



From the Curate

The Reverend Sonia Marshall

Dear Friends,

On 11th March we welcome to the Priory Church the Bishop of Grantham for a service at which ten candidates from Deeping St James and two from St Guthlac's, Market Deeping are to be confirmed.

In recent years there has been much debate about the theology of confirmation. It has been asked if the Holy Spirit is at work in us at baptism what then do we believe is happening in confirmation? Many would now say that faith is to be compared with a journey on which there is room for change and development. There is room for growth and transformation, for strengthening and recognition along the way.

Many of us will have been too young to understand promises being made on our behalf by parents and godparents; confirmation gives us the opportunity to make those promises our own and to witness them before others. Confirmation has also been described as 'the lay person's ordination'; the bishop prays more specifically for the Holy Spirit's gifts to strengthen them and equip them for service in Christ's Church. Beyond that, confirmation, through the laying on of hands by the bishop, is an important sign of unity, our links with the wider church beyond our own parish.

It is good to welcome Bishop Tim to our Church again, the more so at this time of vacancy. We hope that as many of you as possible will come to support the candidates on their special day and that you will all hold them in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Sonia Marshall

Our candidates:

Kim Bayley
Sarah Flindall-Alderson
Alessandra Hitchborn

Calum Dawkins
Georgina Gamman
Conor O'Sullivan
Morag Winston

Esther Flindall-Alderson
Vivien Hamilton
Edward Winston

Wardens' World



Richard and John are looking into key roles in the weekly running of the church during the vacancy. Please take a moment to read the list of jobs below, which we have identified, and to contact one of us if you feel able to help in any way. (It should be pointed out that many of these tasks are already well organised and running smoothly but they are included for the sake of completeness as additional help is always welcome).

- Lead person for Church and Churchyard maintenance
- Pew sheet design and print
- Lead person for rotas of worship teams
- Lead person for brasses
- Lead person for flowers
- Lead Verger (weddings)
- Lead Verger (funerals)
- Team leader for baptism visiting
- Asst Churchwardens (additional Sunday morning cover)
- Lead person for counting collections
- Lead person for magazine printing
- Lead person for Vicarage / Church Hall garden maintenance
- Lead person for display boards and welcome cards
- Web co-ordinator
- Lead person for clock maintenance
- Lead person for heating and lighting timers
- Laundry

A suggestion has also been made that we should have a church e-mailing list for general notices etc. If you are interested, please contact John with your e-mail address and ideas of what might be included. We are also hoping to get the church website back into action as soon as possible.

Volunteers are needed to take part in the dramatic Gospel readings on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. If you are interested, please contact John as soon as possible.

Committee News

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee met during February and the main topics discussed were the forthcoming Services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter and the Confirmation Service on Wednesday, March 11th.

The pattern of Services during Lent and Easter will be the same as last year with a combined 9 o'clock Eucharist on Easter Day replacing the separate 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock Services. Children's activities will take place on Good Friday as usual. In case you have any matters to bring to our attention, please contact a committee member.

Worship Committee:
Sonia Marshall (Chair)
Richard Gamman
Roger Bridgeman
Martin Fisher
John Worthington

John Worthington

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee exists to raise awareness of and to support charities, both locally and on a worldwide basis. In the past year it has raised about £1,000. The main events were two craft fairs, which raised the bulk of the money, and a parish walk. More recently, Samaritan's Purse parcels were collected for disadvantaged children and as an ongoing project, clothes and food are collected for the homeless in Peterborough.

Two speakers gave talks in church about their particular charities, Romanian mothers and babies in need and the Church Mission Society.

Amongst others, money has been given to the Aurora Christian Association, Samaritan's Purse (Turn on the Tap), Sight Savers International, Train a Priest, Disasters Emergency Committee (Congo Appeal) and a donation made to Action Aid via Mandy Findell.

Mission Committee:
Cled Bennett (Chair)
Carolyn Herron (Sec)
Pat Feek
Tony Masters
Anne Smart
George Smart
Doris Warner
Victoria Worthington
Sue Marsh

The committee thanks all who have supported its activities.

