

# KEYNOTES



**February 2025**  
**£1.50**

# **THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER'S, WEST BLATCHINGTON**

**Rector** The Rev Tim Gage  
The Rectory  
23 Windmill Close  
Hove, BN3 7LJ

**Tel:** 01273 270427

**Email:** rector.westblatchington@gmail.com

**Thursday is ordinarily the Rector's rest day; however please do not hesitate to contact him in the event of a pastoral emergency. Please refer all other urgent matters to the Churchwardens.**

**CURATE** Rev Jan Butter      Tel: 07889 400889

**Email:** westblatchingtoncurate@outlook.com

**CHURCHWARDENS** Jonathan Cooke      Tel: 07973 851174

David Keeling      Tel: 01273 501504

**HON. TREASURER** Mandy Gander      Tel: 01273 271982

**CENTRE BOOKINGS** Maria Williams      Tel: 01273 721918

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**Sick Visiting** Carol Gander      Tel: 01273 555414

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## PARISH EVENTS DIARY

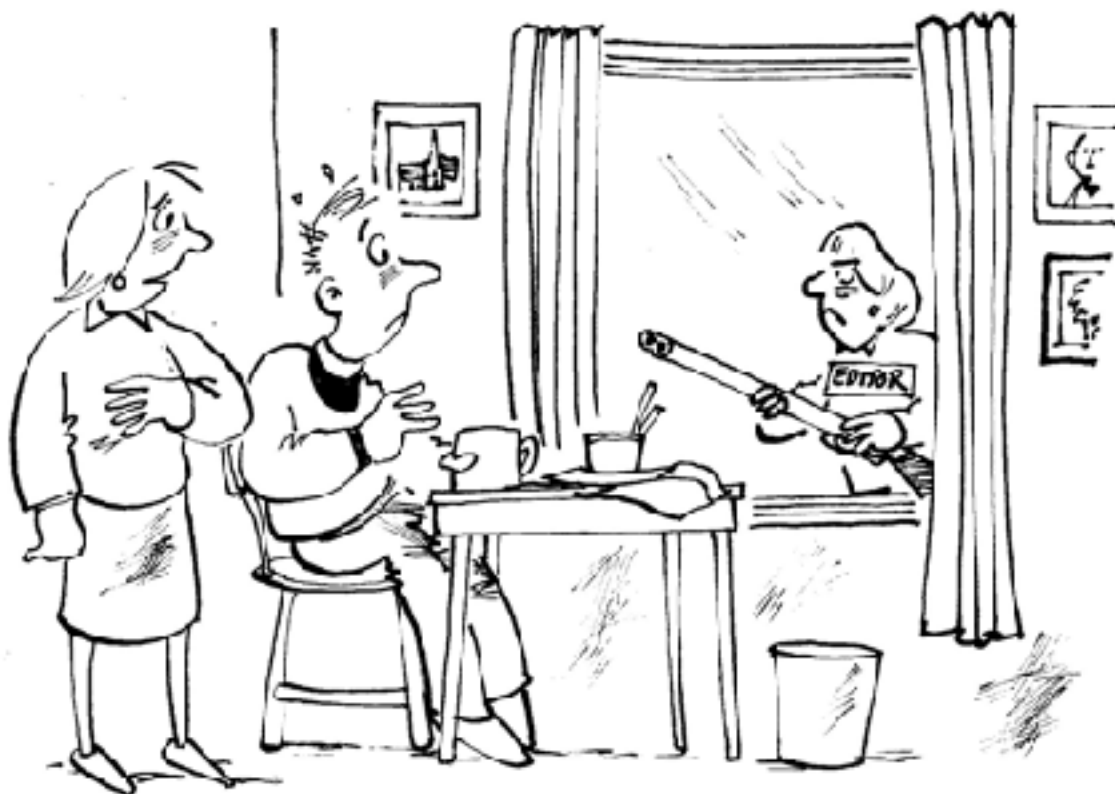
The following events taking place in February and March as notified are:

Free lunchtime Concert - Friday 21st February - 1.10pm  
Caroline and Zhanna - soprano and piano

Free lunchtime concert - Friday 21st March - 1.10pm  
Michael Maine - organ recital

Please continue to keep us informed of events that you have planned or know about by sending a message to our email address which is [stpetersadmin@zoho.com](mailto:stpetersadmin@zoho.com)

The deadline for the March issue is the 6th February



*...are you late with your 'Vicar's Letter' again, dear?*

## EDITORIAL

To all our Keynotes readers the editorial team would like to wish you all a very warm welcome to 2025, and our first edition of Keynotes published this year.

We hope that you all enjoyed your Christmas celebrations and especially to those of you who came to the Christmas services we hope you enjoyed the varied and very busy times spent in our lovely church. The services were very well attended, and each provided a very different but meaningful way of celebrating our Saviour's birth. Special mention must go to the Crib and Christingle service on Christmas Eve where over 140 people came, children dressed up as nativity characters and Rev Tim made an appearance as an orange in a giant inflatable outfit. It was memorable to say the least! We thank him very much for all his enthusiasm and hard work.

The last year was very busy with many activities taking place in the church and community centre each one adding positively to the life of our church and family. Some were familiar events such as the Summer and Christmas Fairs which saw large numbers of people attending and record amounts of monies being raised. Some new events also took place such as the "bake-off" where cakes were decorated in amazing designs, the craft afternoon where a huge variety of creative "sea-life" emerged and a wreath making workshop which saw members of the community coming together with church members to help each other and work together to produce beautiful wreaths.

On 21<sup>st</sup> February in the church is the next lunchtime concert where we welcome Caroline and Zhanna a soprano and pianist. Please continue to support these amazing concerts.

In this coming year we would very much appreciate articles from more people. Do you have a particular interest or knowledge of a local place or holiday adventures you would like to share, if so, please let us know. Please also encourage others to read this magazine and perhaps join in subscribing to Keynotes.

Editorial Team



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## RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

### Be Counted Among Us: Join the Electoral Roll

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

– 1 Corinthians 12:27

Did you know that being on the Church of England's electoral roll isn't just a box-ticking exercise? It's a declaration of belonging, faith, and commitment to your church family.

