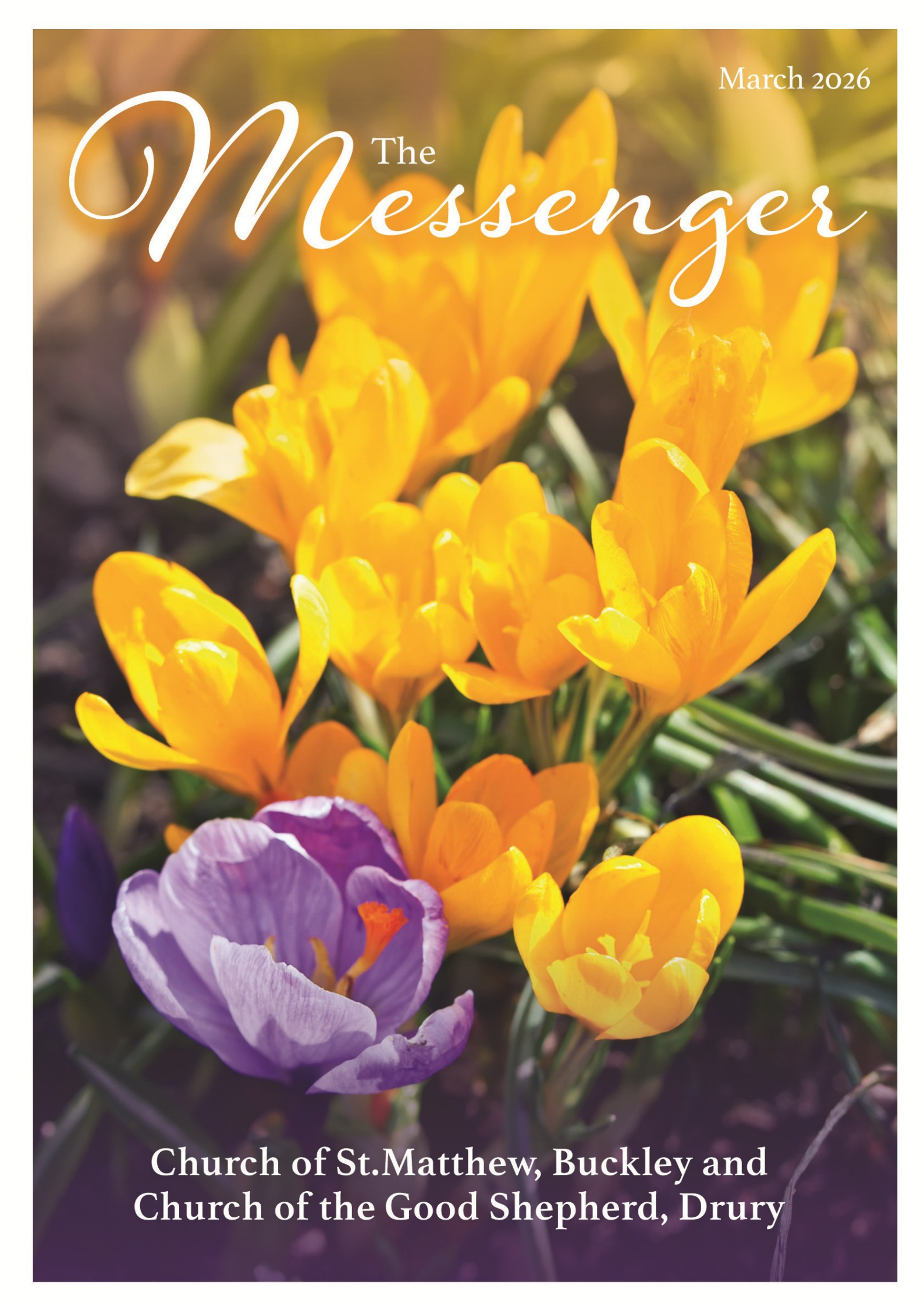




March 2026

The *Messenger*

Church of St. Matthew, Buckley and
Church of the Good Shepherd, Drury



Lent

in our churches and
Mission Area

Tuesdays 7pm - Bible Study
at **Good Shepherd**

Tuesdays Alternate weeks
1.30pm & 7pm at **Emmanuel Penyffordd**
Email Rev Simon for more information
SimonPiercy@cinw.org.uk