Cled Bennett

Fabric Committee

We had hoped that 2008 would be a quiet year for the fabric committee. The lighting and heating projects have enhanced the building considerably but sadly we did not have a chance to enjoy them before the dry rot in the roof was discovered. This led to much of 2008 being spent with a scaffolding tower in the Nave and a lot of extra dust spread around the building.

We were also concerned about the rapid deterioration of the path on the South side of the Church and, when this was dug up, our contractor found that most of the drainage pipes had collapsed. Our insurers agreed to cover the cost of repairing the drainage and we now have a beautiful new path that will hopefully last for some years to come.

We would now really appreciate help from as many people as possible to give the Church a thoroughly good clean before Easter. Watch out for the notices in Church and please sign up – just a few minutes would be welcome!

Richard Gamman

Fabric Committee:

Richard Gamman
Simon Marshall
Adrian Hallam
Tim Hitchborn
Mark Roberts

Social Committee

As I am sure you are all aware, your Social Committee has been busy recently running the Plough Supper, the Pancake Party and supporting Mark's Leaving Party. Hopefully you will have enjoyed one or even all of these events which not only support the Christian calendar, but also aim to enrich our social network.

Over the next few months we will be running or supporting the following events as scheduled:

- 11th March: Confirmation Evening.
- 28th March: Lent Lunch.
- 27th April: Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
- 4th July: Music on the Vicarage Lawn.

If you would like any further details about the events, or are thinking of joining the group, then all you need to do is speak to any of the Social Committee members. Hope to see you there!

Johanna Jones

Social Committee:

Tim Hitchborn (Chair)
Johanna Jones
(Dep Chair & Sec)
Linda Sellars
Trevor Harwood
Janet Lill
Bill Flegg
Margaret Flegg
Sue Marsh
Simon Marshall

Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer Service will be held at the Priory Church on Friday March 6th at 2pm. This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Papua New Guinea.

The speaker will be the Rev Ann Bossingham from the Methodist Church. This is an ecumenical service and all are welcome to attend.

Women's World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, organised and led by Christian women who call the faithful together on the first Friday in March each year to observe a common day of prayer and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

For more information, please visit their website: www.wwdp-natcomm.org



News from the Tower

The ringers annual dinner was held at The Golden Pheasant, Etton on 24th January. There were 24 ringers and their guests present and a good evening was had by all.

Mark Warrick's induction to All Saints church in Stamford was held on 28th January. Eight Deeping St James ringers rang for the service with some of the local band. After the service we retired to the church hall where refreshments were available. The Deeping St James ringers made a small presentation of mounted peal cards of memorable events for the Warrick family which we had celebrated by ringing quarter peals.

As reported in the last issue, our AGM was held in the ringing chamber on 13th February.

17 persons attended and various issues were discussed and recorded. Progress of learners was praised and commented on. (Well done to our 3 junior learners). Thanks were also expressed to the team that organise the ringing functions.

We now look forward to the tasks and challenges laid out by the meeting, and the outings that our "Social Secretary" might come up with.

Why not join our lively team of ringers on Friday evenings between 7:30 and 9:00pm at the Priory Church?

Contact Richard, Brenda or Mike.

Christian Aid

Mandy Loveder was our guest speaker in church on 22nd February, talking about Christian Aid and her work in the Philippines. I compiled this summary of her excellent talk from her notes.

Poverty is not a number and, in the words of Nelson Mandela, “overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity, it is an act of justice”.

Christian Aid was originally called “Christian Reconstruction in Europe”, established in 1945. In 1964 its name changed. The organisation has six hundred partners in fifty countries. These local organisations are already on the scene when disaster strikes. For example, we have partners that we have worked with for twenty years in Burma, so, when the tragedy struck, they were able to provide shelters, food and essentials. These partners understand the culture, they know the politics and they know how to deliver the real, practical benefits that people need. Most of all, they’re there for the long term.

Our partners tell us stories of hardship and disaster, of change and heroism, of the tenacity and resolve it takes to survive and the victory of building a life.

