



40 DAYS

Lent 2017
in the Wythenshawe Team



The Church of England
in **Wythenshawe**

**In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.**

Isaiah 30.15

This booklet gives details of our Lenten services, events and activities across the five churches.

As well as the services for Ash Wednesday, this short guide gives details of the Lent Courses in each church. There are many different approaches to Lent from biblical study through to creative reflection. Some people choose to take things on for Lent, other choose to create space to explore their faith in a new way.

Whether you join a course of study, participate in a meditative exploration of faith or worship in new ways, we pray that this forty days will nourish and sustain you as we journey with Christ through the desert towards his passion, death and resurrection.

You are welcome to attend any of the courses listed – why not try something different?



Introduction to the Season

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' journey into the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

Now is the healing time decreed
for sins of heart and word and deed,
when we in humble fear record
the wrong that we have done the Lord.

(Latin, before 12th century)

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross.

The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. Gloria in Excelsis is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare or Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as

a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 1st March 2017

09.30	Ecumenical Service*	St Luke's
10.00	Eucharist	St Michael's
10.30	Eucharist	St Richard's
12.00	Eucharist	William Temple
19.30	Eucharist	St Martin's
19.30	Eucharist	St Richard's
19.30	Eucharist	William Temple



All the Eucharist services in each of our churches include the imposition of ashes.

* The ecumenical service at St Luke's is a joint service with St John's and is non-Eucharistic.



Lent at St Luke the Physician, Benchill

"Freedom Food"

... is a simple supper of soup with an informal Eucharist round a table in the community room. Donations to Christian Aid.

Thursdays 6.00-7.15pm.



Lent at St Martin of Tours & St Michael & All Angels Wythenshawe

Being Disciples

Based on Rowan Williams' book: "Being Disciples" — Essentials of the Christian Life.

Two locations/times:

- Thursdays at 10:30 am at Baguley Vicarage (beginning 2 March)
- Mondays at 7:30 pm at 5 Fellpark Road, Northern Moor M23 0EX (beginning 6 March)

Copies of the book are available at the discount price of £4.00, but a printed hand-out will also be available for each of the 6 sessions.



Lent at St Richard of Chichester, Peel Hall

Godspell: The Songs, The Scripture, The Meaning

Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm during Lent at St Richard's

Journey through Lent with the West End and Broadway musical 'Godspell' – based on Matthew's gospel and listening to the music. With discussion and reflection.



Lent at William Temple Church, Wythenshawe

Start!

Jesus: relic of the past? Or light of the world?

Join us as for a modern look at a 2000-year old faith.

Tuesday afternoons from 1.30pm till 3pm at William Temple Vicarage.



Food for Thought Lent Appeal

Fasting and charity are traditionally part of Christian approaches to Lent. Are you thinking about giving something up for Lent? Could you give up something and donate an item to our food bank instead?

Here are a few examples of what you could do -

Instead of a £5 bottle of wine this week I will buy 3 tins of corned beef	I will save 50p for 40 days and donate £20 to the food bank.	I will buy extra tins in my shopping each week in Lent	I will go without my take away coffee once every week during Lent and spend the money on items for food bank	As a Church Challenge we will collect 40 tins of tuna* (1 for each day of Lent) *Or any other item
I will pay for one food parcel per week during Lent (approx £4)	Instead of buying a 60p packet of crisps everyday for lunch I will buy a 1 litre carton of UHT milk	I will save £1 a day for 40 days and donate it to food bank		I will buy one item every day for 40 days

Every single item donated really does make a difference. Here is a reminder of the kinds of things that we need:

Soup Tinned fish Tinned vegetables/potatoes Jars of meat paste Meals in a can (macaroni cheese/ravioli/stew)	Corned beef/minced beef/chilli/chicken in sauce Sugar Biscuits Tinned fruit Pasta and sauces UHT milk
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You can take items along to Church on Sundays or get in touch with Tracey 07476305947

Prayers for use at home during Lent

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
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.

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Details of our Holy Week and Easter services will be available soon.

Visit our website or Facebook page for the latest news, photos and activities:

www.wythenshawe-anglican.org

www.facebook.com/wythenshawechurches

