



Registered charity no 251394

March 2026



**SPRING
INTO
LENT**



Easter Day falls on April 5th this year, but at the moment the church is preparing for it with this time called LENT – from an old English word ‘Lenten’, meaning Spring, when the days begin to get longer. It’s a time when Christians think about what happened to Jesus. It lasts for 40 days (plus the Sundays), matching the amount of time Jesus spent in the desert preparing himself for the work he had to do. (*Matthew 4:1-11*)

This is also the beginning of Spring, when we begin to see many of our beautiful flowers begin to bloom. The snowdrops were ahead of the game coming out end of January and through February. Now the daffodils, crocuses, hawthorn blossom on the trees and catkins on willows etc are all giving us colour after a very dull and wet winter.

Flowers are often used in Christian art and worship to symbolize aspects of our faith, and are rooted in biblical teachings. For example:



Violets: As a symbol of humility reflect the humble nature of Christ’s life on earth, as well as the humility of the Virgin Mary. When you could still find them growing in the wild, children used to collect them to give to their Mum on Mothering Sunday (coming up on March 15th this year). They have a lovely scent.

Another strongly scented flower is the Lily. White ones are particularly a symbol of purity and are linked to the Virgin Mary. They are often embroidered onto cloths and banners in the church, and many will be used as decorations in flower displays for Easter, again symbolising the purity of Christ despite his crucifixion by the Romans.



Roses come in many colours, but red is a powerful symbol, representing divine love, Christ’s blood, and the Virgin Mary’s sorrow. However, carvings of garlands of roses over high archways in a church were a symbol of heavenly joy. Red roses are still given to loved ones on Valentine’s Day, birthdays etc.

Iris: Another flower linked to the Virgin Mary, the iris has three main parts to its flowerhead and came to signify faith, hope, and wisdom.



Scarlet Anemones: These flowers grow wild on the hillsides where Jesus lived.

Tradition believes that these are the flowers Jesus was referring to when he said to a crowd on a mountainside they should “consider the lilies of the field...”, and that he is pointing out that if God cares for the short-lived flowers he cares more for the people, so they should trust in Him. (*Matthew 6:28*)

Perhaps you could draw, cut out or perhaps use your phone to make some flower pictures to make into a collage and add the words, “THANK YOU GOD FOR SPRINGTIME”.

A Craft for Mothering Sunday – March 15th



In the past, many young people had to go away to work, hired for a year in October. The fourth week of Lent was about halfway through their contract so they were given a day off. Priests encouraged them to visit the church where their family lived. Many would pick wild flowers on the way to give to their mum, who they hadn't seen for half a year. Presents and cards are often given to Mums or carers by children today to show how much they appreciate what is done for them. If you would like to make your own card, and if you have a button tin at home, you might like to make a card like the one in the picture.

You will need to use strong glue to make the buttons stick. If you have some ribbon you could make the bow to stick on, or draw a vase shape. Or you could draw a heart shape on the card and stick the buttons to the outline. In the middle you could write a little message, such as "You are like the buttons, you hold everything together."

The Road to EASTER

A game to guide you through the 40 days of LENT (note: the Sundays are extra).

Colour all the Sunday squares **Purple** except Easter Sunday which could be **GOLD**, and Palm Sunday, **Green**. Then make Good Friday **Dark brown**, and colour squares numbered 10, 17, 25, 29 & 36 in **Red**.

Continue colouring the other squares as you like.

To play: you need a die, and counters for each participant. Start with your first throw and if you land on a **BROWN** or a **RED** square you must go back two squares.

For added fun: have a pack of M&M's or Smarties and players receive one in the colour they have landed on as they go round.