All our work and the work of our partners is governed by the Red Cross / Red Crescent Code of Conduct. This code commits us to giving aid on the basis of need alone, regardless of ethnicity, religion or nationality. We are independent of governments and institutions, impartial in the allocation of aid and relief, and neutral in conflict as a humanitarian agency.

In January 2007 I visited the Philippines with four other UK based staff as an exposure trip for Christian Aid looking at what the partners we fund there actually do. What I saw was a determination to rebuild lives that had been shattered by mining companies plundering natural resources: communities challenging the rights of businesses to try to mine the area. I witnessed the hope of a whole community that is pulling itself up and out of poverty and the devastation of being buried under mud slides and logs in 2004, to live and prosper again.

That’s why we need your help to continue raising money to fund our partners’ needs. Last year we raised around £14,000 with £1,000 of Gift Aid during one week: a fantastic amount.

Christian Aid, the charity of your church, has enabled these amazing achievements. Please continue to support us.

Bet Washbrooke

To find out more about the important work being carried out by Christian Aid, please visit their website:

www.christianaid.org.uk

PARISH DIRECTORY

Assistant District Dean	The Reverend Peter Garland	peter@stjohnsspalding.org
Curate	The Reverend Sonia Marshall	curate@dsj.org.uk
Churchwardens	Tony Masters Richard Gamman	churchwarden@dsj.org.uk
Assistant Churchwardens	John Worthington Roger Bridgeman	
Parochial Church Council		
Chairman	Martin Fisher	chairman@dsj.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	Adrian Hallam	
Hon. Secretary	Roger Bridgeman	
Hon. Treasurer	Simon Marshall	treasurer@dsj.org.uk
Covenant Secretary	Peter Wilde	
Electoral Roll Officer	Richard Gamman	
Synod Members		
Diocesan Synod	Canon Niccy Fisher <i>The above plus</i> The Reverend Sonia Marshall	
Deanery Synod	Simon Marshall Cled Bennett Ian Templeton	
Choir Master	John Worthington	music@dsj.org.uk
Temporary Organist	Philip Spratley	
Organisations		
Bellringers	Richard Muspratt The Reverend Sonia Marshall	ringers@dsj.org.uk
Bible Study Group	Bill Flegg	churchhall@dsj.org.uk
Church Hall Bookings	Anthea Wray	
Church Ladies' Fellowship	Carole Mills Margaret Flegg	
Church Coffee Group	Pauline Brooksbank Christine Masters	
Church Flowers	Doris Warner	
House Group		
Rose & Sweet Pea Show		roseandsweetpea@dsj.org.uk
Junior Church		juniorchurch@dsj.org.uk
Explorers	Ian Templeton	
Scramblers & Climbers	Andrea Gamman	
Priory News		priorynews@dsj.org.uk
Editor	Bet Washbrooke	
Advertising	John Marsh	
Printing	John Worthington	
Distribution	Doris Bellairs	
General Information	John Worthington	info@dsj.org.uk

CHURCH CALENDAR

1ST	SUNDAY	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 8:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Plainsong Evensong
2nd	Monday	David, Patron of Wales, 601 (<i>Transferred from March 1st</i>) 11:30am Funeral of Ena (Elizabeth) Davies 7:30pm Parochial Church Council Lent Groups begin
5th	Thursday	9:30am Holy Communion 6:00pm Junion Choir, Cranmore Farmhouse
6th	Friday	2:00pm United Service for Women's World Day of Prayer at the Priory Church Practice Night 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm Ringers
7th	Saturday	Perpetua, Felicity and companions, martyrs, 203 Noon – 1:30pm Lent Lunch at the Catholic Church
8TH	SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910 8:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Sung Eucharist and Holy Baptism 6:00pm Evening Prayer
9th	Monday	7:30pm Churches Together meeting at Exeter Close
11th	Wednesday	7:30pm Parish Communion with Confirmation (The Bishop of Grantham)
12th	Thursday	9:30am Holy Communion 6:00pm Junion Choir, Cranmore Farmhouse
13th	Friday	Practice Night 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm Ringers
14th	Saturday	Noon - 1:30pm Lent Lunch at St Guthlac's Church
15TH	SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 8:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evening Prayer

