

## 22 February 2026—First Sunday in Lent

### Welcome to our services today

#### WHAT'S GOING ON IN LENT

- As our worship adopts a more thoughtful tone, there are some **changes to the service**. A seasonal variant of the Confession is used, we replace the usual English Kyrie with a Greek version, and we omit the Gloria. There are special forms of the Gospel Acclamation, the Eucharistic Acclamation and the Invitation to Communion. This is all set out on your service sheet.
- There will be a service of **Stations of the Cross** to mark the start of Lent today at 6 pm in Holy Trinity.
- Our **Bible Study Group** (Thursdays, 11 am) are looking at the Ten Commandments. You are invited to consider joining in as one of your Lenten disciplines.
- Our long-standing parish tradition of **Friday Lenten Lunches** (vegetarian soup and bread) begins this Friday (27th) at 12.15 pm in Holy Trinity. Volunteers are sought for making the soup! – please speak to Rita.
- The C of E's website, churchofengland.org, provides **resources for Lent** themed around the title "Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent", and has daily reflections which you can subscribe to receive by email or via the C of E's new devotional app.
- As our **Lent Charity** we will be supporting Step by Step, a locally-based charity doing vital work with young people facing homelessness or other challenges.

#### Bishop Andrew: Update and Prayer Vigil

Further to the distressing news of Bishop Andrew's inoperable cancer, he has made it known that he is now in the care of the local hospice team and has relinquished all duties with immediate effect. Bishop Paul is taking on the interim leadership of the Diocese.

This Monday (23rd) there will be a **Vigil of Prayer** for Bishop Andrew at Guildford Cathedral, from 12 noon until 10 pm. You are welcome to join it at any time for as long or short a period as you wish. Fr William and other clergy from Aldershot Deanery will be hosting the start of the Vigil, from 12:00 to 12:45.

#### Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

Your church is now seeing the benefits of this scheme, with less paperwork to complete and Gift Aid coming from HMRC within days. If you have not yet applied to join, please do so: you can apply by post – spare forms are available from our team – or phone PGS on 0333 002 1260, or apply online ([www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)). If you have any questions or need help, our acting treasurers Keith Blanchard, Allen Brown, Susan Brown and Tony Evans, with assistance from Stella Nettleton and Jan Reed, will be happy to help you.

#### THIS WEEK

- All events at Holy Trinity—*unless shown otherwise*—  
*Weekday Readings: Week 1 in Lent*

#### Today

6.00 pm: Stations of the Cross

**Monday** *St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr*

12 – 10 pm: Vigil of Prayer for Bishop Andrew  
—*Guildford Cathedral*

#### Wednesday

6.30 pm: Mass (6.00: Exposition of Bl. Sacrament)  
Psalm R: *A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.*

#### Thursday

11.00 am: Bible Study group

#### Friday

11.00 am: Mass (10.30: Exposition of Bl. Sacrament)  
Psalm R: *If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?*

12.15 pm: Lenten Lunch

2 – 4 pm: Tea at Two—*All Saints Hall*

#### Next Sunday—**Second Sunday in Lent**

9.15 am: Holy Communion—*All Saints*

11.00 am: Sung Mass

#### Parish Website

Our church website is constantly being developed and updated, and whenever possible a link to the music played during Communion is added to the Service Sheets page. If there are any other additions you'd like to see on the website, please contact Pete Robertson at [admin@parishofhawley.org.uk](mailto:admin@parishofhawley.org.uk).

#### 'Tea at Two'

We meet every Friday from 2 – 4 pm in All Saints Hall. Come and join us for great cake, tea/coffee and conversation. We look forward to seeing you!

#### **Please remember in your prayers this week:**

**The sick and infirm:** June Anderton, Janet Dadson, Ian McRea, Paul Moore, Janet Murton, Roy & Jackie Phillips, Dave Powers, Mike Reed, Pat Rorison, Shirley Whiteley, Bishop Andrew, John, Kirk & Karen, Mark, Neville, Phil

**The recently departed & their families:** Andy Day, Jenny Gibson, Pam Gunn, Eric Morrison

**Anniversary of death:** Lillian Goddard, Elspeth Holland, Ernest Taylor, Pattie Townsend

## Romans 5: 12 – 19

“Death through Adam, Life through Christ.” But what does this mean? Paul does not go in for great explanations. Adam represents mankind, mankind sins and the result is destructive, causing a measure of death. For Paul sin and death are realities in a world created good by God. They can be recognised and acknowledged but not fully explained. Sin and death are inevitable but are not necessary; inevitable because they describe a universal experience and not necessary because they are grounded in human choice. We need the law to control the reality and effects of sin. Sin was in the world before the law, but we need the law to make clear what sin is. However, the law cannot overcome sin and death. For Paul it is through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that sin and death are overcome.

Jesus’s life was an act of obedience by which He died for us on the Cross. It is this one act of complete righteousness that brings to us the gifts of salvation, justification, and life, following what is lost under the old dispensation of sin and death. Understanding this enables us to place ourselves daily into the hands of Jesus who is our true Saviour. It is only through Him that the tyranny of sin and death are overcome.

Lent is a time when we reflect on, and pray about, the way this was achieved, through Jesus’s journey to the Cross.

### **Stations of the Cross: act of devotion**

*The Stations of the Cross is a Lenten devotion, often said on a Friday*

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2026**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel: Matthew 4: 1 – 11**



On Ash Wednesday, we received a fresh call to discipleship, to follow in the footsteps of Christ, as we received the sign of the Cross in ash. Today St Matthew’s Gospel asks us to continue in the path of that discipleship, as we are presented with the temptations of Christ. The devil, the tempter, that subtle yet beguiling voice, offers Jesus material possessions, invites him to put God to the test, and offers Him earthly power beyond imagining. Each time Jesus rebuts temptation with the words of scripture. Jesus chooses the way of the cross, and the fruits of His choice are ours, if we would but follow Him. We would do well to ask ourselves how well prepared we are, if we are to grow in holiness. The people of Israel disobeyed God and were lost in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus, the new Israel, the true manna, the living bread, is a sure guide, and in His exodus, death and resurrection, we shall find true life.