Wednesdays 10am - Eucharist at **St Matthews**

Wednesdays 7.30pm Lent Prayer at **Bistre Emmanuel**
Resources available by email from rev.sally@icloud.com

Thursdays 10am - Morning Prayer at **Holy Spirit**
(before coffee morning at 10.30)

Lenten Quiet Day

Saturday 7th March 1pm-3.30pm

St Matthew's Church Hall

Spring is here! I hope the lovely picture on the front cover cheers you. I am praying fervently that this rain will pay dividends in the long run with an excellent show of spring flowers and good crops later in the year.

Lent is upon us, and we are turning our minds towards our preparations for Easter. In the following article I discuss some of our practices during Lent and Easter and the symbolism behind it. Throughout this year, I plan to share with you, in each magazine, some of the symbolism, reasoning and Theology behind what we do in Church. Some have expressed an interest in a learning and discussion group to explore this deeper, so if this is something that would interest you, please have a word with me.

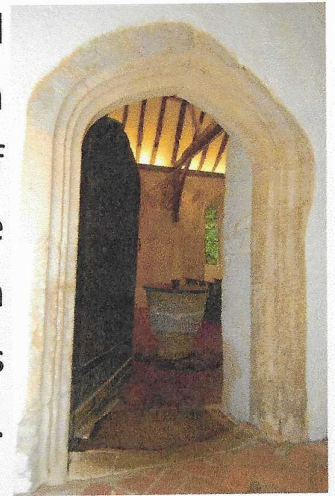
You will see opposite the details of what we have going on in Lent across our three Churches, as well as a couple of things in the wider Mission Area.

On Saturday 7th March, there will be a **Lenten Quiet Day (afternoon)** held in St Matthews Church Hall. This will involve a short programme of guided bible studies and opportunities for reflection using a variety of materials and methods. The session is very relaxed and you can do as little or as much as you like. There will be opportunities to try different methods of prayer, a chance to reflect and pray using art and even a short prayer walk (weather depending). During a quiet day, we join together for the bible studies (about 10-15 mins each), and then the subsequent reflection time is 'free' time to use the resources as you wish. Do think about giving it a go.

I have also acquired some free copies of bible reading notes for people to try, which are available in each church (somewhere near the door). Please do have a look. *Blessings for Lent and Easter, Rev Jenny*

Signs and Symbols

You have probably noticed that symbolism and imagery play a strong part in church worship and in church buildings. From the traditional placement of the font near the door of the church, to symbolise the beginning of the Christian journey, to the high Altar in the sanctuary to symbolise the inner courts of the temple and coming as close as possible to God.

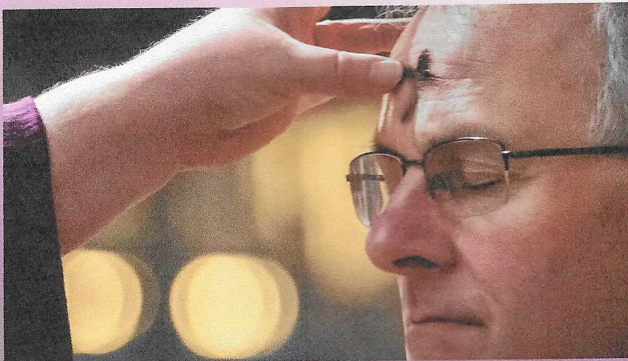


Throughout this year, I'm going to be sharing with you some insights into the symbolism we experience in our life as churchgoers and Christians.

Lent

Lent is both a time of repentance and preparation. During this time, we are preparing ourselves to remember Jesus sacrifice of himself on the cross for our redemption. It is only by Jesus sacrifice that our sins can be forgiven and so during Lent we reflect on those sins and try to amend our lives.

Ashes



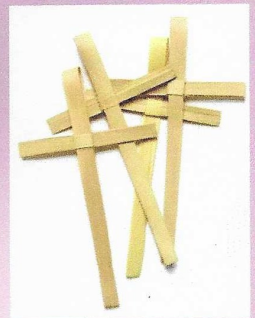
We begin Lent on **Ash Wednesday**, with a service of Holy Communion and the receiving of Ashes on the forehead. These ashes are a symbol of our internal and intentional repentance for all the ways in which we have not lived up to God's expectations.

