

**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**  
**NEXT SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

**VICAR'S MESSAGE**

Dear friends,

As we begin our Lenten journey together, our readings take us from a garden of abundance to a wilderness of hunger, and then to the temple and the mountain top. Each place reveals something about where we meet God—and how God meets us. Adam falls in a garden of plenty; Jesus stands firm in a desert of scarcity. Their stories remind us that faith is not shaped only in comfort, but also in challenge.

This Lent, our theme *Walking With Jesus* invites us to notice Him in every landscape of our lives: in the wilderness moments when we feel stretched, in the familiar rhythms of worship and community, and on the mountain tops where we glimpse new possibilities. Wherever we find ourselves, Jesus has walked there before us, and walks beside us now.

May this season help us grow in trust, deepen our discipleship, and discover again that God is present in every place we stand.

**Rev Pam Smith**



**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

**Those grieving or remembering an anniversary at this time**

- ✠ **Jean Healy**, whose funeral will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am at Blackley Crematorium.
- ✠ For **Athol Clarke**, whose family will be interring his ashes at St Peter's on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

**Those exploring Christian faith**

- ✠ **Carole** who will be baptised at Easter
- ✠ **Hudson** who will be baptised at St Peter's on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- ✠ **Iyla** who will be baptised at St Paul's on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2026
- ✠ **Those who have enquired about being Confirmed next year**

**Our Community Partners**

- ✠ The Bread and Butter Thing as we continue to strive for a solution to supporting the people of Blackley through the Community Hub delivering affordable and sustainable food provision for those who need it most.

**Residents and Visitors**

- ✠ We pray for all those people in Baynard Walk, Cambridge Road and Beardwood Road

**Those caring**

- ✠ Staff, residents and visitors at Vestacare

## Our Young People

✚ Staff, Governors and young people at Co-op Academy North Manchester

## Worldwide Church

The Church of Ireland

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Worship Leaders' Meeting

Mondays at 4pm on Zoom

Next in-person meeting will be on

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7pm in the Rectory.**

Please hold your worship leaders in your prayers: Pam, Jane, Helen, Philip, Katherine, Steve, Sue and David

### PCC Meetings

St Andrew's – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

St Peter's – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

St Paul's – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Deanery Meetings

Deanery Synod 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026,  
7.30pm

*St George's Church, Chadderton*

Deanery Chapter 25<sup>th</sup> February, 12.30pm

*St Andrew's Rectory*

### Services and Discipleship

#### Thursdays – Lent Course

7.00pm at St Andrew's Parish Room

#### Sundays – Lent Course

5.00pm at St Andrew's Parish Room

#### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

10.00am Chrism Service at Manchester Cathedral

#### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

7.30pm Tenebrae Service at St Andrew's

#### Maundy Thursday (2<sup>nd</sup> April)

7.30pm Holy Communion at St Paul's

#### Good Friday (3<sup>rd</sup> April)

10.00am Good Friday Service at St Peter's

12.30pm Children and Young People's Good Friday Fellowship at St Paul's

#### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

2.00 – 5.00pm Parish Social at the Rectory

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

6.00pm Confirmation Service

(location to be confirmed)

## SERVING THIS WEEK

### St Andrew's - Sunday

Lead: Jane Preach: Jane

Prayers: Philip

Reader 1: Graham Reader 2: Ruth

### St Andrew's – Wednesday

Lead: Pam Preach: Helen

Prayers: Graham

Reader 1: Helen Reader 2: Ruth

### St Paul's - Sunday

Lead: Jane Preach: Jane

Prayers: Nnoema

Reader 1: Ikenna Reader 2: Derin

### St Paul's – Thursday

Lead and Preach: Pam

### St Peter's

Lead: Pam Preach: Pam

Prayers: Bev

Reader 1: Gillian Reader 2: Dave

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY

### Old Testament Reading

#### Genesis 2.15–17; 3.1–7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And



Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

## PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY

### Collect

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.

### Post Communion

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.

## NEWS AND UPDATES

### Celebrating our Silver Wolves

We are delighted to congratulate **Karen Moores and Bob Moores** who were honoured at the *National Scout Service of*

*Celebration and Thanksgiving* at Westminster Abbey on Friday with the **Silver Wolf Award**, the highest award for adult volunteers in UK Scouting. It is presented only for truly exceptional service, recognising years of dedication, leadership, and commitment to helping young people grow in confidence, resilience, and adventure. To receive this award is no small achievement; it reflects countless hours of unseen work, steady encouragement, and a deep belief in the value of shaping the next generation.



As a church community, we are incredibly proud of Karen and Bob (pictured above with Les Cowell and Katherine Moores), and all those who support them in their work. Their service in Scouting mirrors the values we cherish here, of generosity, perseverance, and a willingness to invest in others. Please join us in celebrating this remarkable milestone, giving thanks to God for them both, and for the children and young people they serve.