While the name "electoral roll" might not sound particularly spiritual, the act of joining is deeply significant—it's about saying, *"I'm in."*

When you sign up, you're not just adding your name to a list. You're stepping into your role as a vital part of the body of Christ. Every name on the roll represents a unique person, wonderfully made in God's image, who has an irreplaceable role in our church community.

### Why Join the Electoral Roll?

- **Commitment:** It shows you're serious about being part of our church family and supporting our mission to share Christ's love in our parish and beyond.
- **Representation:** You'll have a say in important decisions, like appointing churchwardens.
- **Growth:** A thriving electoral roll demonstrates that we're an engaged, active congregation. It also strengthens grant and funding applications to support our ministry.
- **New for 2025:** We're excited to introduce a new initiative to support every member of the electoral roll. By connecting you with your own small group, we aim to provide enhanced support, pastoral care, fellowship, and a deeper sense of belonging within our church family.

### Who Can Join?

If you're over 16, baptized, and either live in the parish of West Blatchington or have attended services at St. Peter's for at least six months, you're eligible! Members of other Christian churches that subscribe to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity can also join if they declare their desire to support the Church of England's mission.

## Take Your Place in the Body of Christ

As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians, we are all interconnected as members of Christ's body. Without each one of us, the church is incomplete. Your voice, your faith, and your presence matter here at St. Peter's.

So, will you take this step of commitment to Christ and your church family?

Speak to Pam Miles, our Electoral Roll Officer, or grab an application form from the church today.

With every blessing,

Rev Tim Gage

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## **WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP**

Christmas has gone and most of us have put the decorations away and hopefully are reflecting on the special time we have had.

In November, 18 of us went to the Hassocks Garden Centre to have our annual pre-Christmas lunch. We sat down to a Turkey meal followed by either Christmas pudding or chocolate orange tart. We were well looked after by Katy and her team and the food was good and the company great.

The Christmas fair at the end of November was a great success and our tombola stall was as popular as ever. It was littered with super gifts that were generously donated by our Ladies and we were not short of helpers on the day.

With December came our special Preparation for Christmas service in Church. A special thank you to Rev Tim for guiding us through it and for accompanying us on guitar with the music. After we had coffee, mince pies and sausage rolls ably provided by Pam and Sandy. It was also great that we raised £56 for our charity, Plot 22.

Now we look forward to 2025.

We were pleased to hear that our dear Janet was back in her home for Christmas. Unfortunately, two of our lovely ladies had falls, both suffering from breaks. Jean is still in hospital as I write this and Daphne is being cared for at a Nursing home in Dyke Road. We send them our love and look forward to having the 3 of them back with us.

We look forward to a coffee morning at Clare's on the 23rd January. It seems a long time since we sat together for a coffee and chat.

February the 13th brings our annual Fish and Chip lunch at Bankers in Western Road and then on 27th February we are having a coffee morning at Carol's.

Just a gentle reminder that our AGM will be on the 13th March. Venue to be decided but probably in church.

May we wish all our Church family a very peaceful 2025 and that you keep well.

Moz Ward



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A vertical advertisement for Mark Gibson, a Travel Counsellor. The background is a teal image of two people swimming underwater. The text is white and yellow. At the top, it says 'MARK GIBSON' in large white letters, followed by 'Travel Counsellor' in smaller white letters. Below that is the phone number '01273 761 060' in large white letters. Further down, it lists the email 'mark.gibson@travelcounsellors.com' and the website 'www.travelcounsellors.com/mark.gibson'. Below this is a dark grey bar with the text 'YOUR PERSONAL TRAVEL EXPERT' in white. At the bottom, there is a purple bar with the Travel Counsellors logo (a stylized 'C' with an arrow) and the tagline 'With us, it's personal' in white script.

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## Hearing

A tiny lady was the guest preacher. A few minutes into her sermon, she paused and said: “Can you all hear me at the back?”

A kind voice replied: “We can hear you fine. But sadly, we can’t quite see you.”

## Wreath Making Workshop

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December we gathered in the community centre for a new and challenging event for St Peter's. Twenty people had pre-booked places to come along to our first ever wreath making workshop expecting to go home with their own hand made wreath.

Lots of greenery had been collected beforehand, and many attending brought along more. The wreaths had all been purchased, pre-soaked and ribbons, wire and decorations supplied. People brought along anything they particularly wanted to use as well.

Teas, coffees and cakes were distributed, a short prayer was said, a small demonstration given and then we were away with everyone making their own design. Help was at hand from Maggie, Christine and Jane (Christine's daughter-in-law) with ideas, tips and encouragement.



The afternoon passed in a buzz of happy chatter, laughing and amazement at the huge variety and beautiful wreaths that were finally finished. Everyone was engaged, happy and helping each other, and all agreed it had been an afternoon of fun and creativity.

The wreaths were very different and individual, and everyone seemed really content to have produced something they were proud to take home and show in their home.

As people left, the most frequent question was "You will do this next year?" "Can you sign me up now?"

A very successful afternoon that is sure to be repeated.

Christine James



"It may well attract more young folk to join the congregation but I still prefer the old church notice board"

## **Our charity for February is The Martlets**



### **Martlets is a charity that cares for people living through a terminal illness in and around Brighton & Hove**

The hospice plays a vital role in helping people to live life as fully as they can, right up until the end. Through expert clinical care provided by highly skilled and experienced doctors and nurses, they ensure that wherever possible peace, respect and dignity is retained – it is a very simple and very human ethos.

Martlets opened in 1997. The staff and services were formed from the merger of three separate charities: Coppercliff Hospice, Turner and MacMillan Day Hospice. Across the hospice services, more than 25,000 local people have been supported and cared for since 1997.

Most people receive care from us in their own homes. Outpatients also visit our hospice for pain relief, physiotherapy, counselling, welfare advice and social activities. Others choose to spend their final days here, or to join us as inpatients for respite care or symptom management. The Martlets Hospice cares for people affected by life limiting illness living in and around Brighton & Hove.

Please support them if you can.

## **January 2025 - A case of the January News**

*By Kerry Williams: Communications Officer - Conservation*

Happy New Year! I hope you all celebrated the festive period with cheer and are still basking in the twinkly afterglow, hoovering up remaining treats and reminiscing over time spent with loved ones.

