



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# DRAW NEAR

**LIFE-GIVING  
HABITS FOR LENT**

**Lent, Holy Week & Easter 2026**

**St James the Deacon Parish Church, York**



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As we prepare for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, there are a number of opportunities available for prayer, reflection and worship. All are warmly welcome. This year the Church of England's Lent theme is Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent

**“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.” (James 4.8)**

This theme invites us to develop a rhythm of life — habits of prayer and discipleship that draw us closer to God as we prepare for Easter.

## **Ash Wednesday, 18 February**

**10:00am:** Eucharist to mark the beginning of Lent with Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of turning to God, renewal and preparation for Easter.

## **During Lent:**

### **Prayer Course**

Five informative and practical sessions exploring prayer and life-giving habits of faith

**Mondays in the Horton Room, 6.30–8.00pm**, all welcome - no prior experience needed.

Please speak to Deacon Abi for more information.

### **Way of the Cross Eucharist**

### **Wednesdays during Lent at 10.00am**

A reflective Eucharist each week, walking prayerfully with Jesus to the cross.

### **Lent Reading**

A variety of Lent books will be available to support personal prayer and reflection, including:

- Dancing to the Heartbeat of God - Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2026
- Easter in Disguise - by Liz Dodd

### **Almsgiving**

We would like to complete the twinning of our church toilets, so any donations towards Toilet Twinning would be gratefully received. Four of the loos are already twinned, so only one more to go! More information here: <https://toiletttwinning.org>

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## **Pilgrimage between Parishes:**

On **Saturday 28 March**, parishes across our area will be coming together for a joint pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage will begin with prayer at **Bishophorpe Palace Chapel**, before continuing to **St Andrew's, Bishophorpe**, then on to **St Chad's** on the Knavesmire, arriving with us at **St James the Deacon**, and finally concluding at **St Edward's, Dringhouses**.

Everyone is warmly invited to take part - whether for the whole pilgrimage or just a section - and to travel by whatever means of transport is most accessible to them.

Further details about timings and the programme will be shared soon.

Please do come and be part of this shared journey of faith.

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## Holy Week & Easter Services

**Palm Sunday** - 10am Liturgy of the Palms and reading of the Passion Gospel

**Monday of Holy Week** - 7pm Eucharist & Reflection

**Tuesday of Holy Week** - 11am Chrism Eucharist at York Minster & 7pm Eucharist & Reflection

**Wednesday of Holy Week** - 10am Way of the Cross Eucharist

**Maundy Thursday** - 7pm Eucharist of Maundy Thursday with Footwashing (Joint service at St Edward's, Dringhouses)

**Good Friday** - 10am-12noon Children's Workshop & 2pm Good Friday Devotions at the Cross

**Holy Saturday** - 10am Decorating the Church for Easter & 8pm Easter Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter

**Easter Day** - 10am Festal Eucharist for Easter Day

Please look out for further details nearer the time, and do join us as we journey together through this holy season.

## Eastertide

On the Wednesdays of Eastertide at 10am we will be praying the 'Way of Light' Eucharist.

