

Contact

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026



Dear Friends,

This month sees the start of the annual 40 day period of Lent leading up to Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The 40 days of Lent represent the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness and involve fasting and prayer as a way to connect deeper with God. Lent is a significant season in the Christian church and many people use the 40 days of Lent as a time of renewal and personal reflection to prepare their heart and mind for Good Friday and Easter.

The 40-day period of Lent is also symbolic of significant biblical events, including:

- Jesus' 40 days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness (*Matthew 4:1-11*)
- Moses spending 40 days on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments (*Exodus 34:28*)
- Elijah's 40-day journey to Mount Horeb (*1 Kings 19:8*)
- The 40 days of rain during the Great Flood (*Genesis 7:12*)
- The Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the desert (*Numbers 14:33*)

Traditionally Lent was a time of fasting from certain foods such as eggs, meat, fish and fats as a form of self-discipline and solidarity with the sufferings of Christ. Today, some still observe fasts that restrict quantity and type of food, but many people view Lent as a time in which to give up a luxury item, particular vice or bad habit.

The idea of fasting around the time of Easter goes back to the days of the early church 2,000 years ago. For some years after the resurrection of Jesus, Christians fasted from all food and drink between Good Friday and Easter Sunday – marking the time period between his death and the discovery that his tomb was empty. Lent, as we now know it, has its origins about 900 years after Jesus. There was international agreement that there should be a season of prayer and seeking forgiveness lasting 40 days – plus Sundays – leading up to Easter Sunday. The significance of the time period was that immediately before he began his years of travelling and teaching, Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, without food or water, reflecting on the future of his life.

The origin of the word Lent comes from the Old English word '[lencten](#)' meaning springtime or spring and from the West Germanic word 'langitinaz' meaning long days or the lengthening of the day.

In England, Lent is at the time of the year when the days are lengthening in the northern hemisphere. Like Easter, Lent falls on different dates each year. Christians in different church traditions around the world celebrate slightly different periods of Lent. Some church buildings are made to look plainer during Lent with flowers and other decorations removed.

The season of Lent is an important time for Christians, offering a time for renewal and reflection and for Christians to focus on their relationship with God in preparation for the coming of Easter. Following the significant journey of Lent, Christians enter into Easter filled with hope, joy and gratitude for the new life offered through Jesus's resurrection.

Celebrating Easter is an acknowledgment of Christ's victory over death and the season prepares Christians to receive the gift of new life more fully, encouraging them to carry its message of hope and renewal into their lives, and into the world, throughout the remainder of the year.

With all good wishes - Liz

LENT LUNCHES

Churches Together in Lees and District will once again meet each Tuesday during Lent to join in fellowship together.

The sessions will be held at 12 noon at the following venues and will be followed by coffee and biscuits:

24th February – Zion Methodist

3rd March – Zion Methodist

10th March – Springhead Congregational Church

17th March – Salvation Army, Roundthorn Road

24th March – Salvation Army, Roundthorn Road

Everyone is invited and your support would be appreciated.

CAFÉ CHURCH

Please join us on Mother's Day, March 15th, for an informal and relaxed café style service which will include light breakfast refreshments.

The café church service will be held in church at the usual time of 10.30am

Everyone is very welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

DIARY – February/March 2026

Sunday 1st February	10.30am	Family service led by John Pollitt Lunch
Monday 2nd February	6.15pm 7pm	Social Committee Deacons
Sunday 8th February	10.30am	Family service led by Catherine Booton Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 11th February	12 noon	Scoffs
Friday 13th February	7pm -9pm	Junior Disco
Sunday 15th February	10.30am	Family service led by David Lewis Cake Sale
Sunday 22nd February	10.30am	Family Service led by Foday Kamara inc communion
Sunday 1st March	10.30am	Family service led by John Pollitt Lunch
Sunday 8th March	10.30am	Family service led by Colin Carson
Wednesday 11th March	12 noon	Scoffs
Sunday 15th March	10.30am	Café Church including breakfast
Friday 20th March	7pm -9pm	Junior Disco
Sunday 22nd March	10.30am	Family Service led by Foday Kamara Cake Sale
Sunday 29th March	10.30am	Palm Sunday service led by Liz Dean

Regular Activities

Sunday

Toddler Sundays 10am – 11.30am

Monday

Exercise Group 2pm

Wednesday

Scoffs 12 noon (2nd Wednesday)

Thursday

Rainbows Toddler Group 9.30am

Friday

Badminton 6pm

Offertories

4th January - £204.08

11th January - £36.71

18th January - £97.93

25th January -£73.93

Standing orders - £897.00

Total £1,309.65

Other Income

Lunch - £41.52

Cake Sale - £34.17

Tea/Coffee - £21.61

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Just a reminder about the AGM which will be held after morning service on Sunday 8th February.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting whether or not they are church members so we hope to see you there!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

We will shortly be updating the directory so if any of your details have changed, or you are not currently listed in the directory, please get in touch as soon as possible.

NEW TO YOU

Any new to you can now be brought up to church and left on the stage prior to the sale on Thursday 7th May.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE – WE NEED AS MANY VOLUNTEERS AS POSSIBLE TO HELP OUT ON THE DAY!

FLOWER LIST

There are still some gaps on the flower list, so if you wish to provide flowers during 2026, please add your name to the list against a suitable date.

THEMED LUNCHES

The next themed lunches are following the services on Sunday 1st February and Sunday 1st March.

Everyone is very welcome to stay and join us.

JUNIOR DISCOS

Friday 13th February 7pm – 9pm

Friday 20th March 7pm – 9pm

All additional volunteers would be very welcome.

CAKE SALES

The next cake sales are following the services on Sunday 15th February and Sunday 22nd March.

Any donations of cake would be gratefully received.

Flower Rota

FEBRUARY 2026

1st February – Val

8th February – Sue

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