

## Walking with God through Lent 2025

### 4. Walking away from it all!

When planning the Lent Reflections I had not allowed for Mothering Sunday. Please don't think this week's title suggests abandoning this annual event! Indeed, at St Andrews we will be celebrating the occasion.

Back to Lent... I have become aware of how far our nation is walking away from the Christian way. I recently read an article which distilled what I was thinking, but I couldn't quite articulate. The writer suggested that the prevalent mood is one which wants to preserve the 'fruits of Christianity' whilst neglecting the 'source of those fruits'. In other words good things like 'compassion, justice, trust, stability, security, equality and social cohesion' are retained. On the other hand the God things like 'morality, accountability and self-sacrifice', to which I would add prayer and meeting together, are left behind as inconvenient.

What this means is that Christian witness should be as vibrant as it ever was. The good things mentioned above were instrumental in shaping our laws, our healthcare and the expected norms of how we relate to our neighbours. These things were far from 'self-evident' virtues they were things hard fought for. Whilst it may be honest to concede some of the ungodly ways that the Church has sometimes behaved, in our history, the positive aspects far outweigh them. On giving this issue some thought I was struck by something which I felt was rather telling. The turning away from the faith of Christ in Europe and the UK, has coincided with its diminishing influence around the globe. Coincidence?

This week let's reflect on the positive outcomes of faith in Christ. His example of all the qualities outlined above, including self-sacrifice, are to be celebrated wherever God's Church puts them into practice.

Will I speak up when faith is openly criticised?  
Do I have opportunities to tell of the positives  
of my own faith/church?



Praise due to God, who in Jesus, refused to walk away from humanity!