



Willen Church Newsheet
The Second Sunday in Lent



**Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
St Mary Magdalene, Willen
Sunday 16th March, 2025
The Second Sunday in Lent**



Today: The Second Sunday in Lent

9.30am Holy Communion led by Revd. Steve Barnes

Thank you, Steve, for leading us this morning

11.00am Holy Communion led by Revd. Phil Dunning at Cross & Stable.

Service details for SEP churches are on SEP website and in monthly newsletter

This week

St Mary Magdalene church is open for private prayer or quiet reflection on Mondays from 9.30am until c.3.00pm. Also open on Sunday until 4.00pm if volunteer available to close church – please sign rota in church foyer.

St Mary Magdalene **Congregation Leadership Team** meets at 7.00pm on Tuesday 18th. Please speak to David Preston or any member of the Team (Brad, Janet, Sharron, Derek, Susan, Margaret, Chi) if you would like any issues to be considered or email secretary@willenchurch.org

T.T.T.T (Third Tuesday at Twelve Thirty) starts again in March for the 2025 season of events. Pop along to St Mary Magdalene Church Willen and be entertained by U3A band Playpals on Tuesday March 18th, 12.30 - 1.15. Pop in during your lunch break. Complimentary cake and coffee. Walking the dog or just passing by, stay for a while or the whole 45 minutes. Donations to Church Restoration & Hooke Heritage Project

Volunteer Gardening at St Mary Magdalene Church. Join volunteers as they start again with the upkeep. New faces welcome! **Saturdays 10am – 12pm** Even if you only come sometimes speak to Sharron about joining the WhatsApp group

ChatterboxMK at Cross & Stable each Wednesday 10.30am to 12.30pm. All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - chat. Come and meet others.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - the Lent Study group will be meeting on Thursday evenings. March 20th, at 7.00 pm in the Quaker Centre, Downs Barn.

Next week March 23rd The Third Sunday of Lent

9.30am Holy Communion led by Revd. Canon Chi Okpala

<p>Pastoral contact: Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe Revd Canon Chi Okpala</p>	<p>Margaret Moakes Licensed Lay Minister <i>Church website: www.willenchurch.org</i></p>
<p>Churchwardens Brad Stone, Janet Hawkins. To contact about weddings, funerals and baptisms please ring 01908 382458 (10 - 12 Mon - Sat); or E. warden@willenchurch.org</p>	
<p>Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership: www.stantonbury.net and Facebook Please email short succinct notices to notices@willenchurch.org by 5pm on the preceding Thursday</p>	

Collect of the Second Sunday of Lent

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. *Amen*



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58: 1 – 11a (NRSV)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

³ 'Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.
⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13: 31 – 35 (NRSV)

Hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' ³²He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thank you to everyone who attended last Sunday's AGM and a big THANK YOU to all who served on the Congregation Leadership Team (CLT) over the past year. Special thanks are due to Hilda Kirkwood, Rosemary LeCount and Sioux Redwood who have stepped down after many years of loyal service. Hilda has also stepped down as Treasurer and we thank her for bringing order and stability to the church's accounts. Thank you also to Brad and Janet who have agreed to serve for another year as Churchwardens; to Tony for all his work as vergger in preparing the church for services; to Lyn for acting as the bridge with CLT, membership secretary, and safeguarding and risk assessment lead; to Derek for the newsletter and as secretary; to Chingmy for the church accounts; to Sharron for organising Heritage Week, the Hooke Heritage Project, the gardening group, TTTT and for chairing SEP; to Lesley and Harold for all they do in the churchyard and propagating plants for sale in Heritage Week; to Margaret for organising the ministerial rota and leading services and Bible Study; to Sioux for organising the rota for services; to Brad for the website and to Rosemary for the Facebook page; to Helen Eaton and Helen Rouse for using their musical talents to lead us in worship; to all the ministers who led services at SMM over the past year; and to all whose voluntary contributions throughout the year enrich the life of the church in Willen. Thanks are also due to non-members who support activities at the church - Dave Clarke, Phil Marland, Tony Billings, Richard Wilson and Jane Quinn of the Gardening Group and to Bob Stott and Steve for organising the TTTT programme.

The position of Treasurer was not filled at the AGM no new members were appointed to the Congregation Leadership Team, and people are also invited to speak to David if they would like more information about joining CLT or taking up the role of Treasurer.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS - Please pray for

- The Emergency Services: The police, fire and ambulance services are there for us when we need them. Please pray for those who work hard to keep our communities safe and secure, and for those who risk their lives for other people.
- worldvision.org.uk a Christian charity which focuses on helping the most vulnerable children, of all faiths and none, in some of world's most difficult and dangerous places.

Sick: Louise Folley, Mark & Janice Earls, Fr Edmund Wheat SSM, Lyn Coppendale, Alison Read, Gill Farrow, Cindy Williams, Liz Halliwell

World Prayers: A fair way forward for peace in Ukraine and Russia, Gaza and Israel Mar. 20 [International Day of Happiness](#) Mar. 21 [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#); [World Down Syndrome Day](#); Mar.22 [World Water Day](#)

HYMNS - Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New

220 God is our strength from days of old

949 Wait for the Lord

325 Inspired by love and anger

576 Put thou thy trust in God