

Lent Knitalong 2025 - introductory information

Welcome to Victoria Methodist Church's Lent 2025 Mystery Knitalong!

This year we will be knitting a textured lap blanket, using chunky weight yarn. This is a mystery knitalong, which means knitters won't know the finished design in advance; this will be revealed as we go!

This document outlines how the knitalong will run, including release dates, yarn/needles etc required, and patterns for two swatches. It is also accompanied by a video, which shows demonstrations of some of the techniques used, which might be helpful to less experienced knitters.

RELEASE DATES

The Knitalong will run as in previous years: knitters on the mailing list will receive weekly emails throughout Lent, containing daily knitting instructions with reflections/meditations.

The same weekly documents will also be uploaded in the dedicated Facebook group and on Ravelry and the Church's website (see below).

The schedule for the weekly releases is as follows:

Week one will be released on Monday 3rd March, ready for the Knitalong to start on Ash Wednesday 5th March.

The following six weeks will be released on Fridays, (from 7th March) ready for the following week's knitting which starts each Sunday.

The final release will be on Friday 11th April, ready for Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday, 13th April.

The knitting will finish on Good Friday, so knitters can cast off and block their blankets if they like, ready for Easter Day on 20th April, but the reflections will run right up to Easter Day.

As in previous years, those who are planning to print off copies for others/distribute to large groups can sign up to receive the emails a little early - contact Lyn on lynljdesigns@gmail.com

DAILY KNITTING: WHAT TO EXPECT

Knitters will be working with 129 stitches on their needles throughout the project, and will generally be working 5 rows each day (occasionally 6 rows if it is simpler knitting; the more difficult/busy sections will tend to have fewer rows per day.)

The pattern is made up almost entirely of simple knit and purl stitches (with a few optional bobbles - see below), thus the actual knitting is quite straightforward, but there is quite a lot of counting (made a lot easier with stitch markers!)

If using stitch markers is new to you, this is demonstrated in the accompanying video and there is an opportunity to practise using these when knitting Swatch A below.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE DOCUMENTS

There are several ways to access the weekly documents for the Lent Knitalong:

To receive the documents by **EMAIL** please contact Vicky at learning@vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk or sign up to our mailing list directly on the church website at <https://www.vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk/knitalongs/>. (No need to sign up if you're already on our mailing list!) Please note that the emails can sometimes end up in spam folders - if you don't initially see the emails in your inbox, please check in your spam; any issues, contact Vicky at learning@vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk.

The documents will also be uploaded weekly in the dedicated **FACEBOOK** group. This is a lovely online community, with knitters from all over the world, and is a place where knitters can share queries, tips and progress pictures, and discuss the reflections, as well as access the knitalong documents. You would be very welcome to join us:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/922609695285370>

Users of **RAVELRY** can find the documents linked on there: search for 'Lent Knitalong Blanket'.

Finally(!) the Knitalong documents will also be available to download from Victoria Methodist Church's **WEBSITE** here: <https://www.vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk/lent-knitalong-2025/>

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO TAKE PART:

YARN/NEEDLES

The Lent blanket has been designed to be knitted in chunky weight yarn (approximately 100 - 140 metres per 100 grams). If knitted in this weight, you will need approximately 700 - 900 grams (or 1,000 metres) of chunky yarn in a **SOLID** colour. If knitted at a gauge of 15

stitches/20 rows per 10 cm stocking stitch square, the blanket will measure approximately 112 cm tall by 86 cm wide.

The blanket can also be knitted in DK weight yarn if preferred. This would obviously give a smaller end result (approximately 80 cm tall by 64 cm wide) so the finished project might be more suitable as, for example, a large table mat or a wall hanging. To knit it in DK yarn, you'll need approximately 200 - 350 grams (or 700 metres) of DK yarn in a solid colour.

Knitters will need a circular needle of approximately 100 cm cable length, in 5.5mm for working with chunky yarn, (or 4mm for working with DK.) Tighter knitters might like to try a needle one size larger; those who tend to knit loosely might want to size down. NB the blanket is knitted flat; the circular needle is just needed for its length due to the width of the knitting.

Please do check you're happy with your gauge/fabric produced with your chosen needle size by knitting the swatch(es) below and adapting if necessary.

STITCH MARKERS

Six stitch markers will be useful to help keep track of where you are in the pattern.

