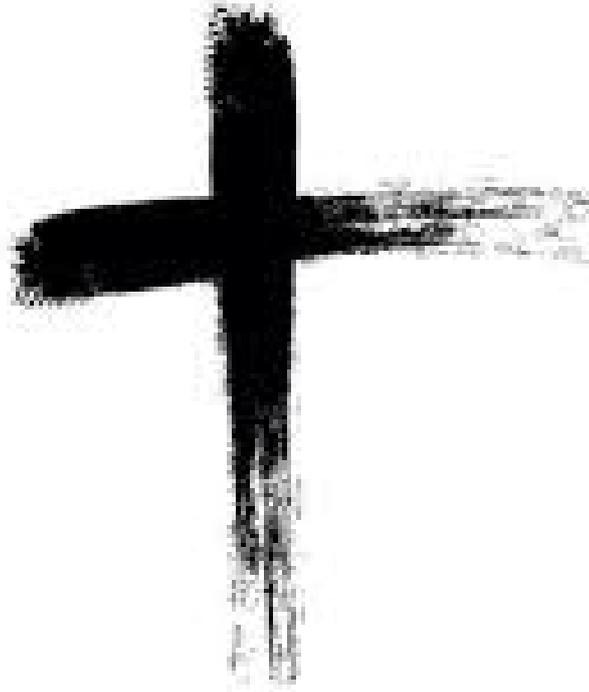


# St Mary's Church, Walkley



**The Church on the Road:**  
*Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God*



## Ash Wednesday Eucharist

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley**

**President: The Revd Canon Dr Alan Billings**

**Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Alan Billings**

**Team Warden: Janet**

## **The Gathering and Opening Hymn**

*We stand and we sing the opening hymn.*

*President* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

*President* Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

*All* **and also with you.**

## **The Introduction**

*President* Friends in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

## **The Collect**

*President* Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Holy God,  
our lives are laid open before you:  
rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## **The Reading: Isaiah 58. 1 - 12**

*Reader* A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgements,  
they delight to draw near to God.  
'Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,  
and oppress all your workers.  
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.  
Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?  
Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gradual Hymn**

*We stand and we sing:*

*Tune: Tallis Canon*

**Again we keep this solemn fast,  
a gift of faith from ages past,  
this Lent which binds us, lovingly  
to faith and hope and charity.**

**The law and prophets from of old  
in figured ways this Lent foretold,  
which Christ, all ages' Lord and guide,  
in these last days has sanctified.**

**More sparing, therefore, let us make  
the words we speak, the food we take,  
our sleep, our laughter, every sense;  
learn peace through holy penitence.**

**Let us avoid each harmful way  
that lures the careless mind astray;  
by watchful prayer our spirits free  
from scheming of the enemy.**

**We pray, O blessed Three in One,  
our God while endless ages run,  
that this, our Lent of forty days,  
may bring us growth and give you praise.**

Gregory the Great, c.540-604  
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**The Gospel Reading: Matthew 6. 1 - 6, 16 - 21**

*Minister* Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.  
Harden not your hearts.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

*Psalm 95.3, 8*

*Minister* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*Minister* This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

*We kneel or remain seated.*

## **The Liturgy of Penitence**

*Minister* Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

*Minister* God the Father,  
*All* **have mercy upon us.**

*Minister* God the Son,  
*All* **have mercy upon us.**

*Minister* God the Holy Spirit,  
*All* **have mercy upon us.**

*Minister* Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,  
*All* **have mercy upon us.**

*Minister* From all evil and mischief;  
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;  
from envy, hatred, and malice;  
and from all evil intent,  
*All* **good Lord, deliver us.**

*Minister* From sloth, worldliness and love of money;  
from hardness of heart  
and contempt for your word and your laws,  
*All* **good Lord, deliver us.**

*Minister* From sins of body and mind;  
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
*All* **good Lord, deliver us.**

*Minister* In all times of sorrow;  
in all times of joy;  
in the hour of death,  
and at the day of judgement,  
*All* **good Lord, deliver us.**

*Minister* By the mystery of your holy incarnation;  
by your birth, childhood and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,  
*All* **good Lord, deliver us.**

