



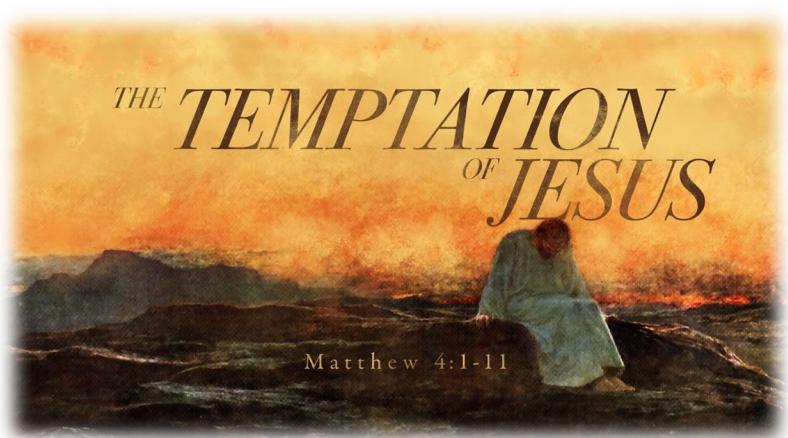
**Newsletter for
Sunday 22nd February 2026
1st Sunday of Lent**

Collects for this week

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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.

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.

"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him." (Jeremiah 17.7)

The Week Ahead..

Sunday 22nd February <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00am Eucharist (trad) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Guthlac's
Monday 23rd February	2.00pm-4.00pm Drop-In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 24th February	9.30am Holy Communion 2.00pm Mothers' Union Fellowship
Wednesday 25th February	8.00pm Online Compline
Thursday 26th February	9.30am Eucharist (St Guthlac's)
Friday 27th February	10.00am Funeral 11.00am Healing Prayer with Communion
Saturday 28th February	
Sunday 1st March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00am Eucharist 10.30am Worship for the Whole Church 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlac's

SUNDAY CLUB for children at primary and secondary school, meets during the 10.30am service twice a month. Every child of school age is welcome! Ask the Welcome Team to point out our leaders Alison Roche or Luke Fogg for a hello and a consent form if it's your child's first time. Here's what happens during each month:

1st Sunday - Worship for the Whole Church (children stay in the service for all ages)

2nd Sunday - Sunday Club 3rd Sunday - Sunday Club

4th Sunday - no Sunday Club but all are welcome to join us at the relaxed, cafe- style Church Club at 10.30am at St Guthlac's, Holbrook Road. [and if there's a 5th Sunday - a variety of things happen - check the newsletter or website]

Listening to God's Word:

The set readings on **Sunday 22nd February** are
Acts 9.1-19a and Matthew 4.1-11.

Church Family News

Laurie Jarvis

I can now tell you that the funeral of our long-time friend and church member Laurie Jarvis, will take place in St Mary's at 10.45am on Monday 2nd March. Everyone is welcome. *Adrian*

Real Easter Eggs

With Easter coming early, it's already time to put in your orders for the only chocolate egg that tells the real story of Easter. It's also Fairtrade, plastic- and palm-oil free and with a new Easter booklet for this year. £5.50 when you receive them. Please sign up by Sunday 1st March either with me or on the noticeboard. Thanks!
Alison Roche.



World Day of Prayer Friday, 6th March.

The service for this year has been prepared by Christian women from Nigeria on the theme "I will give you rest, come". It will be celebrated as a great wave of prayer going round the world, beginning in Samoa and ending, more than 146 countries later, in American Samoa. Our local services are in St Thomas More Church at 2pm and at the Friends Meeting House at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Mothers' Union Fellowship

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 24th February at 1.30 for a 2pm start in the Parish Centre. Our speaker will be Margaret Young whose talk is intriguingly entitled "Neither Fish nor Fowl" (plus a 16th century romance!) LP.

EASTER EGGS Please buy and donate an Easter egg for the Church to give to the Goldhill Adventure Playground. This will be a lovely surprise for them. The box is in the Lady Chapel and the closing date is Sunday 22nd March. Thank you. *Beryl Bonfield*



LENT approaching! You may well have noticed that Easter is 'early' this year, and so, therefore, is Lent! As usual, Christians are encouraged to remember through Holy Week and then celebrate on Easter Day itself – and the weeks of Lent before then are a significant time for pause, thought, reflection, thinking, discussion and growth in our Christian faith.

In our **Sunday services** during Lent we will be picking up themes from a course written for the Diocese of Edinburgh last year, called "**Christ has no body now but yours**", which is based on the famous prayer by St Teresa of Avila. The course encourages us to think more deeply about our individual part in the Body of Christ and how we can better work out our faith in practical ways every day. Each Sunday service will be followed during the week by the chance to be part of a small group discussion around the same theme, with illustrations and questions to help us.

There will be (at least) two **Lent discussion groups**. One will run at St Mary's Parish Centre (in the small Cottage/Welcome Room) on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am-noon, starting on 25th February for five weeks. The other group will run in the entrance area of St Guthlac's on Thursday evenings at 7.30-9pm, starting on 26th February for five weeks. Please choose the best day and time for you – it doesn't matter which church you feel part of most! The course book for both groups is identical and costs just £1.50 towards the printing.

