



All Saints'
Newtown Linford



The First Sunday of Lent

9 March 2025

10am Holy Communion

The Venerable Claire Wood

Deuteronomy 6.1-9

John 10.22-38

*Whenever possible, services are streamed online at
www.facebook.com/allsaintsnewtownlinford/live
It will not be streamed today*

A warm welcome to all to worship today, whether onsite or online. Please use this sheet to help you during the service and then take it away as a reminder of the notices and as a guide to prayer.



Hearing Loop
AN INDUSTRY OFFICE

There is a loop system for those with hearing aids

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News and forthcoming events

Alpha

We are running Alpha online on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, it's not too late to join but this is the last week that it would be possible. Please contact Richard if you're interested in joining this course, an opportunity to explore the basics of Christian faith.

Lent

At the back of church are a number of Lent devotional books looking at the Beatitudes, '*In Quietness & Trust*'. These are free for congregation members and you are welcome to take one; a £2 donation would help cover costs. If you would prefer an email a day with prompts for reflection and prayer, then you can sign up to the Church of England's resource, just search 'Living Hope Lent' online.

Art Exhibition: It's all around us

The Art Group is currently exhibiting in church. The pieces on display showcase a variety of works relating to their recent project themes – Agriculture, Farming and the Landscape – featuring a variety of individual interpretations and stories developing from the original concept.

Shaped by God Together: Journey to Minster Communities

We have joined the conversation around the formation of Minster Communities in the south and west of the diocese (what is known as Area 5). We are taking a short break from looking at the Conversation Prompts, picking up again on 16 March.

Giving

If you would like to give to support All Saints', please use our online donation page, <https://bit.ly/asnl-donate>. A basket and contactless giving system are available at the back of church or you can scan this QR code. If you would like to give regularly, please speak to Rebecca Hale about the Parish Giving Scheme.



If you pay tax, filling out a Gift Aid declaration will enable the church to reclaim the tax you have already paid on your gift, making each £1 you give worth £1.25 to us. This can make a truly substantial difference to the church – please consider whether you can do this, declaration forms are available at the back of church.

Prayer

March is Women's History Month & International Women's Day is March 8th.

Women's History month brings to mind many women who have been known for their impact on the life of others. Historical figures like Joan of Arc, Mary Secole and Marie Curie we may only know of through books or the history we were taught in school. Nowadays, we might think of women like Mother Teresa, Queen Elizabeth II, or Greta Thunberg, the young environmental activist.

In the bible we read the accounts of many women and the role they were given. For example, Miriam, Deborah, Ruth, Esther, Mary and Martha, and of course Mary the mother of Jesus. We learn of their love for God and their struggles and influences as well as how they were used by God.

In our own personal history, we have all been influenced by others. It is good to reflect on the women who have made a positive impact on our lives whether relatives, friends, or teachers. In our daily lives we are also blessed by contact with positive, encouraging acquaintances and by the fellowship of other Christians.

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. This year the day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. 'Accelerate Action' is following on from the two previous themes of Embrace Empathy and Inspire Inclusion. With the right action and support for women, positive progress against barriers to gender equality, can be made for women everywhere.

As I reflect on the theme of Accelerate Action, I wonder what action God has been calling you to. Are you ready to accelerate in your walk with Him? Are you ready to step up and walk in the good works God prepared beforehand?

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2.10

- Praise God for the women who have had a positive role in our lives.
- Pray that each of us will have the courage to step into all that God has prepared for us to do.
- Pray for the International Women's Day movement in its global role and as it calls for action on gender parity this year.

Jill Matthews, Lay member of Diocesan Women's Ministry Group

Collects

Collect: 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.

Post Communion: 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.

Additional Collect: 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.

Measures for everyone's safety

Ventilation: we continue to have windows open whenever we meet.

Space: pick up a card from the table as you enter to place next to you to indicate you wish increased space.

Hygiene: sanitizer is provided at the entrance and where communion is distributed. Communion is available with the bread dipped in the wine.

We would prefer you not attend services if you are testing positive for COVID-19. Please join the service online.