

## Thought for February

By Margaret Boden Heaume LLM

By the time you read this Newsletter, we will be celebrating the Feast of Candlemas, which falls on February 2nd and it marks the conclusion of the Christmas and Epiphany Season.

The Feast marks the return of light, a symbol of protection and prosperity. It commemorates the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple where he is recognised by the elderly Simeon as the Light of the people of Israel.

The Feast is also that of the Purification of Mary, since women were required to present themselves in the Temple a certain number of days after giving birth. Some older members of our congregation remember being Churched after childbirth and after that time they resumed normal domestic and church duties.

This Feast Day has been observed since the fourth century A.D. We observe Candlemas by blessing candles which will be used during the year and traditionally people also brought in candles from home for a Blessing. It is a day when we reflect upon new beginnings and hopes for the year to come.

You may well have noticed the slightly longer days and signs of new growth in our fields and gardens. Snowdrop walks and festivals are increasingly common in England and are a delight to behold. They are traditionally called Candlemas Bells.

The most famous Weather Rhyme associated with Candlemas suggests that: *if the day be fair and bright then Winter will have another fight. If the day brings cloud and rain then Winter will not come again.*

Whatever the weather, may we all  
shine as a Light in the World  
during 2024





## Contacts

### Rector: Revd. Claire Claxton

Tel: 238815

E.mail: [carillon@cwgsy.net](mailto:carillon@cwgsy.net)



### Licenced Lay Minister (LLM)

Mrs Margaret Boden Heaume

Tel: 265370

E.mail:

[m.bodenheaume@outlook.com](mailto:m.bodenheaume@outlook.com)

### Peoples Warden:

Mr Keith Bienvenu

Tel: 238838

E.mail: [krbienvenu@cwgsy.net](mailto:krbienvenu@cwgsy.net)

### Rector's Warden:

Mrs Linda Archard

Tel: 266135

E.mail: [lmcc@cwgsy.net](mailto:lmcc@cwgsy.net)

## Church flowers in

### February.

Feb 4 Brenda Tostevin

Feb 11 Brenda Tostevin

Feb 18 Lent no flowers

Feb 25 Lent no flowers



### Greeting

Feb 4th Brenda

Feb 11th Dorothy

Feb 18th Debbie

Feb 25th Nancy



## Forgive us our trespasses

Something we say regularly in the Lords Prayer every Sunday but do we wonder about the word "trespass?"

The first dictionary definition is **to** enter someone's land or property without permission:

(trespass on) make unfair claims on or take advantage of (something): *there is no excuse for **trespassing on** railway property.*

The second definition is much more helpful: **to (trespass against)** *archaic or literary* commit an offence against (a person or a set of rules): *a man who had trespassed against Judaic law.*

In the more recent and modern services the word is replaced by "sins" which is probably better understood.



## Thank you

Special thanks and congratulations to Anne Roland and the Social Committee who provided craft and gifts for the sales tables throughout December. Many visitors to the Christmas Tree Festival enjoyed browsing and buying the produce and £800 was raised over that time.

## Funnies

*Paddy wanted to sell his car so his mate told him to wind the mileage back a bit and he would get a better price for it. He saw him a few days later and asked how he had got on. Paddy said when he had finished winding it back it only had 7,000 on the clock so he decided to keep it.*

*Teacher says to little Paddy ...*

*"The essay you wrote about your dog is word for word the same as your brothers"*

*"Of course it is" says little Paddy "It's the same dog"*



## February dates and news

### Ash Wednesday February 14th 6.30pm

During February the church marks the season of Lent, traditionally a time of prayer and fasting. This year it begins on Ash Wednesday with an evening service at 6.30pm



A popular event is the Lent Lunch which will be held in church on **Sunday February 18th** after the morning service. This is a simple meal but there is usually a selection of delicious home made soups with and bread and cheese and fruit.

**Tuesday February 20th at 12.30pm** is the first of four weekly Lent Group meetings. As it covers lunch times, bring your own sandwiches or snacks, tea and coffee provided. This has proved an enjoyable time of readings, discussion and prayer. Following the well received Advent group readings the Lent ones are by the same author, Susan Swetnam. The booklets are entitled "Not by bread alone" and include daily studies for personal use.

These lunch times meetings will be on February 20th, 27th, March 5th and 12th.



## Please Note:

As our Rector Revd Claire is taking an extended leave of absence, if you have any need or help from the clergy, such as visiting, home communions, weddings and funerals etc. please contact the Dean The Very Reverend Tim Barker on tel:238568 or email: [dean@deanery.gg](mailto:dean@deanery.gg)



### Chris Claxton

We are very sorry to hear of the recent death of Chris, the husband of our Rector, Reverend Claire Claxton. We extend our deepest sympathies and love to Claire and all her family at this time.



## February Dates and News

### Knit & Natter

Wednesday February 7th 2pm-4pm in church.

Come and enjoy the company even if you only want to natter!

Anne Shakerley who sadly died in January, began and ran the monthly Knit and Natter group for many years. We still meet on the afternoon of the first Wednesday of the month in the church vestry where for a couple of hours we exchange news, views and of course enjoy refreshments. While most of us knit it's not compulsory you can just sit, relax and chat if you prefer. If anyone reading this has wool they no longer need, please leave it at the back of the church and we will use it as most of the knitting we do is for the Tumaini charity. We would also welcome a few new members. For more information about Knit and Natter contact Fiona on 265508.

### Coffee Morning

Wednesday February 14th 10.30am-12noon. Coffee and company in church.

### Solace a support group for bereaved friends

Meetings on February 8th and 22nd at St Martins Community Centre 10.30 - noon.

### Sad news:

We have recently lost two of our church friends and long time members: [Joan James](#) who died on 2nd January and whose service was on Jan 23rd. Joan was recently in a care home but still arranged to come to church when possible.

[Anne Shakerley](#) our former churchwarden died on 4th January and her service will be on Feb 1st at 11am. She will be remembered as a well loved member of the church who often visited in the parish and always had a welcome in her house. She suffered a very debilitating illness very bravely and still managed to come to church until a short while before her death.

## Welcome to Forest Parish Church Services February 2024

**Sunday February 4th 11am.** Revd J Le Billon

Reader: Linda Archard

Prayers: Nicky Hoyland Birch

**Sunday February 11th 11am** Revd. J Robilliard

Reader: Keith Bienvenu.

2 Kings 2 v 1-12

2 Corinthians 4 v 3-6

Prayers: Peter Gallienne

**Wednesday February 14th 6.30pm Ash Wednesday**

**Sunday February 18th . 11am** Revd J Le Billon

Reader: Katie Blampied

Genesis 9 v 8-17

1 Peter 3 v 18-22

Prayers: Nancy Smith

**Sunday February 25th. 11am** Very Revd. John Guille

Reader: Tim Peet

Genesis 17 v 1-7, 15-16

Romans 4 v 13-25

Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

**Sunday March 3rd 11am.** Revd J Le Billon

Reader: Debbie Dorey

Exodus 20 v 1-17

1 Corinthians 1 v 18-25

Prayers. Vivienne Rees