YARN/NEEDLE KITS

As before, No Frills Knitting, the lovely yarn shop in Bristol, are offering kits to knitters based in the UK.

Kits are offered in two different beautiful yarns, and a variety of colourways, and contain yarn, a circular knitting needle, stitch markers and a darning needle (and are excellent value!)

Kit options include Stylecraft Recreate Chunky, which is a lovely recycled yarn in a selection of colours (and the big sister of the very popular Recreate DK used in the shawl last Lent). This yarn is now sadly discontinued, so there are limited kits available, and once they're gone, they're gone! Recreate kits can be found here:

<https://www.nofrillsknitting.co.uk/products/lent-knit-along-2025-starter-pack-stylecraft-recreate-chunky>

Kits are also being offered in a beautiful undyed chunky merino, which is a really luxury option! The merino kits can be found here:

<https://www.nofrillsknitting.co.uk/products/lent-knit-along-starter-kit-2025-luxury-merino-chunky>

THE KNITTING ITSELF!

There are two swatch patterns below. It is recommended that knitters work Swatch A to ensure that they have got the best needle size for their chosen yarn. When completed, the swatch should be blocked as below and once dried, knitters can see whether they are happy with the fabric produced.

If the textured pattern seems a bit loose/undefined, try reknitting the swatch with a smaller needle size. If the fabric seems quite stiff and tight, consider using a larger needle size.

The main Lent pattern has optional bobbles in a few places. If knitters would like to work these, then it is suggested that they work Swatch B to practise the bobbles (method below for those new to bobbles!)

Knitters might like to keep their finished swatches to hand, in case they run out of yarn later on and need to unravel/reuse the yarn from the swatches!

GAUGE

If these swatches are knitted in chunky weight yarn as per the previously stated gauge, the approximate measurements of the finished, blocked swatches will be:

Swatch A: 24 cm x 15 cm

Swatch B: 18 cm x 11 cm

But these measurements are just a guide, as chunky yarns seem to vary greatly in their thickness; far more important than matching the sizes given here is finding a gauge that gives a pleasing fabric and shows the pattern well.

BLOCKING

Cast off all stitches loosely and wet block as follows: soak the swatch for half an hour or so in lukewarm water (a small amount of wool wash can be added if you like) and then gently squeeze out the excess water. Lay the swatch out to dry on a towel or blocking mat, and pull into a rectangle shape, using blocking pins to secure if you have any.

Leave to dry fully before unpinning; sew/weave in loose ends.

STITCHES

K = knit

P = purl

P2tog = purl the next two stitches together into one stitch (this is only used when making bobbles)

pm = place a stitch marker

sm = slip stitch marker

YO = yarn over

(Left-handed knitters, please reverse these instructions!)

In both swatch patterns and the Lent blanket, odd numbered rows will be the front/right side of the work; even numbered rows will be the back/wrong side. Swatch A also uses two stitch markers.

SWATCH A PATTERN

Cast on 23 stitches (the stitch count stays the same throughout).

Rows 1 - 2. Knit all stitches.

Rows 3 - 5. (K1, P1) x 11, K1.

Row 6. K1, P1, K1, P17, K1, P1, K1.

Note: two stitch markers are placed on the following row.

Row 7. K1, P1, K5, pm, K9, pm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 8. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 9. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P5, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 10. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 11. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 12. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 13. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 14. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 15. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 16. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 17. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 18. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 19. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 20. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 21. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 22. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 23. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 24. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 25. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 26. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 27. K1, P1, K3, P2, sm, P3, K3, P3, sm, P2, K3, P1, K1.

Row 28. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P4, K1, P4, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 29. K1, P1, K3, P1, K1, sm, K3, P1, K1, P1, K3, sm, K1, P1, K3, P1, K1.

Row 30. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P2, (K1, P1) x 2, K1, P2, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 31. K1, P1, K3, P1, K1, sm, K3, P1, K1, P1, K3, sm, K1, P1, K3, P1, K1.

Row 32. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P4, K1, P4, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 33. K1, P1, K3, P2, sm, P3, K3, P3, sm, P2, K3, P1, K1.

Row 34. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 35. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 36. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 37. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 38. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Row 39. K1, P1, K5, sm, K2, P5, K2, sm, K5, P1, K1.

Row 40. K1, P1, K1, P4, sm, P9, sm, P4, K1, P1, K1.

Note: stitch markers are removed on the following row.

