

FEBRUARY DIARY

February 2 **Candlemas**
9.30 Rise & Shine
4.30pm Service of Healing and Wholeness
And Holy Communion

Wednesday 5 10am Holy Communion

February 9 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**
10.30 Family Communion

Tuesday 11 7pm PCC Meeting in the hall

Wednesday 12 10am Holy Communion

February 16 **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**
10.30 Prayer and Praise
4.30 Holy Communion

Wednesday 19 10am Holy Communion

February 23 **SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**
10.30 Parish Communion

Wednesday 26 ASH WEDNESDAY
10am Holy Communion

WARMLEY WARBLINGS

We remember in our regular prayers, those of our church family who have been unwell, thinking in particular of Mervyn and Lil Little, Martin Pullin, Lydia Hughes and Roger and Pauline Newman, we wish them all well.

We send our best wishes to Claire Wilkins-Smith who had to undergo a hip operation in the R.U.H after a fall at home. She is recovering well at home and we look forward to seeing her back in church soon. Along the same lines, we send our thoughts and prayers to Margaret Hill who also had a fall and is recovering in Southmead Hospital

As usual, we remember all of our friends who are in residential or nursing homes at this time, Grace Watson, Eileen Penny, John Short, Marjory Cox and Rita Jones.

We send our love and congratulations to Rev. Susie Bishop on the completion of her curacy training and who has now been appointed Associate Priest. We wish her every success as she continues her much loved and very much appreciated ministry among us.

We would like to thank all members of Warmley Players for their very enjoyable production of Aladdin at Warmley Community Centre during January. It is clear to see how hard they all work to provide such an entertaining show for adults and children alike.

BETWEEN FEAST AND FAST

February is a funny sort of time of year. We have Candlemas at the beginning of the month, which sees the end of the Christmas season. Then the last Wednesday of the month is Ash Wednesday, and we are off towards Easter. In between, we have the Sundays before Lent. It has always seemed to me that this is a time for us to take stock between feast and fast, to change gear.

Much of what we celebrate at Christmas is about a baby, born in Bethlehem, laid in a manger visited by shepherds and kings. The change of gear in the Christmas story comes with Candlemas, the celebration of the visit of Mary and Joseph to the Temple in Jerusalem. In accordance with instructions in the book of Leviticus, a woman needed to be purified after the birth of a child. She should present a lamb, dove or a pigeon, depending on her financial situation, as a sin offering, 33 days after the circumcision of a baby boy. Mary and Joseph came to the Temple to fulfil the law. Her ritual washing and the presentation of the sacrifice should have been an end to it. She was free to rejoin society again, but no, they are now greeted by Anna and Simeon, people completely unknown to Mary and Joseph. Both of them step forward to celebrate and welcome the baby.

Anna is 84 years old, so we are told. She never leaves the Temple, but worships day and night fasting and praying. She is waiting for the redemption of Israel. In the tiny baby she gathers to her, she sees and foresees the redemption she has been waiting for. But she is not the only holy person living in Jerusalem at that time who is waiting to see the fulfilment of God's promise to the people of Israel. Simeon is also waiting. He comes to the Temple, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and also sees the salvation of Israel in the form of a baby. He speaks to the people around him;

“Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

Mary and Joseph are overwhelmed by these words, on top of all that has happened so far in the short life of their son. Then the warning from Simeon for the baby's mother

“A sword will pierce your own heart”.

The consolation of Israel will come at a cost, and a large part of that cost will be born by the mother, Mary.

We know the ending of the story, we know that the baby grows up to be a man, that he has a three year ministry around Israel teaching, preaching, healing and proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom of God. We know that this challenged the authorities, and religious and secular conspired together to put him to death. We know God triumphed and Jesus rose again from the dead on Easter Day.

On Ash Wednesday we are asked to suspend all that we know about Jesus life and ministry. We are asked to walk alongside him for 40 days. We are asked to share his joys and sorrows, his teaching and preaching as we trace his steps to Jerusalem, to whatever God has in store for him there. We are asked to trust in our lives as he did in his, as he puts one foot in front of another on the road to Jerusalem, that whatever happens this is God's plan for him, and that no matter how it appears God does not and will not desert him or us. So let us prepare ourselves to reflect, give up and give in to all that God has in store for us, knowing that he is always with us.