FOR MARCH 2009

17 th	Tuesday	Patrick, Patron of Ireland, Missionary, 460
18 th	Wednesday	Cyril, teacher, 386
19 th	Thursday	Joseph of Nazareth 9:30am Holy Communion
20 th	Friday	Cuthbert, bishop, missionary, 687 Practice Night 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm Ringers
21 st	Saturday	Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop & Martyr, 1555 Noon – 1:30pm Lent Lunch at the Methodist Church
22ND	SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (MOTHERING SUNDAY) 8:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evening Prayer
24 th	Tuesday	Walter Hilton, Mystic, 1396
25th	Wednesday	The Annunciation Of The Blessed Virgin Mary
26 th	Thursday	9:30am Holy Communion
27 th	Friday	Practice Night 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm Ringers
28 th	Saturday	Noon – 1:30pm Lent Lunch in the Priory Church Hall
29TH	SUNDAY	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (PASSION SUNDAY) 8:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evening Prayer
30 th	Monday	Spring Cleaning Starts - All Welcome! 7:30pm Parochial Church Council
31 st	Tuesday	John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631



READINGS FOR MARCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT				
1st	Morning	Genesis 9: 8 - 17	1 Peter 3: 18 - end	Mark 1: 9 - 15
	Evening	Psalm 119: 17-32	Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7	Luke 13: 31-end
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT				
8th	Morning	Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16	Romans 4: 13-end (8:00am only)	Mark 8: 31-end
	PARISH COMMUNION WITH CONFIRMATION			
11th	7:30pm	Ezekiel 36: 24-28	1 Corinthians 12: 4-13	John 7: 37-39a
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT				
15th	Morning	Exodus 20: 1-17	1 Corinthians 1: 18-25	John 2: 13-22
	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (MOTHERING SUNDAY)			
22nd	Morning	1 Samuel 1: 20-end	Colossians 3: 12-17	John 19: 25b-27
	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (PASSION SUNDAY)			
29th	Morning	Jeremiah 31: 31-34	Hebrews 5: 5-10	John 12: 20-33
	PALM SUNDAY			
5th Apr	Morning	Isaiah 50: 4-9a	Philippians 2: 5-11	Mark 14: 1 - 15: end



HOME GROUPS

All are welcome

The Bible Study Group: Fridays, 10:00am

House Group: Wednesdays, 7:30pm

ROTAS FOR MARCH

		Servers	Acolytes	S/Persons
1 st	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong		George Knowles
	10:00am	Simon Marshall Chris Halley	Rebecca Fay	A
	6:00pm	John Sellars		
8 th	8:00am	Paul Boswall		Jessie Turner
	10:00am	Simon Marshall John Sellars		B
11 th	Parish Communion with Confirmation			
	7:30pm	Geoff Armstrong John Sellars		
15 th	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong		Jim Haw
	10:00am	Simon Marshall Chris Halley		C
22 nd	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong		Ken Rimmer
	10:00am	Paul Boswall John Sellars	Georgina Hendriene	D
29 th	8:00am	Paul Boswall		Rita Gostick
	10:00am	Simon Marshall Chris Halley		E
5 th Apr	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong		Bet Washbrooke
	10:00am	Simon Marshall John Sellars		F

		Readers		Inter-cessions	Bread & Wine
		OT	NT		
1 st	10:00am	Nicky Fisher	Trevor Harwood	John Marsh	Pat Feek Doris Warner
8 th	10:00am		Bet Washbrooke	Tony Masters	Cled & Ann Bennett
15 th	10:00am	Tony Masters	John Marsh	Richard Gamman	Peter & Val Wilde
22 nd	10:00am	Jacob Boswall	Cled Bennett	Sonia Marshall	Doris Bellairs Christine Masters
29 th	10:00am	Martin Fisher	Ann Bennett	Martin Fisher	Christine Payne Ann Meekings
5 th Apr	10:00am	Adrian Hallam	Liz Bridgeman	Nicky Fisher	Carole Mills Joy Cunningham

