



Sunday 15th February 2026

The Sunday Next Before Lent

You are most welcome.

A message to new visitors is found on page 3.
Our 10:30am order of service begins on page 5.

8:00am **Holy Communion** (*Book of Common Prayer*)

Celebrant: The Reverend Howard Pashley

10:30am **Parish Eucharist** (*Common Worship*)

Celebrant: The Reverend Doctor Jeanne Males

Preacher: The Reverend Doctor Jeanne Males

Setting: 'A People's Mass - Anthony Gregory Murray with Coventry Gloria Moger Alleluia. Ordinary Time 2

Hymns: 178, 490, 134, 352

Music at Communion:

'*O nata lux*' Thomas Tallis

'*My eyes for beauty pine*' Herbert Howells

Postlude:

'*Tuba tune*' C S Lang

For your prayers

At This Time

Gillian Kullman, Jennie Frampton, Lindsay Gorringe, Jeremy Connor, David Robertson, HM The King, the bereaved, and those suffering during warfare.

Recently De parted

Year's Mind

Margaret Thompson, Jan Coller, Chris Pratt

Thomas George Hughes, Simon Frank Morgan, Margaretta Lewis, Brian Rees, Jill Phyllis Kullman, Peter Alt, Alfred Lawrence

Minter, Patricia Lavers, Molly Pay, Alan Sydney Fuller, Kathleen Mary - 'Molly' - Clark, Brid Mary Broadbent, Molly Lowe, Evelyn Elizabeth Howard

Reflection for the week

Derek Kirkaldie - Reader

Although St Valentine's Day has just passed, its meaning invites us to reflect more deeply on the nature of Christian love beyond a single date in the calendar. While the wider culture often focuses on romance, gifts, and fleeting expressions of affection, the Church of England recalls St Valentine as a priest and martyr whose life bore witness to love rooted in faithfulness to God.

Christian love is not confined to one day or one type of relationship. Scripture tells us that "God is love, and those who live in love live in God" (1 John 4:16). This love is enduring and active, calling us to patience, kindness, forgiveness, and self-giving. In this way, Valentine's Day becomes less a moment to celebrate feelings, and more an opportunity to examine how love is lived out day by day.

St Valentine is believed to have ministered courageously during a time of persecution, offering care and compassion despite personal risk. His witness reminds us that love can be costly and demanding, yet deeply transformative. Within the life of the Church of England, this reflects a calling to express love through service, hospitality, justice, and care for those who are overlooked or vulnerable.

Now that St Valentine's Day is behind us, we are invited to carry its message forward. Love is not

measured by grand gestures, but by quiet faithfulness — in listening well, speaking gently, and acting with integrity. We are called to love not only those close to us, but also our neighbours, our communities, and those with whom we struggle.

As we move on from St Valentine's Day, we are reminded that love does not fade when celebrations end. It remains at the heart of Christian discipleship, drawing us closer to God and to one another.

Faithful God,

as we reflect on St Valentine's Day now past,

help us to carry its deeper meaning into our daily lives.

Teach us to love with patience and courage,

to serve others generously,

and to reflect your compassion in all we do.

May our words and actions continue to bear witness to your love,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

New to St Clements?

Welcome! We're delighted that you're here

There has been a place of Christian prayer on this site for more than 1,000 years. All are welcome at our services - whatever your background and whatever your faith.

Many of the words of our service can be found from page five of this booklet. Feel free to join in with the words in bold, and to stand, kneel, or sit as you feel able and comfortable. Don't worry about getting it 'right', we're all learning to pray!

The service will start with notices and a hymn. We then bring to mind the times we've not loved God, our neighbours, and ourselves fully. Though it can be uncomfortable admitting we are sinners, we want to be honest with God (and ourselves) that we're not perfect. We can trust that God is utterly loving and forgiving.

A series of readings from scripture follows, and then the sermon, in which the preacher attempts to break open the scriptures and apply them to our lives today.

We pray for the needs of the Church and world, and then the altar is prepared. A collection will be taken, as 'giving' is an important part of

our Christian lives, but don't worry if you're unable to contribute as a visitor.

The priest leads the Eucharistic Prayer - the prayer of thanksgiving - during which we offer bread and wine to God, and He transforms it into the Body and Blood of Christ.

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion (it's fine to only receive the Body or Blood if you prefer. For reasons of hygiene please don't dip the wafer into the chalice). Or do come forward holding this booklet to receive a blessing. **If you need a gluten-free wafer please let someone at the door know before the service.**

We share refreshments in the Sunley Room (accessed up the ramp behind the organ), and you are most welcome to stay. Toilets may also be found here.

