

Thought for March 2025

by Revd. Claire Claxton

Wednesday 5th March is the start of the period in the Christian calendar known as Lent. But why is it called Lent? The English word 'Lent' is not found in the Bible. In fact, it comes from the Anglo-Saxon word '**lencten**' which is the origin of the words Lenten and lengthen. Lenten was a historical word for the season of spring when the days lengthen.



The Early Church focused on marking the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus through prayer, repentance and fasting, and this developed into 40 days of preparation. By the 4th century AD, Lent had become normal practice, the idea of 40 days of self-discipline being based on the time which Jesus spent in the wilderness as recorded in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Many people use Lent as an opportunity to give up eating something they like e.g. chocolate. For some, this can be a satisfying challenge whereas for others it is an unpleasant chore which ends in a sense of failure! Lent should be about helping us to feel better not worse so I am always on the lookout for new positive ideas. Here are a few ideas of challenges for Lent which should be more productive environmentally or spiritually:

Donate to a local charity. This includes money, clothes, household items, food.

Help clean up our island. Take a bin sack and a litter picker when you go for a walk and see if you can fill it with rubbish you find.

Do an act of kindness. Pray for someone; pay for a coffee for the person behind you in a queue; send a text to someone to let them know you're thinking of them.

Have an 'attitude of gratitude.' At the end of each day think of three things for which you are grateful.

Declutter your home. Having too much clutter can increase stress. Recycle an item each day.

Pray. Each day make a quiet moment to say the words of the Lord's prayer or another well-known prayer such as the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr, the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, or the prayer of St. Patrick, Christ be with me.

God bless you.

Ste Marguerite de la Foret



March 2025

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Church flowers in March

2nd March
Dorothy Freeman

9th March. Lent
No flowers

16th March
no flowers

23rd March
No flowers

30th March Mothering
Sunday
Debbie Dorey

Greeting

2nd March Dorothy Freeman

9th March Rose Marquand

16th March. Brenda Tostevin

23rd March Nancy Smith

30th March Fiona Roland

Social area.

As you may have noticed we now have a wonderful new addition of cupboards and worktop in our social area. This was made possible in the main by Condor Ferries generous donation from their Community Fund as well as Lovell Ozanne architects who provided the drawings free of charge.

I would also like to thank Andrew Ozanne, for overseeing the project and organising the works that were needed, Right Angle Carpentry for fitting the units so beautifully and Verdellis for the electrical work.

I hope you all agree that it has provided a much needed serving area and storage for our church and community events.

The next part of the project will be to put up notice boards and eventually replace our chairs that are getting rather worn and tired looking.

Any donations towards this project would be gratefully received.



The King's Coronation

Do you remember the Coronation of King Charles 3rd and Queen Camilla on 6th May 2023?

The call went out for as many churches as possible to ring their bells that day. A great many new ringers were recruited for this and have remained and continue, a great asset to the churches and a challenge to keep learning the craft.

Recently a medal was given and the photograph is of Forest ringers and others receiving their medals at Government House this year, well done and thank you.



Mothering Sunday 30th March

We will be bunching the Mother's day flower posies on Saturday 29th March at 11am if anyone would like to help

Attic Treasures & Craft Sale

Just to let you know we are planning to hold an Attic Treasures & Craft Sale in April.

It will be a half day event in church with various stalls and refreshments available. As part of the sale we are looking for hamper raffle and tombola prizes so if you are able to donate anything please place it at the back of the church for Liz Roland to collect.

An invitation for May:

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of Liberation, musicians across the island are coming together in a Commemoration Concert which will be held on May 10th 2025 at Beau Sejour in the Sir John Loveridge Hall.

The concert will consist of a programme of sacred and secular music based around the idea of prayer, hope, love and freedom, including the Claxton Maynine which was written by Chris Claxton for the 60th anniversary for those that remember those celebrations.

The Biberach Youth orchestra will be travelling to Guernsey to take part in the concert and play alongside the Guernsey Choral and Orchestral Society.

The concert will be a free event for the Guernsey public and also invited guests including His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the Bailiff, veterans, members of the armed forces, Chelsea Pensioners and other guests who will be on the island for this special occasion.

Rachel Wright is conducting and in her quest for as many singers as possible to be involved, has asked me to forward this invitation to you.

For more information contact Claire or: mgrand@cwgsy.net
Subject: 80th Liberation Concert 10th May 2025

Post Haste

If you are asked to do something 'Post Haste', you are being asked to do it quickly and without delay. When, during the 16th century, the English postal system began to develop around the country, it relied on horseback messengers. Because of the nature of the work, horses needed to be rested every 20-30 miles. This led to the emergence of posthouses all over the country, which provided fresh horses for messengers to use on longer journeys. The royal post was regarded as a priority and post-boys would gallop into stable yards shouting 'post haste' in order to attract attention and then swap their horse for a rested one to continue his journey!

Welcome to Forest Parish Church

March 2025

Dates and Church News

Wednesday 5th March

Knit and Natter in church 2-4pm

Lent lunch – Sunday 9th March

Do join us for homemade soups, bread, cheese and fruit after the morning service. Bring a friend – there's always plenty!

Wednesday 12th March

10.30-12.00

Coffee morning in church. All welcome.

Thursday 6th & 20th March

Solace meetings

10.30-12noon. At St Martins Community Centre.

A friendly support group after bereavement.

Lent Groups

This year we are planning a combined Lent Course with our friends at Forest Methodist Church. There will be a choice of two groups:

Tuesday evening (11th, 18th, 25th March, 1st & 8th April) at 7.30 p.m. in Forest Methodist Church

Wednesday lunchtime (12th, 19th, 26th March, 2nd & 9th April) at 12.30 p.m. in Forest Parish Church.

Each session will last an hour or so and will look at the Lenten themes of Wilderness, Fasting, Solitude, Temptation and Preparation in an informal way. Refreshments will be provided (even on the week focussing on Fasting!) but do feel free to bring your lunch to the Wednesday sessions.

All are welcome. Please sign up in church. Although it will aid catering to know which group you hope to attend, mixing and matching is also fine!

Sunday March 2nd 11am. Family service

Reader: TBA

Prayers: Katie Blampied

Wednesday 5th March 6.30pm Ash Wednesday service

Sunday March 9th 11am Parish Communion Lent 1

Reader: Vivian Rees

Deuteronomy 26 v1-11

Romans 10 v 8b-13

Prayers: Nancy Smith

Sunday March 16th 11am Parish Communion Lent 2

Reader: Syd Bowsher

Genesis 15v1-12,17-18

Philippians 3 v17, 4v1

Prayers: Peter Gallienne

Sunday March 23rd 11am Parish Communion Lent 3

Reader: Steve Le Poidevin

Isaiah 55 v1-9

1 Corinthians 10 v1-13

Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

Sunday March 30th. 11am

Family Service Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

Reader: Linda Archard

Prayers: Nicola Hoyland Birch