As that sparkle fades to a glimmer, don't give in to that looming January chasm of grey-blue doom. Instead, focus on the new. Think of Month 01 as a springboard for all the things that await you this 2025; new wildlife, new experiences, new Parish magazine article authors... and with that shameful segue let me introduce myself.

I'm Kerry, 'Communications Officer – Conservation' for Sussex Wildlife Trust. My role consists of running the Trust's wildlife information advice service, WildCall, and also writing content for blogs, our website, and social media.

In December, Michael Blencowe signed off with his last Parish Magazine article about footprints, fittingly leaving me mighty big shoes to fill. Flicking back through the past library has been a wonderful read, and considering Michael's term of seven years (!), it's a challenge to find a fresh new topic not already covered. Seeing as it's a new year, how about newness itself?

So, to January newness. I'm looking forward to fieldfares and redwings delicately tweeze berries from treetops. Huddling on Brighton Pier, amid ghost train squeals and the smell of sweet doughnuts, to watch Starlings sky-dance. Drops of snow and Snowdrops. Chilly stomps up the Downs on roaring fire Sundays.

From now on, the days ever so slowly get longer again, giving more precious minutes to get out there and explore. Last year I visited Ebernoe for the first time, searching for Fungi in early autumn. I look forward to heading back to experience its Old-England-come-fairy-whimsy in the crunching frost. I'll head back to Rye Harbour to hole up in hides, be-gloved and binocularized, to spot winter waders and hovering Marsh Harriers.

I will search for paw and hoof prints in the snow or the mud. I'll be vigilant for too-witting and wooing Tawny Owls and scan darkened woodlands to see one; I never seem to succeed, but maybe this is my year.

Whatever you choose to do with this often-condemned-as-miserable month, I hope it instead brings you joy. Let your only January blues be that of the sea and sky. Here's to 2025!

## **St Peter's Carol**

On the Sunday before Christmas week we had an unusual sermon. We were tasked, in small groups, with writing down ideas for verses to a new Christmas song. Rev Tim played us the tune on his guitar and gave us the chorus he had written. It was then down to us to put our rhyming brains into gear and came up with ideas for the verses. What rhymes with rejoice ?? Ah yes voice. This caused a lot of chatter and lots of ideas. The group ideas were then read out and carefully re-arranged and combined to make two verses. This was good fun and created some really inspired ideas and we then sung the two verses and the chorus as a whole. Perhaps later this year we could add more verses and create a longer St Peter's Carol which we could sing every year!! Maybe even get it published.

The words are as follows:-

### Chorus

***Rejoice, rejoice, the Lord is near,  
His love has cast away our fear.  
With hearts renewed, His grace we sing,  
The joy of Christ, our Saviour King!***

### Verse 1

Don't let your hands hang limp with fear  
The time of Christ is coming near  
So shout for joy and gratitude  
To bring us close, our lives renewed

### Verse 2

So lift your hands with holy fire  
To you oh Lord, Our hearts desire  
We sing to you with cheerful voice  
The Lord has come, Rejoice!

## **Isaiah 41:10**

**So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**

## **PCC meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

The recent meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held in the Community Centre.

It was chaired by the Rev Tim and attended by 10 of the 14 other members.

The following matters were considered and are summarised here in no particular order:

Crucifix/Cross – no further developments. This will be discussed again at a later meeting.

PCC away day – Rev Tim confirmed that this will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2025.

The contract for St Anthony's pre-school in the Community Centre has been renewed for two years. St Anthony's requested frosting half way up the inside door of the Community Centre. This was agreed. St Anthony's will pay for it.

Rev Jan returned on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December. Ideas about how to celebrate/mark his appointment as an Associate Minister are to be considered.

Rev Tim expressed his wish that when renewing the Electoral Roll, every member will join a small group to promote the nature and responsibilities of church membership.

Rev Tim thanked Zanita for organising a successful sponsored bike ride which took place on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2024. The proceeds went towards a new TV for the Sunday School.

Rev Tim also thanked Christine and Phil James for the quiz night held on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. It attracted a number of new faces. Hopefully this type of event will encourage more to become involved with other activities.

Preparations for the Christmas fair, Film night and Christingle were discussed. These events will be reported on at the next PCC.

Jane Glineur will cover for Gill Evans whilst she recovers from her operation.

A Lent course as well as Alpha course will probably be held in 2025 and Rev Tim will provide some information in the next few weeks.

Confirmation classes - anyone who is interested should contact Rev Tim.

The 2025 Mission link partners are:

Martlets	January and February
World Vision	March and April
Whoopsadaisy	May and June
TTTBF (Time to Talk Befriending)	July and August
Foodbank	September and October
Off the Fence	November and December

The trial period for the mid-week services has now ended and attendance has been encouraging. They will continue but need to be monitored and built on for the future.

Aldrington and Kings schools are preparing for SIAMS (**Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools**) inspections.

Tea and Tots Volunteers still need help with setting up and clearing away.

Mandy's Treasurer's report was considered and approved.

Repairs to the church and shed were discussed.

The Safeguarding policies for 2025 were considered, renewed and adopted for the next year. Rev Tim will put them on the website and the pew sheet.

Safe Places Pledges are to be adopted by the PCC.

There were still many vacancies available for the Diocesan Synod.

