

Parish of Central Windsor  
**SUNG EUCHARIST**

18<sup>th</sup> February 2026

7.30pm

**Ash Wednesday**



**A warm welcome to All Saints' Church  
for our service this evening**

If you have babies or small children with you, you are welcome to stay in church. Please don't be embarrassed if they cry or make a noise

*Please stand for :*

## OPENING HYMN

**1 Forty days and forty nights  
thou wast fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled.**

**2 Sunbeams scorching all the day;  
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;  
prowling beasts about thy way;  
stones thy pillow; earth thy bed.**

**3 Let us thine endurance share,  
and awhile from joys abstain,  
with thee watching unto prayer,  
strong with thee to suffer pain?**

**4 And if Satan vexing sore.  
flesh or spirit should assail,  
thou, his vanquisher before,  
grant we may not faint nor fall!**

**5 So shall we have peace divine:  
holier gladness ours shall be;  
round us, too, shall angels shine,  
such as ministered to thee.**

**6 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
ever constant by thy side;  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.**

*G. H. Smyttan (1822-1870)  
and Francis Pott (1832-1909)*

*Please remain standing for :*

## THE GREETING

*The priest says*

In the name of the Father†, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All*     **Amen.**

*The priest greets the people*

The Lord be with you

*All*     **and also with you.**

## INTRODUCTION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting. By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

*All*     **Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## THE COLLECT

*The priest says:*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
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.

*All*     **Amen**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Please sit for:*

### FIRST READING

#### **Isaiah 58.1–12**

58 <sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> ‘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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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?

<sup>6</sup> 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?

<sup>7</sup> 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?

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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,

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 51**

*The congregation is invited to sing the response*

**Have mercy on us Lord for we have sinned**

Have mercy upon me, O God, in | your great love  
in your compassion blot out | my offences:  
wash me thoroughly | from my guilt,  
and cleanse me | from my sin. **Response**

To you I con | fess my faults,  
for they ever stare me | in the face:  
against you it is that | I have sinned,  
and done evil | in your sight. **Response**

Make me a clean | heart, O God  
and renew a right spir | it within me:  
cast me not out | of your sight,  
nor take your holy | Spirit from me. **Response**

Uphold me | with your might,  
and strengthen me with | perseverance:  
open my | lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall de | clare your praise. **Response**

## **Second READING**

### **2 Corinthians 5.20b – 6.10**

<sup>5</sup> <sup>20</sup> We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6</sup> As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says,

‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute.

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

*At the end the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for;*

**Gradual Hymn**

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art.  
Be thou my best thought, in the day and the night,  
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;  
Be thou ever with me and I with thee, Lord;  
Be thou my great Father, I thy true son;  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Be thou my Inheritance, now and always:  
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,  
O sovereign of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of Heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won.  
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.**

*Irish, 8<sup>th</sup> century, tr Mary Byrne (1880-1931)  
versified Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)*

*Please remain standing for:*

**GOSPEL READING**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory  
The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.  
Harden not your hearts.

*All* **Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 6.1–6, 16–21**

<sup>6</sup> <sup>1</sup> 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> 'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup> ‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>16</sup> ‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>19</sup> ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit for:*

**SERMON**

**LITURGY OF PENITENCE**

**SELF EXAMINATION AND CONFESSION**

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

*All* God the Father,  
**have mercy upon us.**

*All* God the Son,  
**have mercy upon us.**

*All* God the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy upon us.**

*All* Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,  
**have mercy upon us.**

*All* **Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.**

*The Kyrie Eleison is sung:*

*All* **Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy, Christ have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

*All*

**Lord, have mercy.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

*All*

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord all our past unfaithfulness:  
the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.

*All*

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people.

*All*

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

*All*

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

*All*

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

*All*

**Lord, have mercy.**

Accept our repentance, Lord  
for the wrongs we have done,  
for our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

*All*

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements,  
for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours  
and for our prejudice and contempt towards  
those who differ from us.