The Church is open daily for peace and prayer. If you'd like to know more about our worship or faith, do talk to people in the congregation or one of the priests. You can also visit our website, www.stclementschurchsandwich.org.uk

Music at 10:30am today

On this last Sunday before Lent the choir firstly sings a piece prompted by our Gospel reading which is an account of the Transfiguration. The piece is *O Nata Lux* by Thomas Tallis (c1505-1585). The intimate and prayerful text originates from the tenth century and is traditionally associated with the Feast of the Transfiguration which commemorates the moment in the Gospels when the disciples witness Jesus radiant with divine light and clothed in angelic splendour. In this setting, Tallis captures the text's spiritual intensity in music that is both passionate and harmonically rich. A hallmark of his style, the use of false relations – bristling clashes between chromatically opposing notes – adds a disorienting feeling as the harmonic ground momentarily shifts. Sung in Latin, the words translate as

*O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed
in flesh
for the sake of the lost, grant us to be
members of thy blessed body.*

It is followed by a more modern anthem by Herbert Howells – *My eyes for beauty pine*, setting words of Robert Bridges (1844-1930). The work reflects a longing for divine grace and beauty, embodying the English choral tradition of the early 20th century. Most of the writing is in what we call “unison” – so all

the choir voices sing the same tune rather than in their normal four-part harmony and unlike the Tallis that is in five vocal parts. However, Howells breaks into four-part harmony midway through the piece for the climactic words “‘tis love, ‘tis heavenly love”. The piece ends confidently declaiming that every gentle heart is lit from eyes that mirror part of God’s celestial fire.

*My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for
God’s grace:*

*No other care nor hope is mine, to
heaven I turn my face.*

*One splendour thence is shed from all
the stars above:*

*‘Tis named when God’s name is said,
‘tis Love, ‘tis heavenly Love.*

*And every gentle heart that burns
with true desire*

*Is lit from eyes that mirror part of that
celestial fire*

The outgoing voluntary is one of C S Lang’s famously bright and happy pieces – the “Tuba Tune”, written for the tuba stop on large organs. Whilst organs do in fact have their own distinctive sound, some stops and pipes are designed and voiced to imitate orchestral instruments of the same name. Whilst we have flutes, a viola, an oboe, a horn and a trombone, we don’t sadly have a tuba, so we make do with the trumpet stop which is equally fine.

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booklet is © The Archbishops’ Council 2000. Any
hymns reproduced in accordance with a CCLI
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Order of Service

The Gathering

*Notices are given before the service.
Stand for the opening hymn:*

Hymn 178

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confessing our Sins

The Celebrant introduces a period of silence in which all call to mind their sins. Then all kneel or sit.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We

have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces the forgiveness of sins. All stand. The Gloria is sung, the congregation singing parts in bold.

Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.

We worship you, glory in the highest, give you thanks, glory in the highest, praise you for your glory. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of

the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us, **have mercy on us**. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer, **receive our prayer.**

Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth. **Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, You alone are the most High, Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, the glory of God the Father. **Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.** Amen. Amen.

The Celebrant says: Let us pray: Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *All say* Amen.

The Scriptures

Exodus 24.12–end

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and

wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, ‘Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.’

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Remain seated as the Choir sing
Psalm 99*

The Lord is King, be the people never so unpatient : he sitteth between the cherubims, be the earth never so unquiet.

The Lord is great in Sion : and high above all people.

They shall give thanks unto thy Name : which is great, wonderful, and holy.

The King's power loveth judgement; thou hast prepared equity : thou hast executed judgement and righteousness in Jacob.

O magnify the Lord our God : and fall down before his footstool, for he is holy.

Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among such as call upon his Name : these called upon the Lord, and he heard them.

He spake unto them out of the cloudy pillar : for they kept his testimonies, and the law that he gave them.

Thou heardest them, O Lord our God : thou forgavest them, O God, and punishedst their own inventions.

O magnify the Lord our God, and worship him upon his holy hill: for the Lord our God is holy.

2 Peter 1.16-end

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no

prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 490

Turn to face the Book of the Gospels as it moves to the centre of the nave. 'Alleluia' is sung.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 17.1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When

the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.' This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

A sermon is preached.

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into

heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Intercessions & Peace

Kneel or sit to pray. The following response may be used: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer

At the end: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Stand for the Peace The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

The altar is prepared while we sing.
A collection, taken as the congregation arrived, is offered up to God. If you would like to make a

donation please leave it in the safe beside the north porch after the service, use the cardreader there, scan the QR code here, or head to: www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/donate Thank you.



Hymn Number 134

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Celebrant prays over the offerings, and all respond Amen.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant prays the Preface, leading into:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. *All kneel or sit*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood

of our Lord Jesus Christ; who in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of Mary, Clement, Peter, Paul, and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. ***All say boldly: Amen.***

Preparation for Communion

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper. Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Holy Communion

Sidespeople will indicate when to move for Holy Communion. All who are baptised are welcome to receive Communion, or do bring this booklet with you to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing instead.

