

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – MARCH 2026

Tuesday 3rd March

9.30am Holy Communion Woodend

Sunday 8th March – Third Sunday of Lent

9.00am Holy Communion Farthingstone
10.30am Music & Meditation Blakesley
10.30am Family Service Litchborough
6.00pm Evensong Maidford

Sunday 15th March – Mothering Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion Maidford
10.30am Mothering Sunday Family Communion Litchborough
10.30am Mothering Sunday Family Service Blakesley

Dates for your Diary

Lent Course: This year the Lent Course will once again be held in Maidford Village Hall at 7-8pm starting on Monday 23rd Feb, followed by 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March. Following on from last year, we will be looking at 'The Commandments' session of The Pilgrim Course. Everyone is welcome.

There will be '**Frugal Soup Lunches**' in Litchborough Village Hall on Thursdays 5th and 19th March from 12 noon. Proceeds to be split between St. Martin's Church and 'Mary's Meals'.

The next '**Open the Bible**' meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th March, 2-3pm in Litchborough Village Hall

BENEFICE CONTACTS

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THE LAMB FOLD LETTER

The Weekly Benefice Newsletter for the Churches of
St Martin's, Litchborough; All Saints, Adstone;
St Peter & St Paul, Maidford; St Mary's, Blakesley cum Woodend;
and St Mary the Virgin, Farthingstone

www.lambfold.org.uk

Sunday 1st March 2026 Second Sunday of Lent

Services in the Benefice today:

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|---------|----------------|-----------|
| 9.30am | Matins | Maidford |
| 10.30am | Holy Communion | Blakesley |

We have been asked to remember the following in our prayers:

David Aked-Walker, Katie Hakin, Carole Harrington, Diane Shaw,
Philip Le Roux, Sylvia Reynolds and James Wagstaffe.

Collect and Readings

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.

Romans 4:1-5,13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² 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.' ³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴ 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?' ⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸ 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.' ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ '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. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ '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. ¹⁷ '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.



Leading Your Church into Growth

God of Mission,
who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our
actions, joy to our worship and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.