

22nd February 2026



Editorial

1st Sunday of Lent

Reading: Matthew 4 v 1-11

Today is the first Sunday of Lent, a period of six weeks (forty days not including Sundays) leading up to Easter and it is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. Lent is a time of reflection, fasting, abstinence and penitence in remembrance of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness where He would be tempted three times by the devil. It is a time where Christians fast from some food or activity they enjoy and spend more time in prayer and reflection.

However, the spiritual disciplines we undertake for Lent are insignificant when compared to Jesus's deprivation in the wilderness. He went without food for forty days, the very extremity of what the human body can survive. Jesus would have been extremely weak and craving food; his human body would have been at the point of desperation. His vulnerability would have been evident. This is when the devil came to Jesus and tried to get him to doubt who He was. The temptation of Jesus by the devil was persistent and Jesus could have answered by reminding him that he was speaking to the one who was the Son of God, but it was necessary for Jesus to live a humanly perfect life, so He responded by quoting Scripture. Even though Jesus was all alone in the wilderness, he resisted the temptation of the devil by standing firm on God's word.

When we encounter temptations in our own lives, we can learn from Jesus' example. Our hope is that we are united to Jesus by faith. As we journey through Lent, may we reflect on what Jesus has done for us, remembering that our salvation was made perfect through His suffering.

Carol Hardman - Authorised Lay Minister



Please Pray for...

Minti R	Emma H
David V and family	Chloe
Barbara S	Rachael B
Brenda & Ken	John H & Debs
Betty	Sue S
Lee A	Vinny H
Stuart & family	Bishop David †
Jackie	Michael F
Isaac	Joanne
Jodie	Pauline G & family
Anne H	David P
Ross	Tania
Belinda K	Irene S
Phil & Sue B	Donna
Norma M	Re-Ordering Project
Freda	WoW & Beyond WoW
Samantha W	Pause Café
Anna B	
David A	

Remember, this list is for those who need our prayers, not just the sick or bereaved.



This week at St Bede

Sunday 22nd February

10am All-Age Service

Join us for our all-age service this week as we continue our journey through Lent. This week we'll be exploring how Jesus was tempted in the wilderness.

Tuesday 24th February

7.30pm The Bible Course Lent Course (at St Andrews)

Our Joint Lent Course begins this evening as we explore the big picture of the Bible and look at God's great plan of salvation that culminates in Jesus. Do come along and join us.

Wednesday 25th February

6.15pm WOW

Our WOW service resumes this week as we continue our 'Encounters' series by exploring the story of Zacchaeus. Our youth group Beyond WOW also meets this week.

Friday 27th February

7.30pm St Bede Quiz Night

Join us for our next social and fundraising event of the year as we host a quiz night at the Ellesmere Club. Tickets are £6 Adult £3 Children which also includes supper.

Sunday 1st March

10am Family Communion

Join us for our all-age service as we continue our Lent Series reflecting on people who Jesus encountered as he journeyed to the cross. This week we reflect on Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus.





 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

St Bede Charity Partner 2026.



COLLECT

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.

Our Church depends very heavily on fundraising as well as regular giving to keep our Church afloat.

We ask that you do continue to give by setting up a Standing Order from your bank. Please contact our Treasurer, Simon Brooks for further details – brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk

visit our website www.st-bede.org.uk or scan the QR code below



28 DAYS OF PRAYERS OF PRAISE TO GOD

Please continue to use the 28 Days of Prayer and Praise to focus on your prayer journey this February.

Please do not hesitate to speak to one of the Ministry Team should you need some support.

Tony

DONATIONS REQUIRED

We are looking for donations of Easter Eggs for our annual Easter Egg Bingo in March 2026.

THE BIBLE COURSE LENT COURSE

Our Lent Course this year is the Bible Course produced by the Bible Society. This 6 week course starts on **Tuesday 24th February, 7.30pm** at St Andrews. If you are able to join us please sign up on the sign up sheet at the back of church.

COOK BOOK

The Fund Raising and Social Group have expressed a wish to produce a "Cook Book" this year to raise funds for St. Bede's and I am wondering whether members of the congregation would have recipes that they could provide for such a venture. The consensus was that there will be many old and new recipes to include from you.

If you could let me know whether you have such recipes as soon as you can please

Gill Blackburn

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING & SOCIAL EVENTS @ ST BEDE

Your Fundraising and Social Committee have been planning the events for 2026.

Winter Quiz Night – Friday 27th February at the Ellesmere Club. Tickets are £6 adults and £3 for children which includes supper

Easter Egg Bingo – Friday 27th March at St Bede Academy School Hall. Bring your own drinks but soft drinks will be available on the night.