I do hope that you will want to use this Lent as an intentional time for growing your faith, and that you'll be able to join one of these groups. If you're keen but the dates and times don't work for you, please see me so that we can think about running an additional meeting.

Please sign the list at the back of either church to show that you'd like to be part of a midweek discussion group and that you'd like a booklet. See you there!

Adrian

Diocese of Edinburgh

Lent Course 2025



Christ has no body now
but yours

COMING UP What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in February and March 2026

Our 10.30am Sunday services at St Mary's vary, week by week – we hope that this provides different types of worship that appeal in different ways and, perhaps, are appreciated by different groups of people. Everyone is welcome every week!

- **Sunday 22nd February** is the first Sunday of Lent and we begin a new Sunday series to help us prepare for the celebration of Easter – we are following the themes of the Lent study course "*Christ has no body now but yours*", and this week we think about being the *Hands of Christ*. Our service today is a Sung Eucharist.
- At St Mary's we begin every month with a service of Worship for the Whole Church (formerly known as 'All Age Worship'). On **Sunday 1st March** our theme is being the *Eyes of Christ* in the world today.
- **Sunday 8th March**, in our service of Sung Eucharist, sees us return again to our Lenten theme, as we consider being the *Feet of Christ*.
- The third **Sunday of March, 15th**, is **Mothering Sunday** and we will have a special service with plenty to interest everyone (not just Mums!), as well as our usual children's and young people's group. There will also be the traditional flowers and bulbs to distribute.
- **Sunday 22nd March** is our usual service of Sung Eucharist and we return to our Lenten theme as we consider what it means to be the *Ears of Christ* in the world today.
- This month we also have a fifth **Sunday, 29th March**, and so a joint benefice service, which this time is at St Mary's – it's also **Palm Sunday**.
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As usual, **each Sunday** our quieter, **Weekly Eucharist**, takes place at 9am, with 'traditional language' on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Our weekly midweek Communion is on Tuesdays at 9.30am, and on the last Friday of each month, at 11am, we hold a Service of Prayer for Healing, with Holy Communion (see Revd Janet Gasper for details).

Free Film Night at St Cuthlac's Church



Holbrook Rd

LE2 3LF

All welcome!



Driving Miss Daisy

(Cert U, 94 mins)

Tues 7.00pm 10th March

Fiercely independent, and penny-pinching Miss Daisy (Jessica Tandy) is appalled when her nephew decides she is too old to drive and hires her a black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman).... This American comedy won the Academy Award for best picture of 1989.

**Free refreshments and the
chance to socialise**

Virtual Compline 8.00pm Wednesday evenings

All are welcome. You can also join using a phone.

You can join the meeting from 7.50 pm.

On the computer click: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81118183080>

On the phone dial: 0203 481 5240 and follow the instructions.

You will be asked for a meeting ID. Put **811 1818 3080** followed by #

Did you know that we're registered on #easyfundraising? This means you can raise free donations for us in 2026 when you shop online! Over 8,000 retailers will make a donation to St Mary Magdalen - Knighton PCC on your behalf when you shop with them. We have raised over £500 so far - Please sign up today. All the big names like Sainsbury's, Argos and Just Eat are ready to donate at no extra cost to you. Plus, sign up today and we could win a £500 donation: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/st-mary-magdalen-knighton-pcc/h2y5ev/c2s/ahT9IaEN/CE945/facebook/>

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PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day-to-day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a monthly donation through the Parish Giving Scheme, details of which can be obtained from Simon Britton, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary, email: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com or phone 07710 975 272. If you are a taxpayer and willing to gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25% at no extra cost to yourself. Any donations by cheque should be to **Knighton PCC** please.

"No time for prayer? I do not understand how you can live such a careless life as that." *Charles Spurgeon*

Praying for each other this month In this new month of February, please pray for all our friends and congregation members whose surnames begin with the letters E, F, G and H. Pray that in these cold days they'll experience the warmth of God's love, as he shares it with us both in Jesus and through our companions and families.

Praying for the World: Please pray for all those who are victims of abuse, exploitation and trafficking across the world. Pray that they will know how precious they are in God's sight and that they have the right to a life of purpose and peace. Pray for all those who work to bring them release, justice and healing.

Praying for the Church: Please pray within every church we will be able to create a place of safety for all those who are vulnerable or abused. Pray that we would be able to change our church culture so that everyone helps to safeguard the welfare of others.

Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Craighill Road, Craighill Walk, Milford Road, Welford Road, Houlditch Road.**

Praying for those in need this week

Please pray for all those who are in particular need at the moment, those who are unwell in body, mind or spirit, and those anxious and worried. We especially pray for, **John Matthews, Eileen McKellican, June Rich, Ruth Smith, Neill Addison-Gutteridge, and Kate Adams.**

Please remember all those who have died in recent days. Ask God to bring comfort and peace to their family and friends, even in their sadness. We especially remember the family and friends of **Laurie Jarvis, Dominique Percival and Clive Baker.**