Jillianne

FLOWER ROTA

DATE	HIGH ALTAR	LADY ALTAR	MEMORIAL ALTAR
February 1	Flower Fund	Flower Fund	Jane Brown
February 8	Flower Fund	Flower Fund	Sheila Price
February 15	Flower Fund	Flower Fund	-
February 22	Flower Fund	Flower Fund	Holloway Family
February 29	-	-	-

Apart from the Memorial Altar, there are no flowers in church during Lent

Pam Draper

COFFEE ROTA

February 2	Carol
February 9	Jane
February 16	Nicola
February 23	Pam

*Many thanks for all your help with the coffees after church.
If you are unavailable for your turn please arrange for someone else to do your session and change the master copy in church (and let me know if possible).*

Thanks, Nicola 01179 616629

CLEANING ROTA

Week Commencing:

February 3	Mr. & Mrs. L. Lovell
February 10	Mr. & Mrs. B. Draper
February 17	Mrs. S. Price & Miss K. Price
February 24	Mr. & Mrs T. Wilshire

Thanks, Pam Draper

***Volunteers for any of the rotas would be very much appreciated,
if you can help, please contact Margaret Fletcher
on 9616629***

WELCOMER'S ROTA

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
February 2	Beryl Holder	Eileen salt
February 9	Brian Draper Lydia Hughes	No Service
February 16	Martin Hanney Nina Hanney	Eileen Salt
February 23	Karen Mayo Chris Eames	No Service

COPY DATE

Copy for of our March 2020 magazine should be with me by **Sunday 16th February** at the latest please.

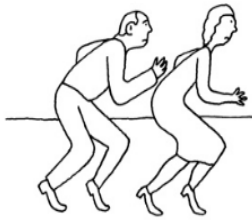
Brian Draper, Magazine Editor

THE CHURCH HALL

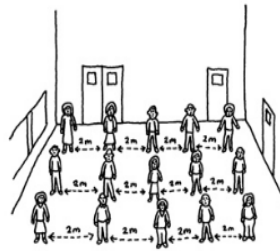
CONDITIONS OF HIRE



FILL IN THE PAPERWORK



ARRIVE AND LEAVE QUIETLY



DO'NT CRAM TOO MANY PEOPLE IN



DO'NT STICK ANYTHING ON THE WALLS



STACK THE CHAIRS AS YOU FOUND THEM



CLEAN EVERYTHING UP

2nd FEBRUARY THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

FEBRUARY 14th – VALENTINE’S DAY

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century – one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer’s time the link was assumed to be because on these saints’ day -14 February – the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine’s Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or ‘sweethearts’ during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love – Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

It was:

150 years ago, on 17th February 1870 that the Elementary Education Act (commonly known as Forster's Education Act) was introduced in England and Wales. It provided a framework for the education of all children aged between five and 12. Many people objected to it, including the upper classes who wanted to keep educational privileges for themselves, and employers who feared losing cheap labour.

125 years ago, on 14th Feb 1895 that Oscar Wilde's play *The Importance of Being Earnest* was performed for the first time, at St James's Theatre in London.

100 years ago, on 24th February 1920 that the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi Party) was established, changing its name from the German Workers' Party and holding its first mass rally in Munich.

90 years ago, on 18th February 1930 that the dwarf planet Pluto was discovered by American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh.

75 years ago, in February/March 1945 that Anne Frank, Dutch Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim died in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, at the age of 15, probably from typhus. Known for *The Diary of a Young Girl*.

75 years ago, on 21st February 1945 that Eric Liddell, Scottish athlete, died. He became an Olympic gold medallist in 1924 for the 400m. Because of his religious convictions he had withdrawn from the 100m heats held on a Sunday and entered (and won) the 400m heats. He died in a WWII internment camp in China, aged 43.

70 years ago, on 8th February 1950 that the Stasi, the East German secret police force, was established. It was not dissolved until 1990, when numerous Stasi officials were subsequently prosecuted for their crimes. Millions of East German citizens were then allowed to see the extensive documentation the Stasi had compiled against them through their network of informants.

60 years ago, on 8th February 1960 that Queen Elizabeth II issued an Order-in-Council stating that she and her family would be known as the House of Windsor, and that her descendants would use the surname Mountbatten-Windsor.

Also 60 years ago, on 19th Feb 1960 that Prince Andrew, Duke of York, was born. He is the second son of Queen Elizabeth II.

50 years ago, on 2nd Feb 1970 that Bertrand Russell, British philosopher, logician, mathematician, and social reformer, died. He was winner of the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature.