Row 41. K1, P1, K19 (removing stitch markers as you go), P1, K1.

Row 42. K1, P1, K1, P17, K1, P1, K1.

Rows 43 - 45. (K1, P1) x 11, K1.

Rows 46 - 47. Knit all stitches.

Cast off all stitches loosely and block as described above.

SWATCH B PATTERN

This swatch gives knitters an opportunity to practise knitting bobbles. In this pattern (and the Lent blanket) they are only worked on the front/right side.

If knitters have worked bobbles before and have a method they prefer they are encouraged to use that (and there are many tutorials available on YouTube), but first time knitters of bobbles might like to try the following technique, which is also demonstrated in the Welcome video:

https://youtu.be/LL_T_9CHs1o

To make a bobble there are five steps, as follows:

1. When you are ready to work the bobble, you need to make 5 stitches out of the next stitch as follows: K1, YO, K1, YO, K1 into the same stitch, without dropping the stitches off the end of the needle.
2. Turn the work (so the back of the work is now facing you) and P5.
3. Turn the work and K5.
4. Turn the work and P2tog, P1, P2tog (the bobble now has 3 stitches).
5. Turn the work and K3, then those last 3 knitted stitches need to be reduced as follows: bring the penultimate stitch just worked on the right needle over the last stitch and drop off the end of the right needle, and repeat this. The bobble should now be reduced back to one stitch. Make sure the extra fabric created by the bobble is sitting nicely on the front of the work, and continue with the pattern, taking care to work the next couple of stitches fairly tightly so that the bobble stays firmly in place.

Cast on 17 stitches (the stitch count stays the same throughout).

Rows 1 - 2. Knit all stitches.

Rows 3 - 5. (K1, P1) x 8, K1.

Row 6. K1, P1, K1, P11, K1, P1, K1.

Row 7. K1, P1, K13, P1, K1.

Row 8. K1, P1, (K1, P5) x 2, K1, P1, K1.

Row 9. K1, P1, K5, P1, K1, P1, K5, P1, K1.

Row 10. K1, P1, (K1, P3) x 3, K1, P1, K1.

Row 11. K1, P1, K3, P1, K5, P1, K3, P1, K1.

Row 12. K1, P1, K1, P11, K1, P1, K1.

Row 13. K1, P1, K3, P1, K2, make bobble
(see above), K2, P1, K3, P1, K1.

Row 14. K1, P1, K1, P11, K1, P1, K1.

Row 15. K1, P1, K3, P1, K5, P1, K3, P1,
K1.

Row 16. K1, P1, (K1, P3) x 3, K1, P1, K1.

Row 17. K1, P1, K5, P1, K1, P1, K5, P1,
K1.

Row 18. K1, P1, (K1, P5) x 2, K1, P1, K1.

Row 19. K1, P1, K5, P1, K1, P1, K5, P1,
K1.

Row 20. K1, P1, (K1, P3) x 3, K1, P1, K1.

Row 21. K1, P1, K3, P1, K5, P1, K3, P1,
K1.

Row 22. K1, P1, K1, P11, K1, P1, K1.

Row 23. K1, P1, K3, P1, K2, make bobble,
K2, P1, K3, P1, K1.

Row 24. K1, P1, K1, P11, K1, P1, K1.

Row 25. K1, P1, K3, P1, K5, P1, K3, P1,
K1.

Row 26. K1, P1, (K1, P3) x 3, K1, P1, K1.

Row 27. K1, P1, K5, P1, K1, P1, K5, P1,
K1.

Row 28. K1, P1, (K1, P5) x 2, K1, P1, K1.

(If you would like your swatch to be longer,
or want to keep practising making bobbles,
repeat rows 19 - 28 here, as many times as
you'd like, then continue from row 29.)

Row 29. K1, P1, K13, P1, K1.

Row 30. K1, P1, K1, P11, K1, P1, K1.

Rows 31 - 33. (K1, P1) x 8, K1.

Rows 34 - 35. Knit all stitches.

Cast off all stitches loosely and block as described above.

PRAYER

Eternal God,

the same yesterday, today and for ever,

as we join together this Lent from all parts of the world, from all walks and stages of life,
from all backgrounds and traditions,

may we be enveloped by your Spirit bringing us peace as we knit and reflect, as we
remember again your love poured out for us and your presence in the world both now and
in centuries past.

Amen.

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