



# ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, WHITTON

Sunday 22nd March 2026

## CHURCH NEWS

St. Augustine's Church, Whitton, Hospital Bridge Road, Twickenham, TW2 6DE

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent



#### John 11.1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.'

But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'

Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.'

The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.'

The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all

<b>Vicar</b>
<b>The Reverend Helen Calner</b> 07440 597718 <a href="mailto:vicar@staugustinewhitton.com">vicar@staugustinewhitton.com</a>
<b>Churchwardens</b>
<b>Roubina de Winton</b> 07932 526946 <a href="mailto:roubinadewinton@gmail.com">roubinadewinton@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sue Thornton</b> 07939 129293 <a href="mailto:suethornton101@gmail.com">suethornton101@gmail.com</a>
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>
<b>Gill Gooding</b> 07743 708379 <a href="mailto:staugustine.whitton.safeguarding@hotmail.com">staugustine.whitton.safeguarding@hotmail.com</a>
<b>PCC Secretary</b>
<b>Pauline Churchman</b> <a href="mailto:staugustine.whitton@hotmail.com">staugustine.whitton@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Sacristan</b>
<b>Jane Derry</b>
<b>Junior &amp; Youth Ministry Leaders</b>
Pat S and Hilda- Junior Church Laura & James – Messy Church
<b>General Details</b>
<b>Email :</b> <a href="mailto:staugustine.whitton@hotmail.com">staugustine.whitton@hotmail.com</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.st-augustine-of-canterbury-whitton.org">https://www.st-augustine-of-canterbury-whitton.org</a>
<b>Church Hall Hire</b>
<b>Sue Thornton</b> 07939 129293
<b>Charity Number</b> 1134957

right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?'

So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'

The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

---

### **Thought for the Week**

We are now entering Passiontide. The season where death and bereavement is so present we cannot avoid it. We have to go through it. Passiontide allows us to enter Jerusalem and Holy week to walk all the way up to the cross and beyond. It is important to take each step with reverence. Just as life in general. We cannot come to the resurrection without going through the cross. We cannot reach eternity before going through our mortal death.

We all know the story of Lazarus which invites us to reflect on the difficult matter of life and death. We need to talk about death and beyond. The gospel helps us approach these difficult matters in a safe way. To take in what is happening. To see Jesus. To hear his words. And to embrace his actions.

It is comforting to enter this season knowing that Jesus named things for what they are. Lazarus was not sleeping. He was dead. Jesus didn't try hiding behind anything. He spoke truth. So should we. With sensitivity of course. It is also comforting knowing that Jesus cried and grieved his friend. His tears joins our tears in bereavement. Jesus knows what loss does to us. Our tears are God's tears as much as our joy is God's joy.

But maybe most comforting of all is the reassurance of eternity and the resurrection. That we are saved by the cross, testified through Lazarus and then of course by Godself at our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection. God didn't send his Son for anything else than our salvation. But before we run ahead to the empty tomb we must go up to Jerusalem and facing the cross. Journey well with our Lord this week

### **Time, Talent and Treasure**

Lent is a season for reflection. To think about how we live and how we share our God-given gifts with each other. And how we give back to God. One way of doing so is to give of our time, talent and treasure. To enable our parish to grow and flourish. To grow God's kingdom where we are.

We all have gifts and resources to share with each other and our community and every contribution, big or small, is important. We are all important building blocks in our parish. This Lent is an opportunity for you to focus your prayer and reflection on how you share your time, talent and treasure in our community. Maybe you feel called to give of your time in our worship. Maybe you feel called to engage in activities and events. Maybe you feel called to make planned and regular donations. Maybe you feel called for something else or a combination of both time, talent and treasure.

Together we can do more.

### **Altar Server- Something for You?**

We are looking for volunteers to serve as altar servers and help support our worship services. Altar servers play an important role during our Eucharist, contributing to a reverent and welcoming atmosphere for our parish community. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the Church. No prior experience is required and volunteers of all appropriate ages are welcome. There will be a workshop on Tuesday, 24th March at 6 pm. If you are interested but unable to come, please speak with Reverend Helen.

### **Sunday School**

The next Sunday School is on the 29<sup>th</sup> March in the Church Hall.

### **Sponsor an Easter Lily?**

If you would like to contribute towards lilies for Easter in memory of a loved one, please sign the sheet at the back of the church.

### **Electoral Roll**

Joining St Augustine's Electoral Roll is a meaningful way to say "this is my church" and to take an active part in its life. It allows you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, stand for roles such as the PCC, and help shape the future of our parish. Enrolling doesn't create extra obligations, but it does recognise that being part of a church family involves offering what we can—our **time**, our **talents**, and our **treasure**—to support worship, community life, and the mission of the church. It's a simple step that strengthens both your connection to the parish and the parish's ability to serve its community.

For more information please speak to Helen, Jayne Firth (our Electoral Roll Office) or take a leaflet from back of the church.

### **Time to think about confirmation**



Confirmation is for all who are baptised and want to learn how this can be a positive resource in your life. Confirmation is to affirm your baptism and continue exploring a life in faith in relationship with God and each other.