30 years ago, on 2nd Feb 1990 that South African President F.W. de Klerk lifted a 30-year ban on the African National Congress (ANC) and other opposing political parties and anti-apartheid groups. He also freed Nelson Mandela from prison (on 11th Feb) after 27 years of imprisonment

Also 30 years ago, on 7th Feb 1990 that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union agreed to give up its 70-year monopoly on political power.

25 years ago, on 26th Feb 1995 that Barings Bank, the oldest merchant bank in London, collapsed after its chief trader in Singapore, Nick Leeson, lost approximately £625million on unauthorised transactions.

20 years ago, from 11th Feb to 29th May that the British Government suspended the Northern Ireland Assembly after it failed to strike a deal on decommissioning IRA weapons.

15 years ago, on 14th Feb 2005 that the popular video-sharing website YouTube was founded. (It was officially launched in November after more development and testing.)

Also 15 years ago, on 16th Feb 2005 that the Kyoto Protocol came into effect. The international treaty obliges industrialised nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

FEBRUARY 25th – SHROVE TUESDAY: WHO'S FOR PANCAKES?

Why do we have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, as we call it today? And what is Shrove Tuesday? And why do thousands of people feel it rewarding to race along a street somewhere tossing pancakes from their frying pans as they go?

Well, the answer to the first question is that it is the day before Lent begins and for well over a thousand years that has meant it was the last chance to enjoy meat, fat and other tasty dishes until Easter Day. The 'Lent Fast' was widely and strictly observed. The food in the larder wouldn't keep for six weeks so it had to be eaten. With all these rich foods no wonder the French call it 'Fatty Tuesday' – Mardi Gras.

-So, what have pancake races got to do with all this solemnity? 'Shrove' is an old word for 'forgiven' and in those days to prepare for the rigours of Lent people would want to confess and seek forgiveness – not quite what you want at a party. The answer is quite simply enjoying yourself while you can! So, on Shrove Tuesday this year let's have some fun and make it last as long as possible.

The most convincing (and amusing) of the explanations of pancake races is of outwitting the Sexton who rang the curfew bell that marked the start of Lent. He was reluctant to do it while the race was unfinished. So, the revelry caused by dropped pancakes, postponed the inevitable.

Since the Reformation it has not been so rigorously observed in Britain, but still people will resolve to 'give up something for Lent'. Six weeks is about right as a duration and Sunday has always been exempt but make the most of those pancakes. They may well not reappear until April 12th!

26th FEBRUARY – ASH WEDNESDAY: MOURNING OUR SIN

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12–18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10) The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

JANUARY CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.

DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.

LENT 2020

There will be weekly meetings during Lent starting with our Ash Wednesday Benefice Ashing and Communion service on 26 February at 7.30 at St Ann's Syston and ending with the Maundy Thursday Benefice Communion of the Last Supper on 9 April at 7.30 at St Barnabas Warmley.

During the 5 weeks of Lent there will be a number House Groups who will be studying the book recommended for Lent by both Archbishop Justin Weldon and our own Bishop Viv. The book by Ruth Valerio is called 'Saying Yes to Life'. In our groups we will be exploring how we can view big issues facing the world today through a Christian worldview.

Details will be available on the Lent Card which will be available in Church from 16 February.

LENT FASTING

This month sees the start of Lent, the season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Fasting can be a neglected discipline, but it plays an important part in the Christian life. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and He taught His disciples to fast (i.e. not *if* but *'when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen.'* (Matthew 6:17,18).

Why Fast?

Firstly, giving up something in my life underlines my desire to put God first in my life. Secondly, fasting shows me how much I depend on things other than God in my life, so I can surrender my idols to Him. Thirdly, fasting encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God in my life. Therefore, fasting gives me space to humbly focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom and results in a more intimate relationship with Christ. It also enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life, with a heart more attentive to God.

How can I fast?

Usually fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, although some can't abstain from food for medical reasons. It might also include abstaining or limiting the time I give to television, alcohol or social media. However, Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, 'random acts of kindness', or giving more time to prayer and Bible study. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5:6).



**Bitton Recreation Ground
Saturday 7th March 2020**

7.30 to 11.00 pm

**Caller - Robert Wheatley
Ploughman's Supper
Licensed Bar**

Tickets Adults £10 Child £5

Bitton

Cooney 932 3151 or Gibson 932 2122

St. Barnabas

Brian Draper 07976 568069

All proceeds to Bitton Recreation Ground

A LITTLE HUMOUR

Take me out

An elderly single woman died last month. She requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she explained: “They wouldn’t take me out while I was alive, so I don’t want them to take me out when I’m dead.”