**Anna Samuelsson**



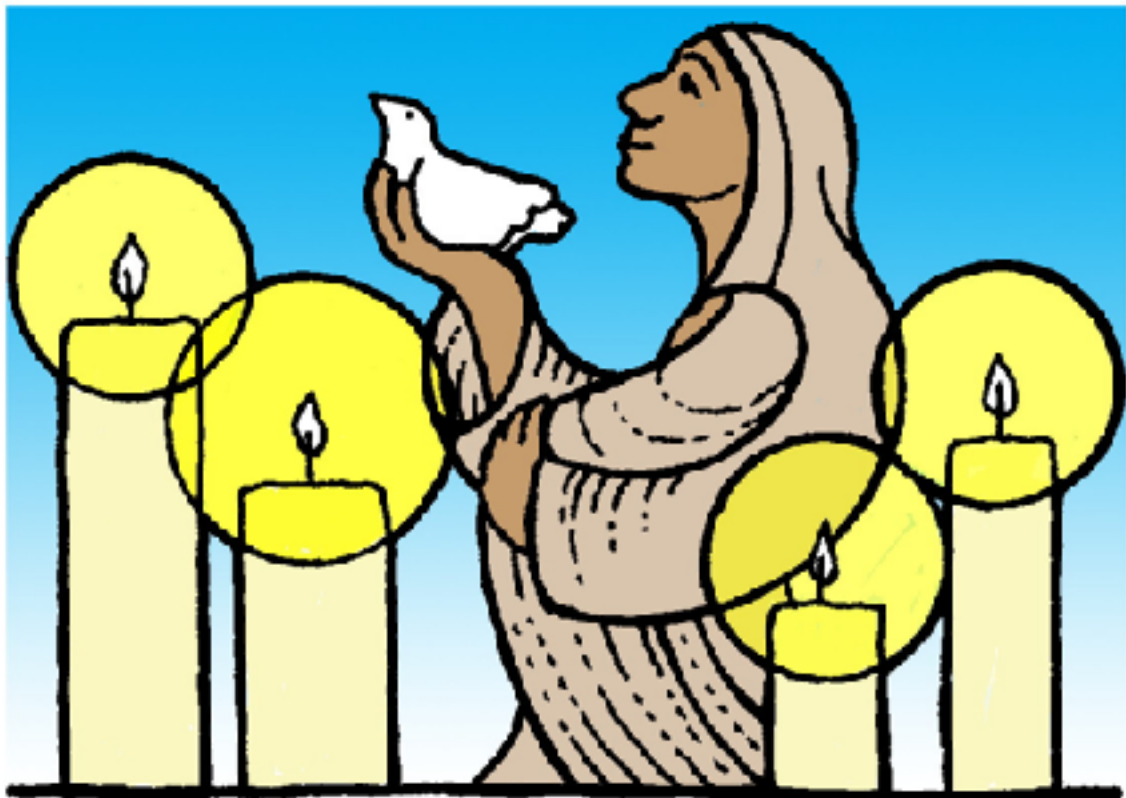
## **BLOOMERS**

I would like to thank the Bloomers team for the lovely floral arrangements in church this Christmas.

Thanks also go to Pam Evans and Alma James for their generous donations to the flower fund.

Final thanks to Katie Summers for sourcing our magnificent Christmas tree and helping us decorate it. The tree is kindly donated by Goddenwick Farm, near Lindfield.

Maggie Keeling



### **Proverbs 4:25-27**

**Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.**

## **"What are you going to do on this sabbatical then?"**

When Jenny and I announced we were "taking a sabbatical" we had a variety of responses. Some people thought we were going on a three month overseas trip (I wish!), others that we'd stay at home on a sort of extended religious retreat.

So, what *did* we do during September, October and November? And why did we disappear from St Peter's?

The reason for our absence was actually in the name. The word sabbatical comes from the Greek *sabbatikos*, meaning "of the Sabbath". Our three-month break from church duties was a kind of Sabbath, to rest and time to spend with God.

At the close of my three-year curacy, Jenny, the kids and I reached the end of more than eight years of: discernment meetings in the dioceses, a Bishops Advisory Panel, part-time training college in London and Derby, completing a BA degree in theology and ministry, two ordinations, and serving in The Point church and then St Peter's in a variety of roles. All of this while both of us were working full time and being parents to two lovely kids. We needed to rest. And regroup. And reconnect with each other and with God.

### **Tied with a bow**

God's gift of the Sabbath shows us that rest is OK. It's important. It's holy. And thanks to the lovely blessing we had from you all on our last Sunday, laying down our church responsibilities for a few months felt like that: a sacred time, a present from God and from you all.

As Jesus' disciples are called to do, our Sabbath was also for spending time with Father, Son and Holy Spirit, listening to God's will for our lives and futures. We had hoped that God would give one of us a clear call for the short and medium term. Were we to do something specific at St Peter's, a particular ministry, on our return? What is His plan for our ministry once we are empty nesters?

### **Listen up!**

God did indeed speak to us, but rather than specifics he told us—through prayer, Bible study, and words of knowledge given via godly friends—two main things: 1. Look up to me, keep your eyes fixed on me, and 2. Be obedient, do what I ask of you. These were two bells that continued to ring out throughout the time away. So simple, yet so challenging!

As I said, we did rest, but I did still work full time and my job at World Vision became even more demanding with three overseas trips, and inheriting an expanded team. Jenny's work picked up too. There was also a long list of DIY jobs that had been waiting for almost eight years! I finally got around to those also (helped in one instance by Ian).

### **Thank you**

Jenny and I want to say thank you to all those who took over/took on more of certain ministries, in particular Zanita and Alma (the prayer ministry), Jonathan (the men's ministry) and Erica and Clare (Sunday School). Thanks to Tim for letting us have a break – a sabbatical is not usual for a curate! And thank you all for praying for us while we were away.

Did we miss you? Yes! Are we pleased to be back? Absolutely! What has God got in store for us and for St Peter's? I love the fact that we just can't know; the Spirit blows where it wills (John 3:8) Yet, I do know that we should all keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, and be obedient to Him in every part of our lives.

Rev Jan



During a work visit to Brussels Rev Jan took the chance to visit the world-famous Atomium.

## Sudoku

5		9		7	2	3
2		4	3	8	1	
3		5		6		
	6		9			
5	3	2	4	6		1
		6		5		
4			8	3		
2			6	3	8	9
3	8	9		5	4	

## Visit

The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet his parishioners. At one house where he knocked, a woman inside called out: "Is that you, Angel?"

The vicar hesitated, and then replied: "No, but I'm from the same department."

## **Prayer List Requests**

Each Sunday we pray for people in any kind of need.

These may be the names of people on the prayer list which is printed in the Pew Sheet each week. The names are not read out individually during Sunday Intercessions, but are prayed for individually at the monthly Wednesday Prayer Together Service.

This is a lovely, peaceful, prayerful time in The Old Church and is always finished with Compline. Please join us.

The Prayer Together Services are always on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm.