*'Remember that
you are but dust,
and to dust you
shall return.*

*Turn away from
sin and be faithful
to Christ.'*

Many have wondered over the years whether we should, in fact, be using the ashes and marking our repentance outwardly. In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus warns against practicing our righteousness publicly. Whilst people will have different opinions on this, the real test is whether the ashes reflect outwardly, the true repentance in our hearts.

In fact, the **ashes** themselves are very symbolic, since they are made from burned palm crosses. On Palm Sunday we remember the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem when the people tore down palm branches to wave and lay at his feet in celebration. Less than a week later though, those celebrations were as ash when the same people clamoured for Jesus' crucifixion.



Suggestion: Read the book of **Jonah** for another example of the symbolism of ash and dust.

By using burned **palm crosses**, we have a visible reminder of the times our good intentions from last Lent and Easter have come to naught.

Purple

During Lent all the hangings in Church are changed to Purple. The priest also wears purple vestments. The colours of the church year are one of the ways in which the ancient church used symbolism to communicate with believers. Purple is used to symbolise **repentance** and **preparation**.

During Lent and Advent, we are to spend the time preparing our hearts and minds to celebrate the subsequent feast, ensuring that we as holy and righteous as possible to receive Jesus.

Holy Week

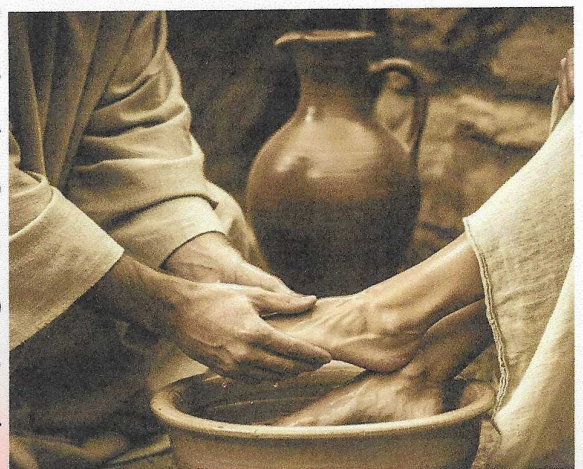
Holy Week is one of the most important periods during our Christian year. From Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday the church hangings are red to remind us of Jesus imminent death. **Red** is the symbol of both martyrdom and the Holy Spirit. Both of these are times when the presence of God is shown powerfully.

Each day during Holy Week has a significance, however the most important make up what is called the **Triduum**. This is the three days from the evening of Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday and it commemorates the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday we recall the last supper, Jesus subsequent arrest in the garden and the disciples flight. The celebration of the eucharist on Maundy Thursday is one of the most dramatic of the year as we place ourselves alongside the disciples in that upper room. As the bread and wine are blessed, broken and shared, we hold together in our minds the incomprehension of the disciples, with our knowledge of what is to come in the following days.

During the service, the priest will also offer to **wash feet or hands** as Jesus did. Jesus did this to show that although he was their Rabbi, he was also their servant and would put himself in the lowest position. The priest also does this to remind us that they are the servant of all. This can often be an uncomfortable experience, as it is hard to



reconcile the image of God kneeling and doing the servants task. The very heart of our Gospel is that Jesus is the Servant King.

Stripping the Altars.

Near the end of the service, instead of singing a hymn, the priest and sacristan will remove all the decoration from the church, the Altar cloths, crosses and any hangings. In churches which have statues, these are covered up. This symbolises the stripping, humiliation and abandonment of Jesus by his followers in Gethsemane. The con-

*'Could you not
watch one hour
with me?'*

gregation will watch in silence, or listen to a song of lament. In some places people will sit in dark and silence for up to an hour, before leaving hurriedly and in silence. The church will remain bare and dark until Jesus' resurrection is celebrated on Easter Sunday.

Good Friday

Good Friday is a day of sorrow when we recall Jesus death on the cross. On this day services often include solemn recollections of Jesus passion, sometimes physically walking through stations of the cross, or carrying a wooden cross in witness. The term passion can be confusing, as its meaning has changed over time. The origin of the word is 'passio' in Latin which means to 'endure' or to 'suffer', and so we recall the endurance and suffering of Jesus from His arrest to His death.



