and they will be dealt with as soon as possible.



Contact details: www.warehamchurches.org.uk Tel: 01929 550905,

Email: parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk Address: **Parish Office, Church Green, Wareham BH20 4ND**

Giving to the work of our churches

By using this QR code you can donate to the work of our churches, no donation is too small! Every little help to carry out God's work here in Wareham. **Thank you so much for donating.**



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