

Welcome to Worship!

Sunday 22nd February 2026

The First Sunday of Lent



8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist <i>President & Preacher – The Rector</i>	St Neots Parish Church Thorne
Hymns:	702; 121; 466 (t.211); Anthem + 420 (1stt); 595	
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury
Hymns:	132; 121; 466 (t.211); 595	Thorne
6 p.m.	Choral Evensong	St Neots Parish Church
Hymns:	790; 792; 698 (1stt) <i>Psalm 50.1-15; Deuteronomy 6.4-9,16-end; Luke 15.1-10</i>	

Services & Events this week

Wednesday	09.30	Eucharist	SNPC
Thursday	09.30	Eucharist	Eynesbury
Friday	09.30	Eucharist	SNPC
Saturday	10.45	Informal Eucharist	SNPC
	11-1	Saturday Social	SN Ch.Rm

Services for next Sunday, 1st March 2026 (Lent 2):

The sixth anniversary of the formation of the United Parish

8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St Neots Parish Church
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury
Friday 6 th March at 3 p.m.	<i>Service for World Day of Prayer at Berkley St Methodist Ch</i>	

Giving for the work of the Church

We do not pass a collection plate around the congregation during the service, but we always welcome donations from those who attend worship, either in cash or by using the card reader near the door at SNPC before or after the service.

Please Gift Aid that donation if you can do so (envelopes are available).

We also encourage regular givers to become members of the Parish Giving Scheme (which is how many Church members make their donations).

Please ask at the door, or via the Office, if you want more information about this.

Collect for Lent I

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:

give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save;
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.

Alternative Collect for Lent I

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures (1strdg): Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

^{Ch.3} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden”?’ ²The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’ ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Reading from the Epistles (2ndrdg): Romans 5.12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is

not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4.1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

²He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴But he answered, 'It is written,

“One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” ’

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you",

and "On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." ’

⁷Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written,

“Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ’

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan!

for it is written,

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Post-Communion Prayer for Lent I

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please note – the Sunday Evening Choral Service in March will not be on March 22nd, but will be a Passiontide Service on March 29th (Palm Sunday).

Bishop Dagmar Winter

It was announced last Sunday morning that the electors of the Diocese of Edinburgh in the Scottish Episcopal Church had, the previous day, elected Bishop Dagmar to be their next Bishop.

The Diocese of Edinburgh covers Lothian, Berwickshire, and Borders, and is a mixture of city churches and extensive rural areas. It's a part of Scotland that's often familiar to those who know Northumberland (as Bishop Dagmar does), and with a cathedral that makes its mark on the Edinburgh skyline with its three spires at the west end of the city (and a well-known cathedral choir), it has a particular prominence, even though the Bishop is not automatically the Presiding Bishop. It's an excellent appointment for her, and for Edinburgh.

Bishop Dagmar came from Hexham Abbey to be Bishop of Huntingdon in the autumn of 2019, and has been Acting Bishop of Ely since July 2023 (as well as having had two spells of Diocesan responsibility before that). She will be greatly missed – but the timetable for her formal start has not yet been announced.

Bishop Sarah Clark

The next stage of the process of Bishop Sarah becoming Bishop of Ely is the formal Election by the College of Canons in Ely Cathedral on Monday 2nd March. Unlike in Scotland, there is only the one candidate!

Once that has happened, Confirmation of Election, a legal ceremony, is arranged in London: that ceremony is the moment that Bishop Sarah legally becomes Bishop (and ceases to be Bishop of Jarrow and Acting Bishop of Durham). Her enthronement in Ely Cathedral is likely to follow before the end of June (which is when our current Dean, Mark Bonney, retires).

Meanwhile, the next Bishop of Durham has not yet been announced. The news may come very soon, but there is still the possibility that Durham may need a temporary caretaker bishop for a few months to cover the transitional period. Thankfully, there are a few retired bishops in the North-east who would be able to step up to that.

Some forthcoming Concerts

A complete guide to concerts during Lent could be endless, but the following may be of interest:

Saturday 7th March, Ely Cathedral

Fairhaven Singers & others sing Benjamin Britten's War Requiem, 7.30pm

Sunday 22nd March, St Neots Parish Church

Concert by St Neots Concert Band, 3pm.

Sunday 22nd March, Kimbolton School

The School Choir & Kimbolton Singers perform works by Handel

Saturday 28th March, St Mary's Eaton Socon

St Neots Choral Society performs Bach's St John Passion

(Other performances of the work are happening this season too)