Love in a bag

I asked my nephew whether he bought his wife anything for Valentine’s Day, and he said he had bought her a belt and a bag. When I commented that I am sure she would appreciate them, he agreed: “Yes, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now.”

Why Elijah did that...

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times over. “Now,” said the teacher, “can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?”

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, “I know! I know!” she said, “To make the gravy!”

Lot’s wife

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot’s wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, ‘My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving,’ he said, ‘and she turned into a telephone pole!’

Best to impress

An older man, not in the best physical condition, went along to his local gym. Carefully dressed in his new exercise clothes, he approached a trainer in the gym. “I want to impress a beautiful young girl as soon as possible. Which machine should I use?”

The trainer took one look at him and smiled: “I would highly recommend the ATM machine outside!”

WHO'S WHO

VICAR	The Rev. Jeremy Andrew The Vicarage Church Avenue	9672724
ASSOCIATE PRIEST	The Rev. Susie Bishop 100 North Road, Stoke Gifford	07415 831488
HON. CURATE	The Rev. Jillianne Norman 74 Blackhorse Road, Mangotsfield	9561551
LAY MINISTERS	Mr. Leslie Willcox 29 Neville Road, Kingswood	9405086
	Mr. John Sibley 94 Cock Road	9679478
CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs. Sheila Price 23 Albany Way	07975 671976
	Miss Margaret Fletcher	9616629
TREASURER	Mr. Phillip Heap 15 Samuel White Road, Hanham	07974 008259
PCC SECRETARY	Mrs. Fiona Rogers	07714 100092
STEWARDSHIP SECRETARY	Mr. Leslie Willcox 29 Neville Road, Kingswood	9405086
CHURCH FLOWER ORGANISER	Mrs. Pamela Draper 15 The Keep, North Common	9326276
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Mr. Brian Draper 15 The Keep, North Common	9326276
HALL BOOKING	Mrs. Terri Lavis 28 Stockton Close	9327039
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (CHILDREN)	Miss Margaret Fletcher	9616629
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (VUNERABLE ADULTS)	Mrs, Helen Willcox	9405086

ACTIVITIES (around Warmley)

BEAVERS, CUBS, SCOUTS, BROWNIES AND GUIDES

Each group meets at the Scout H.Q., London Road

BEAVERS (age 6-8 years), Meet Fridays, 6.30pm to 7.30pm
N.B. It is advisable to put the boy's name on the waiting list at 4 years old.
Contact: R. Pace on 932 8498

CUBS Meet Thursdays 6.45pm to 8.15pm

SCOUTS Meet Tuesdays 7.15pm to 9.15pm

GUIDES Meet Mondays
Guide Leader: Mrs. Elaine Roch Tel: 937 3153

BROWNIES (24th Kingswood) age 7-10 years
Meet on Mondays
Leader: Sarah Alder Tel: 947 8997
It is advisable to put the girl's name on the waiting list at 5 years of age.

COMMUNITY CENTRES:

North Common - Secretary: Mrs. Carol Fowler Tel: 9602999
Warmley - The Administrator: Tel: 9674282
Email: warmleycentre@btconnect.com

ORCHESTRA The Cameo Orchestra rehearse in Church on Tuesdays from 7.45pm-9.45pm
String and brass players above Grade 5 always welcome
Contact: Denise Clark on 0117 9497864

PILATES Oldland Community and Youth Centre, High Street, Oldland
Beginners Tuesdays 6.15-7.15pm
General Class Tuesdays 7.30pm-8.30pm
Contact: Elly Nashat on 07790 598309
Email: ellynashat@gmail.com

OLDLAND BRASS QUINTET Music for your Garden Party or Fete.
Contact Bob or Terri Lavis on 932 7039
or email lavis28@btinternet.com

LADIES' FRIENDSHIP GROUP: meetings are held on 3rd Monday of every month at the Warmley Community Centre at 3.30pm.
Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Brown 9613401

ACTIVITIES (Church based)

BELLS Practice: Every Wednesday in the Belfry from
7.30pm-9pm
Captain: Mr. D. Wilkins-Smith - Tel: 9676226

CHOIR Newcomers always welcome.
Contact: Jeremy Andrew
j.andrew.102@btinternet.com

RISE AND SHINE
Meet 1st Sunday of each month in Church
Contact: Fiona Rogers on 07714 100092