After all have received Holy Communion, Stand as the Celebrant says Let us pray: Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All say* Amen.

All say Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Hymn 352

Going out into the World

This is followed by the blessing and dismissal: The Lord be with you. And also with you. *The Celebrant blesses and dismisses the congregation.* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ, Amen!

The organ postlude is part of our act of worship, please remain quiet. If you are able, do please stay for refreshments after the service - served from The Sunley Room (behind the organ)



Lent 2026 at St Clement's, Sandwich

What is prayer?
What do Christians believe?
Why did Jesus die?
Why is there suffering?

Ask these and other questions
at our special discussion groups,
open to all (no faith necessary)

 Programme of study & discussion groups,
special services, and lunches now in church
or online at www.stclementsandwich.org.uk

Make 2026 a year to consider faith.

Programme for Lent 2026

Pick up the programme of services and study groups today. With Lent Lunches, regular study/discussion group, evening sessions open to all (those in the congregation and those outside), and plans for Holy Week.. There is lots happening at St Clement's.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday this Wednesday 18th February, with Holy Communion at 10:00am and a Sung Eucharist at 7:30pm (not 7:00pm as erroneously published in some places last week). All are encouraged to attend, and begin this season together.

Exploring Christianity Discussion Groups

A chance to learn more about Christianity, with presentations and discussions on the following topics. All are welcome, including any from the surrounding areas who just have big questions about life and wonder what answers God may provide.

No booking needed! You don't need to attend every session. Just turn up in St Clement's for those you wish to be a part of. Please email admin@stclementsandwich.org.uk if you would have difficulties using stairs for any of these events.

How do we find belief? Finding faith in a broken world.

Thursday 19th February 7:00pm-8:30pm

What is prayer and how do we do it? Can God find us a parking space, or bring about world peace?

Thursday 26th February 7:00pm-8:30pm

Can I be a Christian on my own? Finding faith in a broken Church.

Thursday 5th March 7:00pm-8:30pm

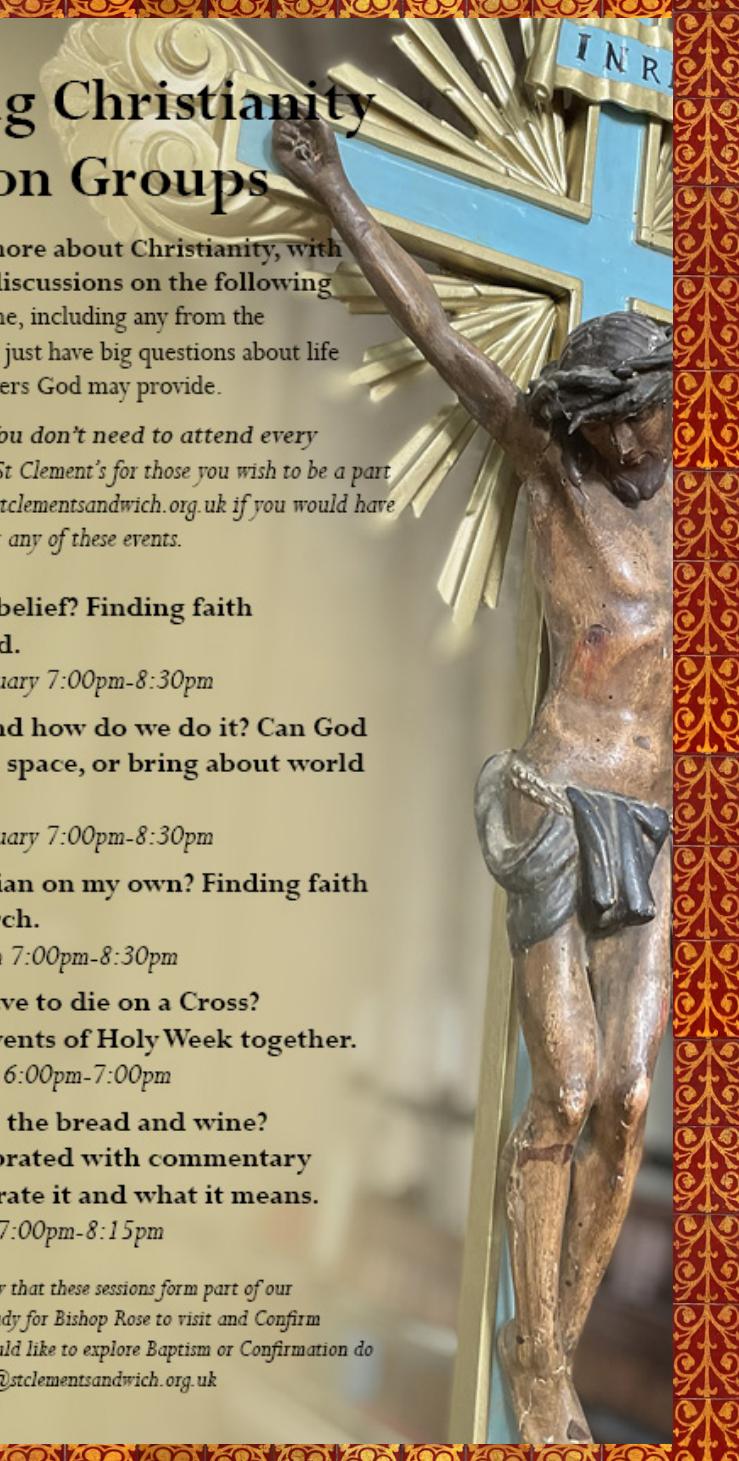
Why did Jesus have to die on a Cross? Discussing the events of Holy Week together.