### **St Peter's Pastoral Care Group**

**Our Pastoral Care Group exists to offer entirely confidential help and support on any pastoral matter.**

**Perhaps you would like a friendly visitor for a good chat now and then, help with transport, a name included in our prayer list at Church, some professional advice which we can help find, or an offer of Communion at home?**

**Please contact, in the first instance, Carol Gander on 01273 555414.**

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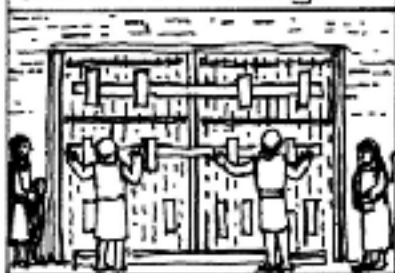
# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the  
river Jordan. They camped near the  
town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

The people in Jericho  
locked the town gates.



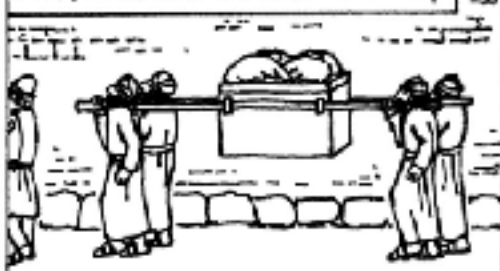
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua  
what to do.



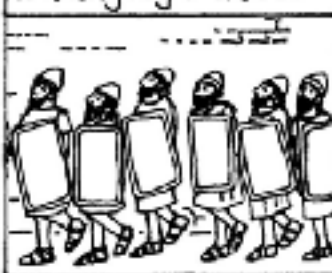
On the first day, the priests  
carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets,  
and walked round  
Jericho once.



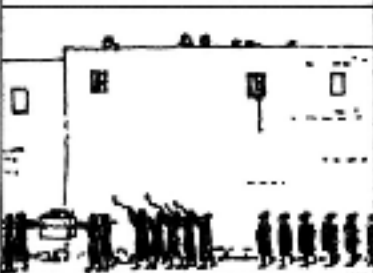
The army followed  
not saying a word.



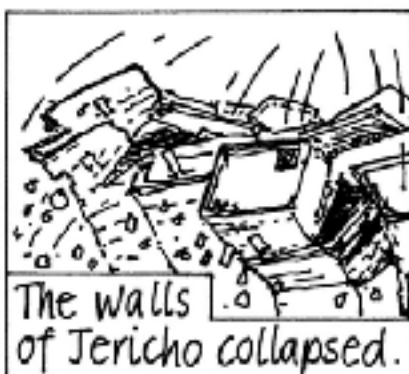
They did this  
for 6 days.



On the 7th day they  
walked round 7 times.



The army gave a victory shout!



The walls  
of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into  
the town and  
captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.

## **PEOPLE AND PLACES IN THE BIBLE**

### **Galilee**

Nestled in the northern region of ancient Israel, Galilee holds a special place in Biblical history and the life of Jesus Christ. Known for its rolling hills, fertile valleys, and the shimmering Sea of Galilee, this region was a vibrant and diverse crossroads of cultures during Biblical times.

In the first century, Galilee was under Roman rule, governed by Herod Antipas with the title of Tetrarch. It was a relatively prosperous area, with agriculture, fishing, and trade as its main economic activities. Cities like Tiberias and Sepphoris were centres of Hellenistic culture, while villages such as Nazareth and Capernaum retained a more traditional Jewish character. This blend of influences made Galilee a unique melting pot, shaping its social and religious dynamics.

John the Baptist also had connections to this region. While his ministry primarily took place in the wilderness and along the Jordan River, his influence extended to Galilee, where people came to hear his call for repentance. It was John who baptized Jesus, marking the beginning of Jesus' public ministry—a ministry largely carried out in Galilee. Jesus' early followers, too, often had their roots in this region, further tying Galilee to the unfolding story of salvation.

### **John the Baptist**

John the Baptist is one of the most striking figures in the New Testament. Dressed in camel's hair and living on locusts and wild honey, he preached a bold message of repentance, preparing the way for the coming of the Messiah.

Born to Zechariah and Elizabeth, John was set apart by God even before his birth. His miraculous arrival was announced by the angel Gabriel, and he grew up with a singular mission: to call people to turn their hearts back to God. His ministry took place in the wilderness, a symbolic location that echoed the Israelites' journey of renewal and dependence on God.

John's central act was baptism, an outward sign of repentance and cleansing. His message was urgent: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight" (Mark 1:3). He fearlessly confronted sin, even challenging King Herod Antipas for his unlawful marriage, which eventually led to John's imprisonment and martyrdom.

Most significantly, John recognized Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).



His baptism of Jesus was a profound moment, as the heavens opened, the Spirit descended like a dove, and a voice declared, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am Well pleased" (Mark 1:11).

William Holden from various sources

### Sudoku Solution

1	5	8	9	4	6	7	2	3
2	6	4	3	8	7	9	1	5
9	3	7	5	1	2	4	6	8
4	1	6	8	5	9	3	7	2
5	9	3	2	7	4	6	8	1
8	7	2	6	3	1	5	9	4
6	4	5	1	9	8	2	3	7
7	2	1	4	6	3	8	5	9
3	8	9	7	2	5	1	4	6

## Small Donations Scheme

We have reintroduced the above scheme, or SDS, which ran very successfully up to several years ago. The idea is to give people the opportunity to make a donation towards the cost of items which are one-off purchases or materials which we use. These donations are not regular but are on an “as and when able” basis which may be something in which they are interested.

The next edition of Keynotes will then contain a “thank you” notice for the gift which can be anonymous or include the sponsor’s name.

Mandy has produced a list of items which may appeal to the congregation and any discussion can be held in confidence with her. This list includes the following;

Red Sanctuary Light	£	33.63
Carbon Monoxide Alarms	£	43.98
Cleaning materials	£	66.07
Oranges for the Christingles	£	24.75
Piano tuning fee	£	80.00
Annual fire extinguisher maintenance	£	140.94
Concert advertising in the Arts Council magazine	£	40.00
New microwave for the Community Centre	£	65.00

### Thank you for your sponsorship

Our grateful thanks go to the person who wishing to remain anonymous, very kindly donated the cost of the welcome pack and pens for Church.

If you would like to make a donation to help with the funding of some of the items of expenditure in and around our Church then please contact Mandy Gander, our Treasurer.

## **The State of the Church of England in Relation to the People during the Victorian Era**

This month we look at the role that the Church of England played in shaping the evolving social order which is the basis of our society today. This is particularly interesting when today the value of the Lords Spiritual and Hereditary Peers is under review.