ROTAS FOR MARCH (CONTINUED)

	Sunday Coffee	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning	Brasses
1 st	Pat Feek Doris Warner	LENT	Janet Lill	
8 th	Liz Spratley	LENT		
15 th	Diane Templeton Johanna Jones	LENT	Dick & Anthea Wray	Pat Feek Chris Payne
22 nd	Val Wilde Doris Bellairs	LENT		
29 th	Liz Spratley Maureen Brown	LENT		
30 th			SPRING CLEANING	
5 th Apr	Ann Bennett Penny Hebblewhite	LENT		



REGISTERS FOR JANUARY

FUNERALS: *We commend to God's keeping*

- 5th John Anthony Holman, followed by cremation at Peterborough
- 6th Danielle Beaver (14), followed by burial in Market Deeping Cemetery
- 23rd Rosina Joyce Hayes (86), followed by cremation at Peterborough

To Be A Pilgrim

Reach out to the sun and moon,
Reach out to the world.
Let the love of your life
Illumine all you see:
The never changing love of God
That came, in the body of Christ,
To set His people free.

Betty Mates

News from Children's Church

This month we have been learning about God's faithfulness through the stories of Isaac and Abraham. We made pictures of our favourite things because Abraham, Isaac's father loved Isaac best.

Last Sunday we looked at Mandy's pictures of Nepal and they reminded us of our giving and how we must try to help others.

Helena Gamman

Explorers (7 - 11), Climbers (5 - 7) and Scramblers (under 5) meet every Sunday morning (except during the summer holiday period) at 9.50am in the church hall. They join older worshippers in church for their blessing, final hymn and refreshments. New members are always welcome.

**For more details, please contact:
Andrea (Climbers & Scramblers)
or Ian (Explorers).**



Carol and Hymn Corner

More on Carols

When there is a moment to spare, take a look in the hymn book section under authors and translators. The contributions by the Wesley brothers and Watts are long and impressive but pride of place in many people's mind is that of John Mason Neale, 1818-66. There is scarcely a Sunday when we do not sing one of his hymn translations.



John Mason Neale
1818-1866

Neale's work was crammed into a short life of only 48 years and was created during bouts of ill health due to lung trouble. At Cambridge he won the Seatonian prize for a sacred poem eleven times. After being ordained he was presented to the living of Crawley, Sussex but ill health forced him to go to Madeira for warmth and relief. A remarkable library there helped him store up material for his books and translations. On returning to England this gentle and talented man experienced perpetual opposition from his bishop and thus took up a position of Warden at an old people's home at the princely salary of £27 per annum. His association with the Tractarians, (people who wished for a closer relationship with Rome) did him

no favours. Fellow sympathisers included John Keble and John (later Cardinal) Newman.

Our story now moves back in time and to the most unlikely place of Finland, or Swedish speaking Finland to be exact. In 1582 Petri Ruutha, a Finnish student in Rostock near Lubeck, decided to compile a book of popular tunes from a wide variety of sources and of different seasons. Some were already very old and known throughout Europe as they are today. Most of these tunes would be recognised by our congregation immediately. It is possible that Ruutha's idea was to use the relatively new invention of printing to enable these to prosper and be enjoyed. He produced two beautiful copies both covered and bound.

In 1852, one of these copies, and for reasons unknown, was given to the British Minister in Stockholm (G J R Gordon) who brought it back to England and it now resides in the British Museum. The Minister gave it to Neale and his friend Thomas Helmore (Vice-Principal of St. Mark's College, Chelsea) to see what they could make of it.

This book, called *Piae Cantiones*, contains gems such as, *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, *Unto us a Boy is born*, *Up Good Christen Folk*, *God is Love* (*Personent Hodie*), *Gabriel's Message*, etc. etc. It also contains the *Flower Carol for Spring*, which Neale used for his poem, *Good King Wenceslas*.