Easter Sunday

A church celebration wouldn't be the same without symbolism. Easter morning, as we are overjoyed at the empty tomb, we light our Paschal candle, celebrating new light, new life, a new dawn. Some churches even begin

their celebration with a bonfire at dawn, from which the candle is lit. The Paschal candle is lit throughout the year during all significant celebrations and events, reminding us of the presence of the risen Jesus.

One a Penny, Two a Penny, Hot Cross Buns

If you had lived in Georgian London, you would have woken up to this cry on Good Friday mornings as the street sellers carried their baskets of hot cross buns through the city. Long associated with Good Friday, these simple, spiced fruit buns, decorated with a cross, are seen as a symbol of the Crucifixion.

However, the history of the hot cross bun may go back much further. English Heritage printed an article by Dr. Eleanor Barnett on their website. She gave it the title '**Holy or Heretical? A History of hot cross buns**' and in it she discusses their origins. Whilst they have a long association with our Easter festival and have been traditionally eaten on Good Friday for many, many years, their origins may go back all the way to pre-Christian times and the celebration of the Saxon goddess Eostre from whom we get our word Easter.

Dr. Barnett writes that according to The Oxford English Dictionary the first printed reference to hot cross bun appears in the early eighteenth century in the satirical, journal 'Poor Robin's Almanac'

***'Good Friday comes this month, the old woman runs
With one or two a penny hot cross buns.'***

The history of the hot cross buns also takes us to St. Albans Cathedral in the fourteenth century. One of the monks here was Brother Thomas Roccliffe and he decided to make a spiced fruit bun to distribute amongst the poor on Good Friday.

The recipe is a closely guarded secret but the Abbey website lists the ingredients as including flour, eggs, yeast, currants and spice - so very similar to what we think of as a hot cross bun. They are still available from the Abbey at Easter time. One main difference between a hot cross bun and an Alban bun is that the Alban bun does not have a cross piped on the top or placed on using pastry. Instead the baker simply cuts a cross into the top.

Nowadays, hot cross buns appear on supermarket shelves as soon as the Christmas stock is cleared away and they are no longer restricted to a simple, fruit bun. A search along the aisles will reveal quite a choice. There are hot cross buns filled with lemon curd, cinnamon and apple buns, caramel fudge buns, triple chocolate buns, Cherry Bakewell buns and even savoury hot cross buns!

The hot cross bun continues to maintain a close association with our Easter festival. Their history, like many traditions, is a mixture of religion and folklore that has evolved over the centuries. Despite the wide variety of flavours now available, this writer still prefers the traditional spiced bun, toasted and spread with real butter.

Hot Cross Buns

Hot Cross Buns

One a Penny, Two a Penny

Hot Cross Buns.

If you have no daughters, Give them to your sons.

One a penny, Two a Penny

Hot Cross Buns.



Recipe for Hot Cross Buns

Ingredients for buns

- 500 g Strong white flour
- 75g Caster sugar
- 1 tsp Mixed spice
- 300 ml Warm milk
- 1 beaten egg
- 10g (2 tsp) fast action dried yeast
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- 50 g Unsalted butter- softened
- 100 g Sultanas

Flour paste crosses & glaze

- 75g plain flour mixed with enough water to form a paste.
- Apricot jam for glazing

Method

1 WARM the milk and butter together, then stir in the yeast. Sift the flour into a large bowl, add sugar, spices and salt. Make a well, pour in the milk mixture and beaten egg and mix to form a rough dough.

2. Knead by hand for 10 minutes or in a stand mixer for 3 minutes until smooth and elastic.
3. Place the dough in a slightly oiled bowl, cover and leave in a warm place until doubled in size about (1-1.5 hours)
4. Once risen, punch down the dough and knead in the sultanas. Divide the dough in 12 equal pieces and shape each into a smooth ball. Place them on a lined baking tray, leaving space between each bun.
5. Cover the tray with a damp cloth and let to rise again for about 45 minutes until puffy. Preheat oven to 200 ° (180°C Fan). Mix the flour and water to create a paste for piping the crosses over the buns.
6. Bake the buns for 15 – 18 minutes until golden brown. While they are still warm brush them with apricot jam for a glossy finish. Enjoy.



