

THE ABBEY & PARISH CHURCH OF SS PETER & PAUL, BOURNE

Sunday 23 March 2025

Lent 3

A warm welcome to all! PLEASE TAKE THIS PEW SHEET HOME WITH YOU.

Are you visiting the Abbey today?

If you are a communicant member of your own church, you are invited to take communion here.

If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward with the service booklet as an indication to the priest.

Gluten-free wafers are available – please ask a greeter.

Services this week:

Morning and Evening Prayer held at 0900 & 1730 – Monday to Saturday.

Tuesday 25 March – 1900 - Said Eucharist.

Thursday 27 March – 1000 – Said Eucharist (BCP).

Sunday 30 March – Mothering Sunday - 1100 – Sung Eucharist + Abbey Band.

The clocks go forward on Saturday night/Sunday morning.

Tea and coffee are served after the Thursday and Sunday services; do stay.

Dates for Your Diary

Lent Courses. Fr Stephen is running two separate Lent courses this year. One is for the parish and will be held in church on Thursdays at 1045, after the 1000 Eucharist.

The second is for the Deanery and will be held at Edenham Regional House beginning with Eucharist at 1900.

All are welcome to attend.

Churches Together is also running a course at St Gilbert's RC Church, 1100-1200.

Lent lunches are also being held at St Gilbert's on Mondays at 1230.

New Church Electoral Roll

A new church electoral roll for Bourne Abbey must be prepared in 2025.

Every person wishing to be included on the new electoral roll, including those on the existing roll, should complete an application form. Forms are available at the back of the church, and must be returned to Sarah Speers, Church Electoral Roll Officer by Friday 25 April 2025.

Gardening. The next weeding session will take place on Tuesday 25 March from 1400-1500 with our friends from the U3A. Please bring your own containers and tools, e.g. hoe, fork, secateurs, weed remover. Some jobs do not require kneeling or bending. All welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

MU Lady Day, Tuesday 25 March at St Guthlac's Market Deeping. Further details from Sarah Speers.

Team Clean will take place on Friday 28 March. Arrive between 1000 and 1030 and BYOD & HH (bring your own duster & hand-held). All help most welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

Easter Lilies. Full details are on the notice on the board by the server; please also note that the cost per lily is £5.00. Order by is 6 April 2025.

Foodbank. The 'Bank the Food' app shows the most urgently-needed items. Please leave donations in the plastic boxes at the back of the church.

Taizé Pilgrimage, August. Please see the notices at the back of the church and encourage those in the target age range (18-30) to consider taking part.

Please pray for:

The diocese, parish and deanery: for Bishops Stephen, David & Nicholas, Fr Stephen Buckman, Fr Peter Lister, Bishop Hall, Rev. Sylvia Rice-Oxley, Rev. Canon David Staples, and our Ministry Team.

Peace and goodwill within and between nations.

Those suffering hunger, disease, oppression, injustice & exploitation.

Those who are sick in body, mind or spirit.

The souls of the recently departed:

Jim Moody, Kathleen Lofts, Brian Hammond, Richard Smith, Norma Worth, and Jason Derrick.

Those whose year's mind falls this week.

We welcome the names of those who are ill or awaiting an operation, so that prayers may be offered for them, and/or a visit arranged.

Sunday 23 March – Lent 3

Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9

The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they

rose up to play.’ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you

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.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-9

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’ Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,

grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil,

and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.