



ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, WHITTON

Sunday 1st March 2026

CHURCH NEWS

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

2nd Sunday of Lent



John 3. 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.'

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And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Thought for the Week

Nicodemus was a senior rabbi. He was also part of the opposition. At least officially. Off the record and in private he had a change of heart after learning and listening about, and to, Jesus. We don't know if it was a sudden change, like Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, or if it was a gradual process leading up to a burning sensation in the heart. A longing to say yes to something more. That God was more than he had known. That there was a love reaching beyond the laws and practises of the faith he knew.

So he starts to sneak out and meet Jesus in secret, to open his heart and mind to learn and feel and give more. More of himself. Become more of himself. And share more of himself. Nicodemus had a burning yes in his heart that he wanted to live out, but he was at the same time stuck in his position and status in his community. Back then, as well as today, it wasn't just to let go, walk away and find a new way of living.

In the end, Nicodemus found a way to give back to God what he had received through Jesus. He bought expensive spices for our Lord's burial. We may ponder what he could have done differently, but maybe the take away for us this week is to reflect on how we give back to God for giving us life and eternity through Christ.

It may be through giving of our treasure, like the spices, or it might be through spending more time and sharing in our worship, or taking a more open interest in each other and extend our social network. Either way, we grow God's kingdom together, where we are, with who we are and with what we can offer.

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.

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: 23rd and 30th April and 7th, 14th and 21st 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 30th May at 2pm.

Confirmation: Sunday 31st of May at 10 am.

Contact The Reverend Helen Calner for more information and to sign up vicar@staugustinewhitton.com

January Retiring Collection

Thank you for your donations of £229.10 which has been paid to the Motor Neurone Disease Association. A thank you letter from them is on the table at the back of the church.

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 Mecnhelas which has also been severely affected by the recent floods. For more information please flow the link <https://www.london.anglican.org/articles/standing-with-our-brothers-and-sisters-in-mozambique/>

Whitton Choral Concert

Whitton Choral will be holding their Spring concert on Sunday 22nd March. Music will include a Requiem composed by Maurice Duruflé plus Spirituals. Save the date and further details will follows.

Retiring Collection from April 2026 onwards

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 giving a brief description of the charity no later than 22nd March 2026 for discussion at March PCC meeting.

The nominated charities so far are: the Mulberry Centre, the London Air Ambulance, the London Asbestos Support Awareness Group and RSPCA.

World Day of Prayer – Friday 6th March at 10:30



World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. The theme of this year's service is "I will give you rest: Come!" and is prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Nigeria. The service is held at Whitton Baptist Church, Hounslow Road, TW2 7BZ.

Our Prayer



Lord, teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to look for any reward, save that of knowing that I do your holy will. 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.

This week we remember the anniversary of the death of

(1) Joyce Thurbon, Mary Raymond, Fr. Paul Topham (12), Sally Derry BEM (14)

(2) Norah Cockerill (74), George Hards (04), Leslie Boyes (08)

(3) Marcus Barrett (04), Janet Mouny (10), Theresa Hood (22)

(4) Celia Bainbridge (19), Cara Douglas Lane.

(5) Alice Bush (47), Hector Clark, Rosie Gregory (01), Gloria Deborah (07)

(6) Janie McClellan (93), Alice Elder (14)

(7) Mabel Bengé (68), David Parsons, Paul Hawkins, Ian McGinnis (20), Stella Cheng (23)

Diary Dates – At a Glance		
Sun 1 st March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist 2nd Sunday of Lent
Sun 1 st March	10:00am	Sunday School – in the church hall
Sun 1 st March	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Tues 3 rd March	11:30am to 12:30pm	Quiet Space - The Mystery of Darkness – Living with Lent
Tues 3 rd March	7:00pm to 7:30pm	Evening Eucharist
Tues 3 rd March	7:30pm to 8:15pm	Lent Course – Women of Holy Week
Fri 6 th March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist followed by Friday Fellowship at 11:00am
Sun 8 th March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist 3 rd Sunday of Lent
Sun 8 th March	10:00am	Sunday School – Sunday School in the Church Hall
Sun 8 th March	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Tues 10 th March	2:30pm to 4:00pm	Cornerstone Cafe
Tues 10 th March	7:00pm to 7:30pm	Evening Eucharist
Tues 10 th March	7:30pm to 8:15pm	Lent Course – Women of Holy Week
Fri 13 th March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist followed by Friday Fellowship at 11:00am
Sun 15 th March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist All Age Eucharist - Mothering Sunday
Sun 15 th March	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Tues 17 th March	7:00pm to 7:30pm	Evening Eucharist
Tues 17 th March	7:30pm to 8:15pm	Lent Course – Women of Holy Week
Fri 20 th March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist followed by Friday Fellowship at 11:00am
Sat 21 st March	10:00am to 12:00pm	Art Group – in the church hall
Sun 22 nd March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist 2nd Sunday of Lent
Sun 22 nd March	10:00am	Messy Church – in the church hall
Sun 22 nd March	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Sun 22 nd March	TBC	Whitton Choral Concert