St Matthew's Church, Buckley

All are welcome to join us in a celebration
of St David, patron saint of Wales



St David's Day

Bilingual Eucharist

11 am

Sunday 1st March

followed by a

Bring and Share Lunch

12.30 pm

in

St Matthew's Church Hall

If you plan to come to the lunch or
donate food, you will find lists at the
back of church where you can
place your name.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

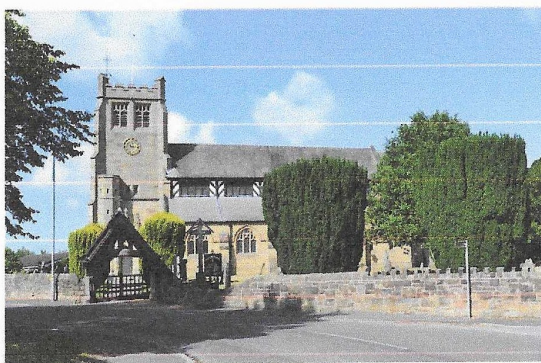
Nigeria 2026

2.00 pm at

St. Matthew's Church in Wales,

Church Road, Buckley, CH7 3JN

Everyone is welcome!



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

Mothering Sunday



A warm invitation to our

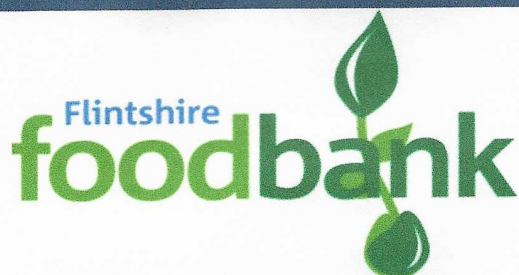
Family Service

11am

Sunday 15th March

St Matthew's Church, Buckley

Children -
come and make your own
posy of flowers for your mum or dad,
nana or grandad!



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

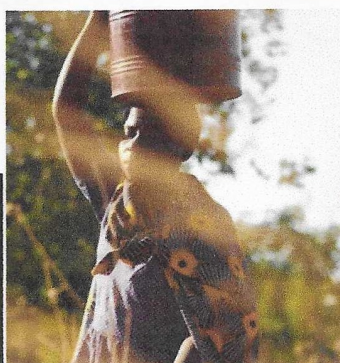
**Remember to help us help
local families in need!**

Our MU collect and deliver your
donations regularly to the
Buckley Foodbank.

*Please place in the boxes at the
back of church throughout Lent
and Easter!*



**It all starts with
Clean Water, Toilets
and Hygiene**



We need water. It's the basis for good health, dignity, and progress. But 696 million live without clean water close to home. Women are impacted most, being responsible for collecting water from unsafe sources like rivers and holes in the ground. More challenges when girls reach adolescence. Children miss school because they're fetching water or sick. Cholera spreads quickly! Please help!

**Donations for WATER AID APPEAL via our World Mission Plate
throughout Lent and Easter.**

WORLD MISSION 2025

Thanks to your generosity St Matthew's was able to forward the grand sum of £925 during 2025. Donations were sent to *Christian Aid, USPG, Save the Children and Shelter.*



Flowers for Easter

It will soon be Easter and is in previous years, the contributions towards the cost of flowers are very much appreciated.

Donations may be put on the plate at the back of church or given to me personally or given to the Churchwarden.

Eirys Millward



St Matthew's Church, Buckley

A warm invitation to all!

Easter Garden Family Service

3 pm

Friday 3rd April

An all age service
for people of any age
to come and celebrate
Easter, Jesus and New Life.





