

MARCH 2025

"LENT IS FOR SINNERS"

1 Timothy 1 v 15 *"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."*

Hello, and welcome to our March and Lent Newsletter. Lent is a great time for churches to unite and focus on Jesus – who came to save sinners. Traditionally, Lent was to remember Jesus' forty days of fasting and enduring temptation from Satan. This is a great blessing as taught from the Bible. It shows that Jesus, Fully God and Fully Man lived the perfect life, thus qualifying Him as the "Second Adam" to pay the price for our sins – thus saving us.

However, let's not see our Lent Observances as a means to replicate Christ's Fasting and Suffering – rather, a means to humbly rediscover Jesus as the Saviour from Sin. Never let our "what I'm giving up for Lent" be our merit, to deserve God's Blessings – rather, let it subdue our natural reactions, to facilitate the work the Holy Spirit wants to do in us – increasing our awareness of the "...*Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*" Galatians 2 v 20. The merit which deserves God's Blessings is not what we do for Him – It's what He did for us.

Hebrews 4 v 15 - *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."*

1 Peter 3 v 18 - *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"*

So – Is there a place for our good works and showing kindness to others, this Lent? Yes, there is. We start with receiving and rejoicing in what Jesus did for us. Out of our Salvation and His Free Gift of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered with His Love, Joy and the Power to do God's Will. This involves -

Vertical Relationship – This is where we rejoice in God, His Joy by the Holy Spirit, as we pray and read our Bibles. Lent is a good time to quieten our hearts, and rejoice in our Vertical Relationship with God.

Horizontal Relationship – This is where we meet with Brothers and Sisters in Christ - engaging in Corporate Worship and Mutual Encouragement. The Church is God's Ordained Purpose to Win others for Him, and Glorify God. Again – Lent Churches Together Services are a great reminder of the Worldwide Church (in Horwich at least!)

Empowered Service - We serve as individuals, and also as the Body of Christ, in our Church Outreach Services. This is empowered as we focus on the Lord, His Goodness and His Calling on our lives. These are our Good Works – ordained by God.

We are saved, solely by the Lord's Goodness, not ours, but serving Him is our obedient response to what God has already done for us. Let's all have a blessed Lent, where we sense a fresh touch from the Lord, then bring His Blessings to others.

Bless you,

Robert

Please see the next page.

Church Events for March 2025

Sunday Morning Services (10.30 am)

March 2nd	Video talk by Alistair Begg on 'Anxiety'
March 9th	Bill Vell
March 16th	Eric Kent
March 23rd	Andrew Holt
March 30th	Shaun Cooper

Tuesday Fellowship (Tuesday 2pm)

March 4th	Greg Hanley
March 11th	Maureen Hawskworth
March 18th	Elizabeth Mitson
March 25th	Video: Tim Keller on 'Job'

Bible Study and Prayer meetings (Wednesdays)

March 5th	at Church at 11am
March 12th	on Zoom at 7pm
March 19th	at Church at 11am
March 26th	on Zoom at 7pm

Tea 'N' Tots Fridays during term time (10.00 – 11.30 am)

World Day of Prayer: Friday March 7th at 2pm – all welcome!

Churches Together Lent Service

The first service will be held at our church on Monday March 10 th 7.30pm

Sunday Film Nights: 2nd March, 23rd March, 6th April (6.30 pm)

Join us as we show the wonderful story of Jesus of Nazareth starring Robert Powell over three Sunday evenings. Refreshments included (please let us know if you're coming).

Points for Prayer

Praise and Thanks

- Give thanks to God for His goodness and faithfulness to us.

World Situations and Projects

- Pray for Christians around the world suffering for their faith.
- Pray for the Christian work we support:
Billy and Jeanne Campbell with the Silk Road Ministries, Kimbilio in the Congo,
Danko and his family in Bosnia Leprosy Mission,
- Pray for an end to the fighting in Ukraine and Sudan, and sustained Peace in Gaza.

UK

- Pray for our King and Princess of Wales to acknowledge God, and His Son, Jesus.
- Pray for our Government, in these difficult times, that they will seek God's guidance so that they lead us with wisdom and integrity.
- Pray for those engulfed in violence and hatred – that they would find Jesus.
Let the Church effectively communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the Wrongly Convicted Postmasters – that they may receive justice very soon.
- Pray for James Bovenizer, and his work in schools.
- Pray for Urban Outreach.

Our Church

- Pray for the Elders as they seek to know God's will for the future.
Meeting – Monday 17th March 2025 at 7pm
 - Pray for those who are unwell, giving thanks for those who have improved health-wise.
 - Pray for our Projects: Tea 'N' Tots, Luncheon Club, Good Newspapers, Junior Church.
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