Tuesday 31st March 6:00pm-7:00pm

What happens to the bread and wine? A Eucharist celebrated with commentary on why we celebrate it and what it means.

Thursday 9th April 7:00pm-8:15pm

You may be interested to know that these sessions form part of our Confirmation preparation ready for Bishop Rose to visit and Confirm candidates in May. If you would like to explore Baptism or Confirmation do come along, or email admin@stclementsandwich.org.uk



‘The Joy of the Gospel’

In addition to the Exploring Christianity groups (left) every Wednesday from 25th February during Lent, until 25th March, a relaxed, informal group led by a member of the congregation, in a member of the congregation’s home. Guided by the book ‘The Joy of the Gospel’ by Paula Gooder.

**Registering attendance in advance is necessary, please,
via the Parish Office.**

Lent Lunches

Homemade soup and good company offered every Friday from this week during Lent, until 27th March. Serving from Noon until 1:30pm in the Church Hall.

Zoom Compline

The next Zoom Compline will be held on the 17th February

Confirmations 2026

Bishop Rose will join us to Confirm candidates from our Deanery on Ascension Day, 14th May, at 7:00pm.

Would you, or someone you know, be interested in exploring Confirmation (or Baptism and Confirmation)? If so please speak to the Rector or a Churchwarden.

‘Sponsor a Tile’ campaign

Around 1869, the east wall behind the high altar was paved with beautiful tiles featuring flowers, anchors, and a central cross. The whole wall was whitewashed over in 1913. We have begun the process of removing the whitewash to reveal this splendid wall, ready to be unveiled during the Easter Vigil (Saturday 4th April 2026 at 8:00pm), in the full glory of the light of the Resurrection.

To celebrate the restoration of the tiles, and to ensure the continued life of St Clement’s, we invite you to sponsor a tile. You could sponsor a tile for yourself, a friend, a family member, a Godchild... This is your chance to support the life and building of St Clement’s, to have your chosen name recorded here for generations to come, and to mark it with a gift.

All are invited to celebrate Easter here in 2026 and to witness the unveiling of our restored tiles.

Head to www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/sponsoratile to learn more about our special fundraising campaign, and to sponsor a tile, or pick up a leaflet in Church.

Parish Directory

PARISH OFFICE

Caroline Flynn
Parish Administrator

St Clement's Hall,
Church Street St Clement's,
Sandwich. CT13 9EH.

Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:30pm (1:00pm Fridays)

020 3089 4745 - please leave a message with BT Callminder.
admin@stclementsandwich.org.uk
www.stclementsandwich.org.uk

THE RECTOR

The Reverend Sebastian Hamilton
fr.sjm.hamilton@gmail.com + 01304 746033
Day of Rest: Monday, Study Day: Saturday

CHURCHWARDENS

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The week ahead

Monday 16th February - Feria



Tuesday 17th February - Feast of Janani Luwum, M

Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday

10:00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

7:30pm Sung Eucharist

Thursday 19th February - Feria

12:30pm Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Christopher Pratt

Friday 20th February - The Sacred Crown of Thorns

9:45am Morning Prayer

From 10:00am Coffee Pot (*Parish Hall*)

Saturday 21st February - Feria

Sunday 22nd February - The 1st Sunday of Lent

8:00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

10:30am Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)

Celebrant: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Day	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday	Ps 44+ Genesis 37.1-11	Ps 47, 49+ John 3.1-21
Tuesday	Ps 48, 52+ Genesis 37.12-end	Ps 50 + John 3.22-end
Wednesday	Ps 38+ Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19	Ps 51.1-18 + Luke 15.11-end
Thursday	Ps 77 + Genesis 39	Ps 74 + John 4.1-26
Friday	Ps 3, 7+ Genesis 40	Ps 31 + John 4.27-42
Saturday	Ps 71 + Genesis 41.1-24	Ps 73 + John 4.43-end