*All*

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

*All*

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

*All*

**Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*All*

**that we may show your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

*All*

**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*A silence is kept*

*All*      **We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

#### THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*The priest says*

Dear friends in Christ,  
I invite you to receive these ashes  
as a sign of the spirit of penitence  
with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,  
you create us from the dust of the earth:  
grant that these ashes may be for us  
a sign of our penitence  
and a symbol of our mortality;  
for it is by your grace alone  
that we receive eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

*All*      **Amen.**

*The president and people receive the imposition of ashes.*

*At the imposition the minister says to each person*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

*The priest says*

The Lord enrich you with his grace,  
and nourish you with his blessing;  
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;  
the Lord accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

*All*      **Amen.**

Sarabande from Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor by JS Bach *is played*

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please stand for:*

### THE PEACE

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with your neighbour.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word,  
rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm.**

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)*

## PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.  
The priest takes the bread and wine.*

Merciful Father,  
turn us from sin to faithfulness  
and from disobedience to love,  
and prepare us to celebrate  
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*All*      **Amen**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*All*      The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*      Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks  
because you give us the spirit of discipline,  
that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace,  
as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery  
with mind and heart renewed.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

All

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith  
Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.

All

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St John the  
Baptist, St Stephen, St Agnes, and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All*      **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*The priest says*

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us how to pray

*Please feel free to use either the traditional or the contemporary  
version as we pray together*

*All*      **Our Father, who art in heaven,    *All***  
**hallowed be thy name;**  
**thy kingdom come;**  
**thy will be done;**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those**  
**who trespass against us.**  
**And lead us not into temptation;**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**the power and the glory,**  
**for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those**  
**who sin against us.**  
**Lead us not into temptation**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours**  
**now and for ever.**  
**Amen.**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

*All*      **Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup**  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes**

## **AGNUS DEI** (*DARKE IN F*)

**Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us  
Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

### **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

*The priest says the invitation to communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper

*All*     **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*If you are confirmed or a communicant member of the Church of England or any other Christian church, you are welcome to receive communion with us this morning. Otherwise, you are warmly invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please bring the service booklet with you so we know you wish to receive a blessing.*

*Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

*During the administration of communion the following will be sung:*

**ANTHEM:** Ave verum (*Byrd*)

### **Hymn**

**1 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from earthborn passions set me free,  
and make me pure within.**

**2 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
with care and woe oppressed;  
let me thy loving servant be,  
and taste thy promised rest.**

**3 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
amid the battle's strife;  
in all my pain and misery  
be thou my health and life.**

**4 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point thou the heavenly way.**

**5 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
when flows the tempest high:  
when on doth rush the enemy  
O Saviour, be thou nigh.**

**6 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see,  
and share thy joy at last.**

*Greek, Synesius of Cyrene (375-430)  
Tr A. W. Chatfield (1808-1896)*

## PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,  
you have given your only Son to be for us  
both a sacrifice for sin  
and also an example of godly life:  
give us grace  
that we may always most thankfully receive  
these his inestimable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour  
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **God of our pilgrimage,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

## THE DISMISSAL

### THE BLESSING

*Please stand for :*

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father†, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

### Final Hymn

**Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,  
if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake,  
and humbly follow after me.**

**Take up thy cross, let not its weight  
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.**

**Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
nor let thy foolish pride rebel;  
thy Lord for thee the cross endured,  
to save thy soul from death and hell.**

**Take up thy cross then in his strength,  
and calmly every danger brave,  
'twill guide thee to a better home,  
and lead to victory o'er the grave.**

**Take up thy cross and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only those who bear the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.**

**To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,  
all praise forevermore ascend:  
O grant us in our home to see  
the heavenly life that knows no end.**

*C. W. Everest (1814-1877)*

*The priest says*

*All*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

**You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you  
for private reflection or to give to a friend.**

**If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask!  
You can also find out more by following the “Our Faith” link on the  
Church of England website: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)**

### **Lent Study Group**

You are invited to join Anne Casson for a Lent Study Course, Praying with St Matthew's Gospel, in the Choir Vestry at All Saints' Church at 11.00am on Thursdays during Lent beginning **19<sup>th</sup> February**. If possible, please let [Anne](#) know if you are hoping to attend (you are also welcome just to come along). The course is taking place in Eton (7pm Tuesdays at St John the Evangelist Church), and Datchet, as well if you would like to be involved but are unable to make Thursday mornings. You may instead like to set aside 10 minutes a day for prayer throughout Lent and use the St Matthew materials which can be downloaded [here](#).

### **Parish Website:**

[www.windsorchurches.org.uk](http://www.windsorchurches.org.uk)

*Copyright acknowledgements: Material included in this service from Common Worship: Service and Prayers of the Church of England and from New Patterns of Worship is copyright:*

*© The Archbishops' Council 2000,  
Windsor Mass Carolyn Gower*