Easter Egg Hunt – Easter Day at Church. Find the hidden eggs for a chance to win a chocolate egg

Race Night – Friday 5th June at St Bede Academy School Hall. Donations required for the prizes please!

American Independence Day Themed Afternoon Tea – Saturday 4th July in the Community Room

Pudding Night – following the success of our 1st pudding night last year, we are trying it again on Friday 18th September

Annual Harvest Supper Quiz – Friday 9th October at the Ellesmere Club.

Tropic Night – Thursday 22nd October in the Community Room

Annual Christmans Fayre – Saturday 21st November at St Bede Academy School Hall

Please do come along and support our 2026 events!



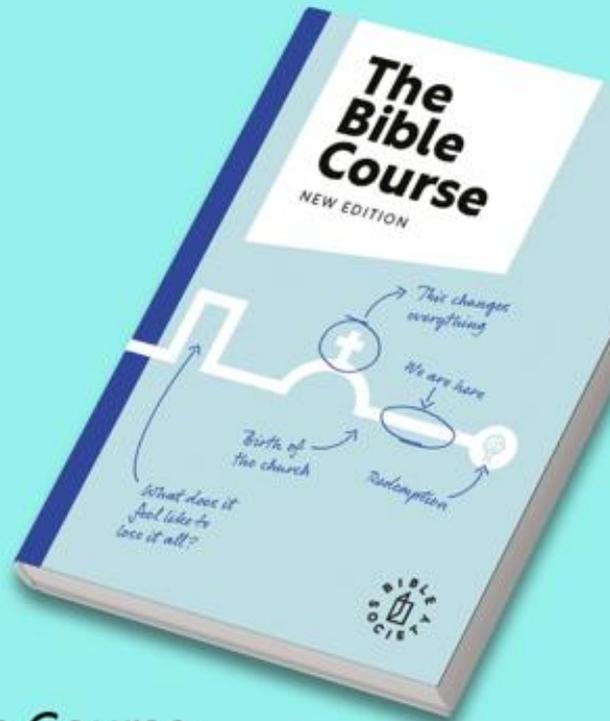
The Bible Course

NEW EDITION

Want to feel more *connected* to God's word?

Join *The Bible Course* New Edition

biblesociety.org.uk/thebiblecourse



Lent Course 2026



We are delighted to be running the Bible Course as our joint Lent Course for 2026. Join us every Tuesday during Lent as we reflect on the big picture of God's Word through short films and discussion

Our Lent Course begins on Tuesday 24th February,, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church



Praise is deeply connected to what we learn to be true about God, and it's good to remind ourselves of the reasons why we praise God (and then, praise Him!). Focus your next 7 days on offering prayers of praise to God.

Consider beginning or ending your day with the habit of praising God and praying these verses out loud. Invite a friend or your family to join you. Notice how praising God changes you and your perspective—it may even reduce stress. Then, continue to foster a life of worship. Create a praise journal—adding specific praise verses and prayers that are personal to your own life.

DAY 22

God, I praise you for your wisdom and power.

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his” Daniel 2:20 (NIV).

DAY 23

God, I praise you for revealing yourself to your children.

“At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.’” Matthew 11:25

DAY 24

God, I praise you for redeeming your people.

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them” Luke 1:68 (NIV).

DAY 25

God, I praise you for being the God of all comfort.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort...” 2 Corinthians 1:3 (NIV).

DAY 26

God, I praise you for blessing me with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ” Ephesians 1:3 (NIV).

DAY 27

God, I praise you for the righteousness you impart through Christ.

“...filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God” Philippians 1:11 (NIV).

DAY 28

God, I praise you for your great mercy and for providing a living hope through Jesus.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” 1 Peter 1:3 (NIV).



WOW

Worship On Wednesday



Join us for fun, food, songs, games,
and activities as we explore faith and life together.

**We meet every Wednesday
6.15pm-7pm
St Bede Church Community Room**



QUIZ NIGHT

St Bede Parish invite you to our Quiz Night
**Friday 27th February 2026 at
7.30pm**

Ellesmere Club

Teams of no more than 6

Supper included in ticket price

£6.00 Adults £3.00 Children

Email fundraising@st-bede.org.uk for more info
and for tickets





St Bede's is a living Church, and its people are The Church. The Church's only financial support is its own Church family.

Please try to support our social and fundraising events as they are vital not only to the financial wellbeing of our Church but are great opportunities to get to know one another better.

Your Church thanks you for your gifts of money, time and talents.

Contacts

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