Holy Week and Easter at the Church of St Matthew, Buckley

Palm Sunday

Sunday 29th March 11 am

Blessing of Palms, Procession & Sung Eucharist

Joint service with the churches of the Holy Spirit and Good Shepherd
in St Matthews

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 2nd April 7 pm

The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday
with the stripping of the altars

Good Friday

Friday 3rd April 3 pm

Easter Garden Family Service

An all age service for people of any age to come and
celebrate Easter, Jesus and New Life

Easter Day

Sung Eucharist 11 am

followed by a cuppa in the Church Hall



**Holy Week and Easter
at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Ewloe**

Palm Sunday 29th March
Joint service St Matthews 11 am

Good Friday 3rd April
Good Friday Devotions 2 pm

Easter Day 5th April
Sung Eucharist 10 am



**Holy Week and Easter
at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Drury**

Palm Sunday 29th March
Joint service St Matthews 11 am

Good Friday 3rd April
Hour at the Cross 11 am
A quiet and reflective service to draw near to Jesus

Easter Day 5th April
Eucharist 9 am
followed by a children's egg hunt at 10 am

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

118 Years at Buckley, St Matthew's!

150th
Anniversary

1876 - 2026

One of the first women-led organisations, transforming lives around the corner and around the world since 1876.



In 1876, Mary Sumner, the wife of a rector in Hampshire, formed a group to support mothers in bringing up their children. Her plan was radical in its day as it involved calling women of all social classes together to see motherhood as a profession as important as those of men. Following her passionate address to the Portsmouth Church Congress about national morality and the importance of women's vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better, several women present went back to their parishes to found similar mothers' meetings.

The groups that met as Mothers' Union became embedded in their communities and forged strong links with local people and the Anglican Church. They supported one another and gave a voice to disadvantaged women while addressing wider societal issues. Driven by Mary Sumner's passion for the role of women in bringing about a better society, MU proved very popular. The Bishop of Winchester made it a diocesan organisation and in 1897 Queen Victoria became patron, giving it an official stamp of approval.



Mary lived to lead the MU to act in rebuilding the heart of Britain after WW1.

The Mary Sumner Prayer

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through
the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. AMEN

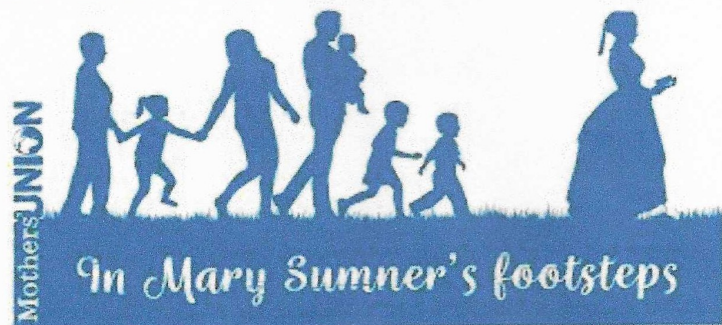
(Extracts from St Matthew's Parish Magazine June/July 1908)

"A most satisfactory Meeting was held as a preliminary step to starting MU in the Parish.its special work is the moral and religious training of children. The Vicar spoke, touching on the impossibility of leaving the religious and moral training of children to the Day and Sunday Schools. It was an influence which must come from home. It was a society which embraced all classes of rich and poor alike. The Communicant members would form a central force of prayer and would receive a special badge of membership."



"We are only able to give a short account of the Admission to the Mothers' Union on July 1st. The Service began with the special Litany of the Union. Then followed the admission of members, who numbered 14 altogether. May God bless this new venture in our parochial life."

"Let's not try to maintain the past but remember, adapt and use it well to build the future!"



We remember Mary Sumner's life and vision, her faith and resolve but

We are now a movement of over four million Christians worldwide. MU members volunteer in local communities, putting faith into action, giving individuals in need a helping hand and enabling communities (at home and abroad) to have the confidence to transform their lives in a sustainable way.

Members are not all mothers, or even all women – female and male, single and married, parents and grandparents, young adults expressing social conscience and older adults volunteering in their local community.

In the UK, among other things, members run crèches in prisons, provide holidays for needy families, knit and craft for maternity hospitals and care homes, collect items for refugees, and work to put an end to domestic violence. They support overseas programmes focused on economic empowerment, education, and resilience.

MU at St Matthew's contributes to the above, as well as collecting items and donating to the Buckley Food Bank, to the homeless and to victims of domestic abuse. We contribute to the Angel Tree Project at HMP Berwyn. Our Coffee Mornings and Afternoon Teas provide opportunities for fundraising, but also for strengthening relationships within our own church family. Your donations at these events support our work – we are thankful!