### **The Church of England and the State: Influence and Involvement in Victorian Legislation and Social Policy**

In the Victorian era, the Church of England held a uniquely privileged position as the established state church, imbued with considerable authority and responsibility. This status granted the Church significant influence over British legislation and social policy, allowing it to shape various aspects of public life, from education to moral and social welfare. We explore the key legislative actions during this period, the Church's involvement in social and educational reforms, and the implications of its role in state affairs, including the pivotal work of Lord Shaftesbury.

As the established state church, the Church of England had a direct impact on legislation through its bishops, who sat in the House of Lords as Lords Spiritual. These bishops could debate, influence, and vote on legislation, providing the Church with a formal mechanism to shape laws in accordance with Christian ethics and values.

#### **Key Legislative Actions Influenced by the Church:**

- **The Factory Acts:** Various Factory Acts were passed throughout the 19th century to improve conditions for workers, especially women and children, in industrial settings. The Church supported these reforms, advocating for moral and humane working conditions as essential to society's wellbeing.
- **The Education Acts:** The 1870 Education Act, also known as the Forster Act, expanded significantly the provision of education, previously dominated by Church-run schools. The Church played a crucial role in shaping this legislation, ensuring religious education remained a core component of the school curriculum.

#### **Lord Shaftesbury and Social Reform**

A noteworthy advocate for social reform during this period was Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury. A devout evangelical Christian and a social reformer, Shaftesbury was deeply influenced by his faith to address the dire conditions of the urban poor.

- **Investigation into the Slums (1846):** Shaftesbury's investigation into the living conditions in the slums of London highlighted the severe overcrowding and health crises facing the urban poor. His findings helped to galvanize public support for housing and sanitary reforms.
- **Subsequent Legislation:** Shaftesbury was instrumental in pushing for laws that improved sanitation, public health, and housing standards. His efforts were crucial in the passage of the Public Health Acts and various housing regulations that aimed to alleviate the conditions of the poor.

### **The Church's Engagement in Social Welfare**

The Church of England's engagement in social welfare reflected its commitment to addressing the social issues of the day, guided by Christian principles of charity and compassion.

- **Poor Law Reforms:** The Church was actively involved in the administration of the Poor Laws, with many clergy serving as Poor Law Guardians. The Church advocated for more humane treatment of the poor and improvements in the workhouse system.
- **Charitable Activities:** Beyond legislative advocacy, the Church sponsored numerous charitable initiatives, including orphanages, hospitals, and relief funds for the needy. These efforts were often spearheaded by Anglican religious orders and societies that emerged during this period.

The close relationship between the Church and the state had profound implications. It enabled the Church to influence public policy and moral standards directly but also called for a delicate balance between upholding religious principles and adapting to a rapidly changing society. Critics sometimes viewed the Church's privileged position as an impediment to modernization and religious equality, leading to debates about disestablishment and the role of religion in public life.

William Holden drawn from a series of sermons he preached in 1976.

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

**For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**

*By Kerry Williams: Communications Officer - Conservation*

In this, our littlest month, I'd like to celebrate our littlest bird, the Goldcrest. Crowned with a yellow tuft, this aptly named species has an equally grand and, if you ask me, quite adorable, Latin name: *Regulus regulus*, or 'little king'.

At a mere 9cm in length, the Goldcrest weighs a featherlight 5-6 grams; the same as a 20 pence piece. Despite their size, Goldcrests are a surprisingly easy spot. A fan of coniferous and mixed woodland, these birds can often be seen zipping about in pairs in your local gardens, parks and nature reserves, picking morsels like spiders and moth eggs from tree needles with tiny expert beaks. Their characteristic squeaking refrain, a 'fiddle-di-di' on loop, is so high pitched that not everyone can hear it. If you think you hear one, stop, wait, and listen, as you will most likely hear it again.



The only real confusion species is the similarly diminutive Firecrest, *Regulus ignicapilla* (meaning 'fire-capped'). This rarer species, whilst sharing in the Goldcrest's olive-green plumage, has notable black lines around the head and eye. Think of the Goldcrest as having not yet applied its eyeliner. Following the on-point naming convention, the Firecrest has an orange crest. This creates an additional challenge for identification, as the male Goldcrest does have a line of orange feathers hidden within their crest, which they show during territorial displays.

Goldcrests breed around April time, creating intricately curated nests of moss, lichen and spider webs high in the treetops. Overall, Goldcrest numbers are stable, with a 600,000 strong breeding population throughout the UK. These are joined by a Scandinavian migratory population for the winter, boosting your chances of seeing one during the colder months.

Despite their success, Goldcrests are at risk from several threats. Their size means they are vulnerable in the cold weather, so the more erratic weather patterns we experience due to climate change, including unexpected cold snaps and storms, are a danger to these birds. As with all UK species, habitat loss is a problem, and in the Goldcrest's case this includes deforestation.

If you are walking in woodland and catch a glance of a little ball of energy in the treetops, try to spot them with binoculars to be rewarded with a millisecond's glance of their worried-looking little face, before they're off again, much to do. Heavy is the head that wears the crown.



### **Car-ride**

A teenager who had just received her provisional licence offered to drive her parents to church. After a hair-raising ride, they finally reached their destination. The mother got out of the car and said in a quiet but fervent voice: "Thank you!"

"Anytime," her daughter replied.

As the woman slammed the car door she said, "I wasn't talking to you. I was talking to God."

## **REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES**

10.00 am Sunday Parish Eucharist with Sunday School in term time (except third Sunday of the month)

10.00 am All-Age Worship on the third Sunday of the month

1st Wednesday of the month at 7.45 pm -  
Prayer Together and Compline

3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm -  
Shorter Eucharist Service

10.00 am Online service via Youtube



The Rector is always available for spiritual counsel and healing prayer

**The views expressed by individuals in Keynotes are not necessarily the views of the Church of St Peter, West Blatchington, or the Editorial Team. External advertising in this magazine does not imply any endorsement or promotion of the advertisement or its content, products or services. Errors and omissions, whilst regrettable, may occur. Please advise any member of the Editorial Team in writing and corrections will be published.**

**FRIDAYS AT ST PETER'S  
St Peter's 'Open Church' drop-in**

**The First Friday of each month  
10.30am – 12noon**

**For coffee, conversation and companionship.**

**We are open between 10.30am and 12 noon for you to 'drop-in' for a coffee, piece of cake and a chat.  
A very warm welcome awaits you, so please do 'drop-in' we'd love to see you.**

**KEYNOTES - HELP!**

We are looking for some new material for Keynotes. Could you write a piece about something that interests you, something in our local area that you have knowledge of, a special holiday you have been on or anything else that you think others may enjoy reading. If you do then please send it to [mandycgander@icloud.com](mailto:mandycgander@icloud.com) at any time that suits you. Your support would be much appreciated.





## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR GARDEN?**

- 1) Give your gardening tools and equipment the once over and apply some TLC to anything that needs it.
- 2) Blitz perennial weeds. Dig them up, roots and all.
- 3) Prune Wisteria now, cutting back summer side shoots to 2 or 3 buds.
- 4) Cut back shrubs such as Cornus and Salix cultivars down to their bases.
- 5) Prune summer flowering Clematis towards the end of the month, before growth begins.
- 6) Cut back the old foliage from Ornamental Grasses before growth begins.
- 7) Prune overwintered Fuschias back to one or two buds on each shoot.
- 8) Prune winter flowering Jasmine after flowering.
- 9) Prune winter flowering shrubs such as Mahonia and Viburnum once their colourful display has finished.
- 10) Lift and divide Snowdrops still "in the green" if you want to move them or create more plants.
- 11) Continue controlling against Slugs and Snails.
- 12) Cut back and control vines such as Ivy and Virginia Creeper.
- 13) Wash empty pots by scrubbing them with hot water and a mild detergent.



## COME INTO MY KITCHEN.....

Happy New Year to you all.

This first recipe is delicious either warm or cooled and packed into lunch boxes!

### **SMOKED MACKEREL AND DILL PASTA**

SERVES 2

1tbsp baby capers  
1 large lemon, zested and juiced  
1 red chilli, finely chopped  
½ clove of garlic, crushed  
3tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
150g short pasta  
2 fillets of smoked mackerel  
Large handful dill, chopped

Put the capers, lemon zest and juice, chilli, garlic and oil in a large bowl, season well and stir.

Cook the pasta until tender then drain and tip into the bowl, giving everything a good toss together.

Break up the mackerel into chunks, discarding the skin and any bones. Add to the bowl with the dill and gently toss everything together.

Serve in bowls with a little extra dill if you like.

As you know, I love a traybake!

### **SPICED COCONUT CHICKEN TRAYBAKE**

SERVES 4-6

8-12 whole chicken thighs  
2tsp ground cumin  
2tsp ground coriander  
1tsp ground turmeric  
1tsp mild chilli powder  
6 cardamom pods, quashed

1tbsp grated ginger  
3 garlic cloves, crushed  
1 lemon, juiced  
1tsp sea salt  
1 large onion, sliced  
1tbsp groundnut or rapeseed oil  
1 red pepper, chopped  
400g tin of coconut milk  
100g baby spinach leaves, torn  
Basmati rice, cooked, to serve

Put the chicken in a dish or reusable food bag. Add the spices, ginger, garlic, lemon juice and salt and toss to coat. Leave to marinate for a couple of hours or overnight.

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/ gas 6. Put the sliced onion in the bottom of a roasting tin and toss with the oil, then sit the chicken and any marinade on top.

Roast for 30 minutes then add the pepper and pour over the coconut milk. Roast for 45 minutes then stir in the spinach until wilted and serve with the rice.

And finally...

### **ZESTY LEMON DRIZZLE MUFFINS**

MAKES 12

350g plain flour  
1tbsp baking powder  
140g caster sugar  
2 eggs  
150g soured cream  
150g lemon curd  
2 lemons, zested and juiced  
100g salted butter, melted

#### **TOPPING**

1 ½ tbsp lemon juice  
1 ½ tbsp granulated sugar

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.

Put the flour, baking powder and caster sugar into a bowl and mix. Beat together the eggs, soured cream, lemon curd, lemon zest and juice and butter. Combine the wet mixture with the dry until just combined – make sure you don't over-mix.

Line a 12-hole muffin tin with muffin cases and divide the batter between them. Bake for 20-25 mins or until golden and risen.

To make the crunchy topping, mix together the lemon juice and granulated sugar. Once the muffins are out of the oven, brush them liberally with the topping and leave to cool completely.

Maggie

### **Come reign in me**

Oh God, who made the world so fair,  
And formed the earth, the sky, the sea;  
Who gave us ears, and eyes, and minds,  
To hear, to see, to know all love is Thee.

Oh God, who in the Lord Jesus,  
Gave us a light to light our way;  
Let our life's lamp be lit by Him  
Whose strength will see us safely through each day.

Oh God, whose Spirit gave us birth,  
And holds all life secure, e'en mine;  
Take all I am, and all I have,  
Bless and redeem them for they both are Thine.

Oh God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One;  
Blessed be Thy name, come reign in me,  
And in me let Thy will be done.

By Sam Doubtfire

### **Romans 15:13**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**



***The Parish Church of St. Peter  
West Blatchington***

## **FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES**

**Our afternoon concert series continues with**

**Caroline and Zhanna-  
Soprano and piano  
1.10 p.m. on Friday 21st February**

**The Recitals are for approximately 40 minutes**

**Refreshments provided.**

**There is no admission charge, but donations to fund  
future concerts will be gratefully accepted.**

**All welcome!**



## **February Festivals and Saints**

You will see that there is no mention of Lent as it is late this year and Ash Wednesday is 5<sup>th</sup> March.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> February - The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple: A Celebration of Light and Dedication**

The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple is one of the oldest Christian feasts, rich in symbolism and meaning. Known in some traditions as Candlemas, it commemorates the moment when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem, fulfilling the Jewish law of dedication for a firstborn son and the purification of the mother (Luke 2:22–40).

This event is filled with theological significance. As Simeon, a devout man who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the Messiah, took Jesus in his arms, he proclaimed the Nunc Dimittis, a hymn of praise: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation" (Luke 2:29–32, KJV). Simeon recognized Jesus as "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel," revealing Christ's mission to bring salvation to all people.

