



**LENT GUIDED QUIET MORNING  
IN CHURCH  
SATURDAY, 14 MARCH  
10AM UNTIL 1PM**

**Step into the Sacred: An invitation to Confirmation**

You are invited you to consider the **Sacrament of Confirmation**, an ancient rite that serves as a profound 'Yes' to the divine mystery. Confirmation is suitable for anyone aged between 13 and 100 years old. Preparation sessions will begin in 2026, with the **Confirmation service being conducted on Easter Eve**. Speak to a member of Clergy or contact: [parish.office@stmaryandstnicolas.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stmaryandstnicolas.org.uk)

**First Communion for 7 to 11 year olds**

Is your child ready to take a beautiful new step in their faith journey? We warmly invite parents to enrol their children in our 2026 First Holy Communion preparation programme.

Classes will be held during the Parish Eucharist at 10.30am on: **Sunday 22 March & Sunday 3 May (note change of date)**. With a special **Service of First Communion** for all candidates to take place on **Sunday 10 May 2026**.

For more information or to book your child's place contact: [parish.office@stmaryandstnicolas.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stmaryandstnicolas.org.uk)

**The Week Ahead**

The Church is open throughout the week for Morning and Evening Prayer at 8.30am and 5.00pm in St Thomas' Chapel.

It is usually led but there are resources available in St Thomas' Chapel to use if a member of clergy is not present.

*Friday Holy Half Hour with Silent Meditation*

**Wednesday 4 March**

- 10.00am Communion Service
- 10.30am Morning Coffee
- 3.30 - 6.00pm Choir Club
- 7.00 - 8.30pm Ringing practice

**Friday 6 March**

- 2.30pm Church cleaning
- 7.00-8.00pm Choir rehearsal

**Saturday, 7 March**

- 10.00am-4.00pm Double peal - to mark the 100th anniversary of the bells being recast & rehung

**Sunday 8 March Third Sunday of Lent**

- 10.30am **Parish Eucharist Modern Language**  
Readings: Exodus 17.1-7  
John 4.5-42
- 6.30pm **Sung Evensong**  
Readings: Joshua 1.1-9  
Ephesians 6.10-20

*Interest bags for pre-school children are available*

**10.30am Parish Eucharist Traditional Language**

- Celebrant & Preacher Fr Rob
- Genesis 12.1-4a Annette Parker
- John 3.1-17 Clergy

**Hymns - Common Praise**

- Entrance Hymn** 571 Soldiers of Christ arise
- Gradual** 547 Oft in danger
- Offertory** 475 Immortal love
- Communion** Drop, drop slow tears  
97 Lord Jesus think on me
- Post Communion** 609 To God be the Glory

Please note that the whole service is livestreamed and then available on the Church's YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to appear when receiving Communion then please use the station at St George's Chapel.

*Refreshments are served after the morning service and the church shop will be open.*

*There are toilet facilities in church, please just ask!*

**6.30pm Evensong**

- Officiant & Preacher Fr Rob
- Numbers 21.4-9 Val Fairbanks
- Luke 14.27-33 Clergy
- Entry** 549 Onward Christian soldiers  
(omit vv. 2&3)
- Responses** Ferial
- Psalm** 128
- Office Hymn** 13 Before the ending of the day
- Magnificat** Chant 53
- Nunc Dimittis** Chant 189
- Anthem** Drop, drop slow tears (Gibbons)
- Hymn** 621 Who would true valour see

*No collections are taken in church during services. There is a collection bowl at the back of church and a 'donation station' for cards.*

*If you are a UK taxpayer, please take a few moments to complete a yellow Gift Aid envelope or select this option when giving by card. This increases the value of your gift by 25%.*

**THANK YOU!**

**Clergy:** The Revd Rob Parker-McGee S.R.

Tel: 01775 421061 [vicarofspaldingmn@gmail.com](mailto:vicarofspaldingmn@gmail.com)

**Churchwardens:** Jean Hill and Valerie Fairbanks

**Parish Office**

open Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm  
closed on Monday to coincide with Fr Rob's rest day

1 Halmer Gate, Spalding, PE11 2DR

Tel: 01775 722772 [parish.office@stmaryandstnicolas.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stmaryandstnicolas.org.uk)

[www.stmaryandstnicolas.org.uk](http://www.stmaryandstnicolas.org.uk)

**Please take this notice sheet home with you.**

## Collect

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of  
your truth,  
that they may return to the way of  
righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to  
the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Genesis 12.1-4a

The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'  
So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

## John 3.1-17

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. 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.'

## Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault  
and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## For your prayers

We hold before God all those who are ill,  
amongst them **Michael Blackshaw, Susan Lawton, Pat White, Marko Kala, Mateu Kala, Chris Thompson, Roxas Strife, Mavourneen DeSa, Anthony Downes, Peter Fitzpatrick, Chris Dyke and Alison**

We hold before God those who have died,  
amongst them **Hannah Dryden, Russell Bycraft, Edith Chester, Raye Hares and Henry Heath (Priest)**

## Psalm 128

1. Blessed are all they that fear the Lord: and walk in his ways.
2. For thou shalt eat the labours of thine hands: O well is thee, and happy shalt thou be.
3. Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine: upon the walls of thine house.
4. Thy children like the olive-branches: round about thy table.
5. Lo, thus shall the man be blessed: that feareth the Lord.
6. The Lord from out of Sion shall so bless thee: that thou shalt see Jerusalem in prosperity all thy life long.
7. Yea, that thou shalt see thy children's children: and peace upon Israel.

## Parish Notes and News continues overleaf

### 100 CLUB - HEATING FUND

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Please take a subscription form and return by 6 March  
with £20 for the remaining 10 draws in 2026

*Funds raised help towards the cost of heating the church*