

## Lectionary Readings

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>**      **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
Reading 1:    Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7  
Reading 2:    Romans 5:12-19  
Gospel:        Matthew 4:1-11

### Wanlip Readings

Reading 1:    Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 16-25  
Reading 2:    Luke 15:1-10  
Gospel:        119:1-16

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Psalm:        11  
Reading 1:    Genesis 41:25-45  
Reading 2:    Galatians 3:23 – 4.7

**Tue 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Psalm:        44  
Reading 1:    Genesis 41:46 – 42:5  
Reading 2:    Galatians 4:8-20

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Psalm:        6  
Reading 1:    Genesis 42:6-17  
Reading 2:    Galatians 4:21 – 5:1

**Thu 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Psalm:        42  
Reading 1;    Genesis 42:18-28  
Reading 2:    Galatians 5:2-15

**Holy Communion Readings**  
Reading 1:    Esther 14:1-5, 12-14  
Gospel:        Matthew 7:7-12

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Psalm:        22  
Reading 1:    Genesis 42:29-end  
Reading 2:    Galatians 5:16-end

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Psalm:        63  
Reading 1:    Genesis 43:1-15  
Reading 2:    Galatians 6

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup>**        **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
Reading 1:    Genesis 12:1-4a  
Reading 2:    Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
Gospel:        John 3:1-17

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

### **Collect for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

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. **Amen**

### **Post Communion Prayer for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

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. **Amen**

### **BCP Collect for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

O Lord, who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights: Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness and true holiness, to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

**This week we are grateful for....**

It's still light outside until after 5pm

## **Additional Notices for the Week**

### **Lent Course**

This year's Lent Course will start on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm at Birstall Methodist, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm at St James and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm at St Theresa's. So, people can swap and change which one they attend. Each session lasts approximately one hour and the course runs for five weeks.

### **World Day of Prayer - 6<sup>th</sup> March**

This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria with the theme I will give you rest, come (Matthew 11:28-30). It will be held at Birstall Methodist Church starting with a light lunch in the coffee shop at 12 midday. This is free of charge but any donations towards the cost are welcome. A slide presentation about Nigeria will commence at 1pm and the service will be held in the main church starting at 2pm. A collection will be taken during the service for the work of the World Day of Prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us for all or part of the day. Please come and join us for this global wave of prayer starting in Samoa and ending, 146 countries later, in American Samoa. *Jackie Bryan*

### **Jacqueline Garlick**

Jacqueline's funeral will take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at L. Crem starting at 10:15am.

### **Annual Meeting (APCM) in May**

Could all groups, gatherings and committees who are connected in any way with the church kindly email their annual report for 2025 to me ([lynnvanrstell@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnvanrstell@hotmail.com)) by the end of February please. This includes Home Groups, Monday Group, Mothers' Union, Old Nick's Coffee Shop, Churches Together, Cedar Mews, Welcome Space, Sunday School, etc. If you have any queries, please ask either Amanda or myself. Thank you. *Lynn*

### **Cantamici Choir Concert - 1<sup>st</sup> April**

The Cantamici Choir returns to St James to perform John Stainer's 'Crucifixion' on 1<sup>st</sup> April starting at 7:30pm. The soloists are John Thawley and Simon Lumby with Simon Ainge on the organ. There will be hymns for the audience to join in. The whole event will last just over the hour with refreshments available afterwards. All are welcome to attend as part of your preparations for Easter. Admission is £7. Tickets available on the door or in advance from Rose 07811 662235. *Rose*

### **Shoebox appeal 2025**

Many thanks to all those who contributed, over 25,000 shoeboxes were sent, including a good number to Ukraine. Pictures and information are on the notice at the back of the church Please remember to save your shoeboxes for us for 2026. *Sylvia and Doreen*

### **Thank you from the Ukraine Centre**

Last month we shipped our last 24 pallets of donations to Ukraine. A massive THANK YOU to everybody involved over the last 3 years 9 months, inc: our volunteers, generous donators, regular village collectors, our community, packers, palletisers, transport providers, logistics experts, box suppliers. For more information see the news sheet at the back of church. *Lynn*

### **Leaflets**

The PCC has discussed leaflets that have been found in church. We have agreed that we cannot advertise for businesses as if something went wrong, we may be liable for advertising them. This does not apply to charities, mental health etc advertised by the NHS. If in doubt, please check with Amanda.