*Minister* By your ministry in word and work;  
by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
*All* **good Lord, deliver us.**

*Minister* By your agony and trial;  
by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
*All* **good Lord, deliver us.**

*Minister* By your mighty resurrection;  
by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
*All* **good Lord, deliver us.**

*Minister* Give us true repentance;  
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance  
and our deliberate sins;  
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your holy word.  
*All* **Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

*Silence is kept.*

*President* Make our hearts clean, O God;  
*All* **and renew a right spirit within us.**

*All* **Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

### **The Imposition of Ashes**

*President* Dear friends in Christ,  
I invite you to receive these ashes  
as a sign of the spirit of penitence  
with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,  
you create us from the dust of the earth:  
grant that these ashes may be for us  
a sign of our penitence  
and a symbol of our mortality;  
for it is by your grace alone  
that we receive eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

*All* **Amen.**

*Those who wish to receive the imposition of Ashes come forward. At the imposition the minister says to each person:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

*Once all have received the imposition of Ashes, we remain seated or kneeling as we sing:*

*Cantor* Kyrie eléison  
*All* **Kyrie eléison**  
*Cantor* Christe eléison  
*All* **Christe eléison**  
*Cantor* Kyrie eléison  
*All* **Kyrie eléison**  
  
*Cantor* Kyrie eléison  
*All* **Kyrie eléison**  
*Cantor* Christe eléison  
*All* **Christe eléison**  
*Cantor* Kyrie eléison  
*All* **Kyrie eléison**

*President* The Lord enrich us with his grace,  
and nourish us with his blessing;  
the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil;  
the Lord accept our prayers,  
and absolve us from our offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
  
*All* **Amen.**

*We stand.*

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

*President* Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

*Romans 5.1,2*

*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you,  
**and also with you.**

*Minister* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange the peace through smiles, waves and handshakes with those around us, as you feel comfortable.*

## **The Offertory Hymn**

*We stand and we sing as the altar is prepared. If you would like to support St Mary's, donations can be made after the service at the back of church using the collection plate or contactless card giving station. If you would like to give regularly to St Mary's please speak to the Treasurer, or one of the Team Wardens.*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*President* The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

*President* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President* It is indeed right and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and saying:

*All* **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.**

*President* Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

*President* 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.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* 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.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

*Minister* Jesus Christ is Lord:

*All* **Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

*President* Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

*All* **Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*We sit or kneel.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*President* Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us to pray:

*All* **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*President* Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup

*All* **we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

*The Agnus Dei may be said as the bread is broken.*

*All* **Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

### **The Giving of Communion**

*President* Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The president will give instructions on how to come forward for communion and on returning to our seats. All are welcome to come to front for the bread and wine or a blessing. If you would like a blessing please keep your arms folded across your chest at you approach the front.*

*The president will dip the wafer in the wine before giving it to you. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask at the altar. During the distribution we sing and music is played.*

***Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,  
Word of the Father, calling us to life;  
Son of God who leads us to freedom:  
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!***

**You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;  
you are the Word who leads us into light;  
you are the Word who brings us through the desert:  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

***Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour...***

**You are the one whom prophets hoped and longed for;  
you are the one who speaks to us today;  
you are the one who leads us to our future:  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
*Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour...***

**You are the Word who calls us to be servants;  
you are the Word whose only law is love;  
you are the Word made flesh who lives among us:  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
*Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour...***

**You are the Word who binds us and unites us;  
you are the Word who calls us to be one;  
you are the Word who teaches us forgiveness:  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
*Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour...***

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## **The Prayer after Communion**

*President* Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
you have given your only Son to be for us  
both a sacrifice for sin  
and also an example of godly life:  
give us grace  
that we may always most thankfully receive  
these his inestimable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour  
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **God of our pilgrimage,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*We stand.*

## The Blessing

*President* May God the Father,  
who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to us a contrite heart.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* May Christ,  
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
heal us by his wounds.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
speak to us words of pardon and peace.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Closing Hymn

*We remain standing and we sing during which we turn to face the back of church as the robed ministers process.*

## The Dismissal

*Minister* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

For more information: [stmaryswalkley.co.uk](http://stmaryswalkley.co.uk)