**Adults and children in school year 5 and up are invited to join this year's confirmation course.**

Please note, that if you are not baptised yet but curious about Christian faith and life, you are more than welcome to join.

**Day:** Thursday **Time:** 5-6 pm for children  
7-8.30 pm for adults

**Dates:** 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May

**For children:** All sessions in person at St Augustine's church.

**For adults:** First and last session in person at St Augustine's church. The session in between will be on Zoom.

**For both children and adults: Rehearsal Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm.**

**Confirmation: Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> of May at 10 am.**

Contact The Reverend Helen Calner for more information and to sign up [vicar@staugustinewhitton.com](mailto:vicar@staugustinewhitton.com)

### **Strollers Walk – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Weather permitting, the next strollers will be in Southeast London, sampling the delights of Dulwich Park. The recce team reported "There is a lot of fascinating history on this walk".

The Strollers will catch the 0953 train from Whitton changing at Clapham Junction and Victoria to West Dulwich. The terrain will be mostly tarmac paths, and the total distance is likely to be 4 or 5 miles. Meet at Whitton station at 9:40 and please bring a packed lunch.

All are welcome and if you need more information, please call Peter on 07799 000597.

### **Retiring Collection during Lent**

Due to the changes in the Diocese of London following the appointment of Bishop Sarah as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, there will not be a specific Bishop's Lent Appeal this year. However Support our Anglican partners in Mozambique as severe flooding displaces communities and damages homes, schools, and churches. Through ALMA, the Diocese of London is calling for prayer and donations to fund urgent relief and recovery, and to stand in practical solidarity with affected dioceses.

We have a long association with ALMA, our parish is twinned with St Augustine of Canterbury Mecanhelas which has also been severely affected by the recent floods. For more information please follow the link <https://www.london.anglican.org/articles/standing-with-our-brothers-and-sisters-in-mozambique/>

### **Last Call for Nominating your favourite Charity for the 2026 Retiring Collections**

The retiring collection to which you so generously donate to is selected based on your nominations to the PCC. The PCC aims to make its selection from a pool of Local, National and International organisations. If you would like to nominate a charity that you support, please write to Pauline Churchman at [staugustine.whitton@hotmail.com](mailto:staugustine.whitton@hotmail.com) giving a brief description of the charity no later than 22nd March 2026 for discussion at March PCC meeting.

The nominations received and approved by the PCC so far are: The London Asbestos Support Awareness Group during April, The Mulberry Centre, The London Air Ambulance, and RSPCA yet to be allocated to a specific month.

### **Our Prayer**



Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Those who are sick and struggling:**

Jo Dale, Willem Cheng, Anne Newman, Lucy Brooks, Emily Adams, Ann Cadogan, Lyn Watts, Boyce & Millicent, Emma Piper, Joan Greening, Wyn Morris, Cheryl, Heather Woodworth, Connie Chingwaru, Mavis Walter and Ann-Marie.

### **This week we remember the anniversary of the death of**

**(23)** Ronald King, Ronald Digby, Philip Strong (16)

**(24)** Graham Gibb, Kenneth Barton, Phyllis Okell (73), Walter Chapman, Francis Brown, Lee De Lima (08)

**(25)** Eluned Williams (77), Nellie Keeley.

**(26)** Olive Linfield (92), Christina Crompton (02), Lily Gardiner (02), Alfred Mearing (05), Harold Hutchinson (05), Gabrielle Teader (08), Anthony Jackson (11), Andrew Slaughter (18), Joan Pike (18)

**(27)** Edward Gittings, Stephen Hood.

**(28)** Ethel Heppenstall, Annie Lees (01), Pam Cummins, Elsie Osborne (18) Vera Muir (19)

**(29)** Llewellyn Davies, Marjorie Symonds (13)

<b>Diary Dates – At a Glance</b>		
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	10:00am	Messy Church – in the Church Hall
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link <a href="#">Compline Zoom Link</a> or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	8:00pm	Whitton Choral Concert
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> March	6:00pm	Alter Servers Practice
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> March	7:00pm to 7:30pm	Evening Eucharist
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> March	7:30pm to 8:15pm	Lent Course – Women of Holy Week
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> March	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Whitton Woollies
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> March	7:00pm	Combined Standing Committee & PCC Meeting
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist followed by Friday Fellowship at 11:00am
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> March	9:30am	Holy Eucharist - Walsingham Mass at St Mary's Sunbury
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> March	9:40am	Strollers Walk – Meet at Whitton Station
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist Palm Sunday
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00am	Sunday School in the Church Hall
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> March	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link <a href="#">Compline Zoom Link</a> or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> March	7:00pm	Evening Eucharist
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> March	7:00pm	Evening Eucharist
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> April	7:00pm	Evening Eucharist
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Evening Eucharist with washing of the feet
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	11:00am	CTiW Walk of Witness – Starting from the corner of Montrose Ave and Percy Road to finish at St Philip and St James Whitton Road
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	2:00pm	Good Friday Stations of the Cross
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> April	11:00pm	Holy Eucharist Easter Vigil
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> April	10:00am	Holy Eucharist Easter Day