Unfortunately this is Neale's biggest lapse and the poem, which can only be described as doggerel, is unworthy of such a great man. In fact there never was a King Wenceslas. The earliest Christian Prince in Prague was Bonjov. Prince Vaclav, or Wenceslas, was never a King. He was only good in comparison to his evil brother who had him killed at the age of twenty two. It would be better if we could sing this tune as a hymn (carol) which begins:-

'Spring has now unwrapped the flowers, Day is fast reviving,
Life in all her growing powers Towards the light is striving;
Gone the iron touch of cold, Winter time and frost time,
Seedlings, working through the mould, Now make up for lost time.'

We must, however, end on a positive note: Gerald Moutrie when a young man visited Neale at Crawley on the same day as John Keble, Neale's senior by 36 years. Keble had just published his poems called *Christian Year*. He had to leave the room for some minutes and on his return Neale challenged him about the originality of one of his poems. Keble protested saying they were all original whereupon Neale showed Keble a Latin version, word for word of one of Keble's hymns. Keble was utterly dumbfounded (gob-smacked in modern parlance). Neale then revealed his prank. In the short space that Keble was out of the room Neale had translated the poem and versified it. He was a very remarkable man and one for whom we owe a great deal of thanks.

(To be continued)
Philip Spratley



Cooking With Margaret

SMOKED SALMON & CELERIAC BAKE

Serves 6 (may be adjusted to suit)



Ingredients

- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 small celeriac about 650g
- 2 medium baking potatoes
- 2 x 125g packs of sliced smoked salmon
- small handful of dill, chopped
- 1 onion finely sliced
- 284ml carton double cream

Method

1. Preheat oven to 200°C/Gas 6.
2. Pour the lemon juice into a large bowl.
3. Peel and quarter the celeriac, cut into slices the thickness of a £1 coin and toss into the lemon juice.
4. Peel and thinly slice the potatoes and toss with the celeriac.
5. Layer the celeriac, potatoes and salmon slices in an ovenproof dish, sprinkling dill, onion and cream over each layer together with a little salt and plenty of black pepper. You should have 3 layers of vegetables with 2 layers of salmon, onion and dill.
6. Finish with the remaining cream.
7. Cover the dish with foil, place on a baking tray and bake for 45 minutes
8. Uncover and bake for 30 – 40 minutes more until the vegetables feel tender when pierced and the top is golden.
9. Cool slightly before serving.

Thank you to those who have sent in articles for Priory News. Contributions and suggestions are very welcome. Please let us have your prayers, poems, reminiscences and anything else you'd like to share.

Please note that the deadline for copy to be included in the April edition of Priory News is **Friday 20th March.**



Bishop's Letter

Let's give it up for Lent

We give up things for Lent, but at the same time Lent is about never giving up. It sounds as though we have got ourselves into a bit of a muddle about what Lent is for, but if we have then there is a good reason why.

On the one hand, Lent recalls Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness where he lived on very little, kept himself to himself and concentrated on preparing body and soul for the journey ahead of him. The least we can do is walk with him on wilderness way as a token of our commitment to follow him even at some cost to ourselves. So we use Lent as a time to give up something which matters to us in order to identify with Jesus in his period of abstinence.

On the other hand, the story which emerges most powerfully from Jesus' time in the wilderness is the story of his temptations. Tormented by hunger he was tempted to turn stones into bread; teased by the prospect of power he was tempted to pay the devil homage; tested by the opportunity to put on a spectacular demonstration of his divine nature he was tempted to throw himself off the Temple parapet into the arms of his guardian angels.

But he resisted all these temptations to give up on his allotted task and so give in to the allure of power, possessions and prestige which so besmirch the image of God in those he was sent to save. That is why Lent is also a time to strengthen our resolve and reinforce our defences against "sin, the world and the devil" to use the time-honoured words of the Baptism Service. It is sometimes tough to live the life of true discipleship, but the lesson of Lent is that we must never give up.

Of course, giving up and not giving up are not mutually exclusive alternatives. By joining Jesus in his time of abstinence we are also joining with him in his campaign of resistance. We give things up so as to concentrate on the spiritual resources we need to never give up on his call to carry our cross and follow him through the valley of death and onwards to the gate of glory.

We give up things for Lent, but at the same time Lent is about never giving up.

+ John Lincoln