The feast also honours Anna the prophetess, who recognized Jesus as the Redeemer and spoke of Him to all who awaited the redemption of Jerusalem. Her presence reminds us of the importance of constant prayer and devotion in encountering Christ.

The feast's association with light led to the custom of blessing candles on this day, symbolizing Christ as the "Light of the World" (John 8:12). In medieval England, Candlemas was a significant occasion, marking the transition from the season of Christmas to the anticipation of Lent. Candles blessed during the service were often taken home by the faithful to be used in times of prayer and protection throughout the year.

In the Church of England and other Anglican traditions, the Presentation of Christ is an opportunity to reflect on themes of dedication, faithfulness, and revelation. It marks the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies and serves as a bridge between Christmas and the passion of Christ, reminding us that the joy of the Nativity is always linked to the path to the Cross.

### **10<sup>th</sup> February - Saint Scholastica: A Model of Prayerful Devotion and Leadership**

Saint Scholastica is a shining example of holiness, prayerful devotion, and leadership in the early Church. Born around 480 AD in Nursia, Italy, she was the twin sister of Saint Benedict of Nursia, the founder of Western monasticism.

While her life is less documented than her brother's, her influence on the spiritual life of the Church is profound, particularly as the founder of women's monasticism in the Benedictine tradition.

As an abbess, Scholastica held a significant position within the Church. Abbesses were the leaders of monastic communities for women, wielding both spiritual and administrative authority. They were responsible for the spiritual welfare and discipline of the nuns in their convent, as well as managing the practical affairs of the community, including lands and resources. The role demanded wisdom, prayerful discernment, and a deep commitment to the Rule of Saint Benedict, which emphasized prayer, work, and communal living.

Abbesses were granted certain ecclesiastical privileges. They often had the authority to administer the sacraments to their communities (through chaplains under their jurisdiction), govern the monastery independently, and represent their community in wider ecclesiastical matters. While they were subject to oversight by the local bishop, they operated with a high degree of autonomy, particularly in the daily governance of their convents. In the Benedictine tradition, abbesses were also seen as spiritual mothers, guiding their communities in holiness and faith.

A well-known story from Saint Scholastica's life highlights her faith and leadership. During one of her annual meetings with her brother Benedict, she prayed fervently for a storm to delay his departure, sensing it might be their last encounter. Her prayer was miraculously answered, demonstrating her deep communion with God. This act reflects not only her holiness but also her assertiveness in securing time for spiritual dialogue—a hallmark of her role as a spiritual leader.

Saint Scholastica is revered as the patron saint of Benedictine nuns and is often invoked for protection against storms and in times of spiritual struggle. Her life reflects the values of prayer, community, and trust in God's providence, all central to the Benedictine ethos.

William Holden. Compiled from various sources



## MONEY MATTERS - Figures for December 2024

### Receipts

Planned Giving	£ 3,588
Community Centre Income	£ 1,447
Payaz Donation Station/Sundry Donations	£ 574
Fundraising	£ 3,029
Collections/other giving	£ 234
Income tax recovered	£ 789
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£ 9,661</b>

### Payments

Parish Contribution	£ 6,651
Salaries	£ 817
Utilities and Insurance	£ 509
Rectory	£ 341
Community Centre running costs	£ 368
SumUp/Bank Charges	£ 13
Printing costs	£ 303
Church running expenses	£ 144
Church maintenance	£ 944
Upkeep of services	£ 222
Reimbursement of expenses	£ 384
Funds sent to charity	£ 155
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£ 10,851</b>

**Year end deficit : £18,791**





<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading, Commemorations &amp; Intentions</b> Calendar for February (Year C)
<b>SAT</b> <b>1<sup>ST</sup></b>	Our City Council
<b>SUN</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple Malachi 3. 1-5</b> <b>Hebrews 2. 14-end Luke 2. 22-40</b>
<b>MON</b> <b>3<sup>RD</sup></b>	Aldrington School and its Teachers and staff
<b>TUES</b> <b>4<sup>TH</sup></b>	All working in Care Homes
<b>WEDS</b> <b>5<sup>TH</sup></b>	Kings School and its Teachers and staff
<b>THURS</b> <b>6<sup>TH</sup></b>	Diocesan Synod
<b>FRI</b> <b>7<sup>TH</sup></b>	Religious Orders
<b>SAT</b> <b>8<sup>TH</sup></b>	Bishop Martin
<b>SUN</b> <b>9<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>Fourth Sunday before Lent Isaiah 6. 1-8</b> <b>1 Corinthians 15. 1-11 Luke 5. 1-11</b>
<b>MON</b> <b>10<sup>TH</sup></b>	Bishop Ruth
<b>TUES</b> <b>11<sup>TH</sup></b>	Bishop Will
<b>WEDS</b> <b>12<sup>TH</sup></b>	Archdeacon Martin
<b>THURS</b> <b>13<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our Parish Representatives on Deanery & Diocesan Syn- ods
<b>FRI</b> <b>14<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our Parochial Church Council
<b>SAT</b> <b>15<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our Standing Committee

	<b>Reading, Commemorations &amp; Intentions</b> Calendar for February (Year C)
<b>SUN 16<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>Third Sunday before Lent Jeremiah 17. 5-10 1 Corinthians 15. 12-20 Luke 6. 17-26</b>
<b>MON 17<sup>TH</sup></b>	All Christians in areas hostile to their faith
<b>TUES 18<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our Police Forces
<b>WEDS 19<sup>TH</sup></b>	All street pastors
<b>THURS 20<sup>TH</sup></b>	All doctors, nurses and health workers
<b>FRI 21<sup>ST</sup></b>	All aid workers
<b>SAT 22<sup>ND</sup></b>	Rev Jan, Jenny, Adam and Hannah
<b>SUN 23<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday before Lent Genesis 2. 4b-9, 15-end Revelation 4 Luke 8. 22-25</b>
<b>MON 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our Government and all Members of Parliament
<b>TUES 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	All NHS workers
<b>WEDS 26<sup>TH</sup></b>	All refugees
<b>THURS 27<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our local hospitals
<b>FRI 28<sup>TH</sup></b>	Rev Tim, Clare, Ben, Sammy and James

And finally.....

### **Prayer for February 2025**

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

Lord – as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching







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