



Carlton and Mutford Benefice

Newsletter March 2026



Rector's ramblings

March is often the time when Spring truly comes in to it's own. Snowdrops have been, daffodils are beginning to bloom and daylight is increasing.

The Church Has begun the season of Lent. Lent began on Ash Wednesday and will finish on Holy Thursday lasting 40 days. In Middle English the Word Lent was Lenten meaning Spring.

Traditionally Christians are called to do 3 things in Lent fasting, giving and praying.

Fasting -justice toward self - choosing to give up something to show how much Jesus has done for us, self sacrifice and self discipline- representing Jesus sacrifice in the desert- 40 days and 40 nights of fasting and prayer.

Lent is also a time of repentance which end's with the great celebration of Easter which in the Eastern orthodox tradition is called the season of 'Bright sadness'

Giving - justice toward neighbour - this might be a financial donation to a charity or it might be giving up time. Time to send someone a card or offer a word of encouragement or sweep up leaves for neighbour or buy someone cup of coffee or any random act of kindness.

Praying - justice toward God- being really intentional about taking time out with God not just to repent& pray and give thanks but to really listen.

There are opportunities over Lent to join with others:

Lent Lunches-Fridays 1.00pm St Peter's Parish room A simple meal of soup and bread which we share together and remember those who might have only a simple meal once a day or even less. A donation of £3 will go towards the work of the mission agencies we support.

The Bible Course - Fridays 2.30pm St Peter's Parish room A chance to meet with others and look again at God's Story as we explore together over 8 weeks, The Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The course is a mixture of Video presentations and discussion with a daily Bible reading programme to do in between.

Sunday's - During Lent we will be following the Bible readings used during the Bible course and digging deeper into what that means for God's Mission in our communities.

Prayer:

As the days lengthen and earth spends longer in the light of day, grant that we spend longer in the light of your presence, O Lord and those seeds of your word, which have been long buried within us grow, like everything around us, into love for you and love for people, to become a visible declaration of your lordship in our lives.

Grant Father that there may be a springtime for our lives in Christ. Amen

March Services



1st Lent 2

Holy Communion 9am -St Andrew's
Worship for All 10.30am- St Peter's

8th Lent 3

Holy communion 10.30am St Peter's
Holy Baptism 1.30pm St Peter's
Ellen Grace Lilleystone Kirk

15th Lent 4- Mothering Sunday

Worship for All 10.30am St Peters
Holy Communion 11am St Andrew's

20th Prayer and Praise 1.30pm Carlton Hall

22nd Lent 5- Passion Sunday

Holy Communion 10.30am St Peter's

29th Lent 6 Palm Sunday

Benefice Service Holy Communion 10.30am

Events coming up –

Get the dates in your diary. Come along to any of our events invite your friends and neighbours - the more the merrier.

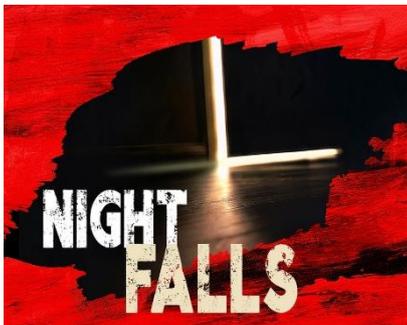
March 31st 10am-12noon Coffee Morning

Come and join us for Coffee, or tea and delicious cakes

£2 per person - in aid of general church funds



RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS 'NIGHT FALLS', A NEW PASSION PLAY BY PAUL BIRCH. March 25th 7.30pm St Mark's Oulton Broad



Four final days before an execution that will change everything.

Three enemies that want to put an end to the so-called Messiah.

Two strangers torn between faith and doubt, hope and grief, trying to prevent Jesus of Nazareth from getting himself arrested.

One safe house in Bethany.

The hours are running out, but even as night falls, a strange hope is wrapped in a secret that both strangers share. For this is the house of Lazarus, and under his roof, the impossible has already occurred...

*Night Falls is a fresh, vivid and dynamic retelling of the Easter story, blending music and powerful drama alongside space for reflection and worship. **TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE HERE** - <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ridinglights/night-falls/e-rbeqav> Or speak to Linda Filer*



March 28th - 6-8pm Curry Evening St Peter's

£10 per person please bring your own drinks - Funds will go towards the repair of the Tower.