



ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, WHITTON

Sunday 8th March 2026

CHURCH NEWS

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

3rd Sunday of Lent



John 4.5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?'

Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.'

The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five

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husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’

The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’

Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’

The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’

Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’

Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.

Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Thought for the Week

Anyone who has ever watched any of the real estate, home swapping, house hunting programmes on telly knows the slogan “location, location, location” very well. And it might be that our homes are dependent on location and on the market. But at the same time we can remind ourselves of another slogan: “home is where your heart is”. This is also important and true. There is both a physical and spiritual element in what home is.

Jesus is inviting us to ponder where our hearts and homes are this week as we draw closer to Jerusalem. Where is your well? Your place of nourishment and rest, your sanctuary and base camp. Where do you seek refuge and where do you go to still your emotional and spiritual hunger and thirst?

The Samaritan woman found her home in Jesus, because he offered her a place without judgement or fear. Jesus saw and acknowledged her whole being and her whole life. She was met with a love and honesty that stayed with her. She could reconnect with herself in a new and profound way through her meeting with Christ.

And she did what we all are called to do, she shared with those who came her way. She shared her experience. Home was not only a location. Home was her heart. And from her heart she gave to others with what she could.

Let the Samaritan woman accompany you this week and invite God to ponder your dwelling place together with you. Journey with grace to your well.

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.

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: 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

Help on Saturday 14th March at 10am in the Church Hall - To Make Posies for Mothering Sunday

As we prepare for Mothering Sunday, we would like your help in making posies of daffodils for the congregation. It's a lovely opportunity for fellowship as we create something meaningful to share on this special day. If you can, bring along some freshly cut small leaf greenery from your garden to make the posies look beautiful. All are welcome, and your help will be greatly appreciated.

Strollers Walk Thursday 12th March – a message from Peter and John

Weather permitting, the outing will be to **the grounds of Chiswick House**. We shall take a train to Richmond, change to a 190 bus, and get off just outside Chiswick House. We'll spend time in the grounds: the Kitchen Garden is open, though the House itself is shut. The Chiswick House Cafe will be open for a coffee stop, but we'll take a packed lunch to us to be flexible. The walk is likely to be about 5 miles, and mainly on paths or tracks, and we'll return to Whitton having considered our walking/travel options. Please come to **Whitton Station at 940 on the 12th** to catch the 950 to Richmond. and the weather forecast is currently for drizzle.

If you would like to find out more about the Stollers Group by calling 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/>

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.

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 follow.

Our Prayer



Heavenly Father, you are our loving provider. As we come to you, fill us with your life-giving Spirit. When we feel dry or weary, refresh us with your grace. nourish us, and satisfy our hunger for righteousness, strengthening us to serve you in all we do.
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 and Mavis Walter.

This week we remember the anniversary of the death of

- (8)** Kathleen Mearing (09), Emily Stone (09), Peter Richardson (15)
- (9)** Edward Knudson, Dorothy Howell, Roger Hills (17)
- (10)** Harvey Springfield (71)
- (11)** Betty England, Fred Jacob, William Davis (06), Frank Crabtree (06), Les Stock (10), Ronald Chick (10)
- (12)** Beryl Templemead (51), Malcolm Simpson (01), Percival Page (05), Geoffrey Ledger (13)
- (13)** Irene Westwood, Elaine Austin (01), Renate Warburg (09)
- (14)** Joyce Glassops, Penny Wild, Win Ives (12)

Diary Dates – At a Glance

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
Thurs 12 th March	9:40am	Strollers Walk – Meet at Whitton Station
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 5 th 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	8:00pm	Whitton Choral Concert
Tues 24 th March	7:00pm to 7:30pm	Evening Eucharist
Tues 24 th March	7:30pm to 8:15pm	Lent Course – Women of Holy Week
Wed 25 th March	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Whitton Woollies
Wed 25 th March	7:00pm	Combined Standing Committee & PCC Meeting
Fri 27 th March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist followed by Friday Fellowship at 11:00am
Sat 28 th March	9:30am	Holy Eucharist Walsingham Mass at St Mary's Sunbury
Sun 29 th March	10:00am	Holy Eucharist Palm Sunday
Sun 29 th March	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Mon 30 th March	7:00pm	Evening Eucharist
Tues 31 st March	7:00pm	Evening Eucharist