No Sunday best hats nor banner waving but still, like Mary, a feisty bunch!!

MU St Asaph Diocese - A Celebration of 150 Years
St Asaph Cathedral
Wednesday 25th March at 2pm
All members past, present and future welcome!



**DO YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE BURIED IN
ST MATTHEW'S BUCKLEY
CHURCHYARD?**

IF SO, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

**We have been required to survey all the grave-
stones in the churchyard,
to ascertain if any of them are dangerous.
Some stones have been found to be unsafe.**

**A warning sign has been attached to
each of these.**

**It is the family's responsibility to care for their
loved one's grave. If this proves impossible,
the gravestones will have to be laid flat.**

**If this concerns a grave of a family member,
please go to www.stmatthewsbuckley.church
for further information and
contact details.**

*Bell Ringers
celebrate
Ken's 90th
Birthday!*



The North Wales Association of Church Bell Ringers rang a Quarter Peal at St. Matthews Church on Wednesday Evening 7th January, 2026 to celebrate the 90th birthday of Ken Lloyd, Secretary of the Buckley Tower.

They rang a Quarter Peal of 1280 Splice Surprise Major, 640 Cambridge, 512 Lincolnshire and 128 Yorkshire, 3 methods in 45 minutes.

The Team Ringers were:

1. M.A. Clough
2. M.J. Allen
3. S.N.O. Norman
4. R. T. J. Tinkler
5. A.S. Griffiths
6. G Parting
7. D.T.G. Jones (Captain)
8. S. W. Hughes

A big thankyou to the Bell Ringers !

Congratulations Ken on your 90th birthday celebration!

Annual Congregational Meeting for the Church of St Matthew, Buckley

We gather together for

Sung Eucharist

during which we will hold our
Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday 19th April 2026

11 am

St Matthews Church, Buckley

During the meeting we review our past year,
our financial situation and share hopes for our future.
We also elect and nominate people to various roles of
responsibilities within our church. All are welcome!



Rhos a Mynydd
Mission Area | Ardal Cenhadaeth

All the churches of the Mission Area are
invited to join together for a

Joint Eucharist Service

on

Sunday 31st May

11 am

St Cynfarch, Hope

followed by the

Rhos a Mynydd Mission Area AGM

Everyone is welcome!

SPRING CONCERT WITH FLINT LADIES CHOIR



Sunday 8th MARCH at 2.30pm

Tickets £8 Including light refreshments

*The Church of the Holy Spirit
Church Lane, Ewloe, Deeside. CH5 3BF
(Easy Parking)*

Please contact Doreen Mackie 01244 538241

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, DRURY

Tuesday Night
**BIBLE
STUDY**

at 7 pm



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, DRURY



EASTER SUNDAY

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Easter Service – 9:00am

Celebrate with us at our 9am Easter Service

Children's Easter Egg Hunt – 10:00am

Join the fun at our Easter Egg Hunt at 10am

Come along to either or both!

You can just turn up for the Easter Egg
Hunt at 10am, even if you didn't come
to the 9am service.



Magazine Adverts 2026

A word of thanks

to all the companies who have offered to continue their support for 2026. Also a big thank you to the five businesses who have decided, for various reasons, to leave us.

We very much appreciate their past contribution.

We welcome new business adverts to our magazine.

ComputaRite

Buckley Roofing

Shortfuse Elec

D.S.Electrical & Happy Paws Pet Care.

The individual magazine adverts will say more about each company but suffice to say we are thankful for their support.

Coffee Morning

10-12 noon

Saturday March 28th

Church of the Good Shepherd, Drury

Everyone welcome even our four legged friends.

Holy Week & Easter 2026

at St Matthew's, Buckley

29th March Palm Sunday

11 am Blessing of Palms, Procession
& Sung Eucharist

2nd April Maundy Thursday

7 pm The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday
and the stripping of the altars

3rd April Good Friday

10 am Cytûn Service in The Precinct
followed by refreshments in
Buckley Cross Community Centre

3 pm Easter Garden Family Worship
An all age service for people of any
age to come and celebrate Easter,
Jesus and New Life

5th April Easter Day

11am Sung Eucharist
followed by a cuppa in the Church Hall