

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025



CALENDAR

Sunday 2nd February

Candlemas-

The presentation of Christ in the Temple

10am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

God's Gang meets during the service

6pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 5th February

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Saturday 8th February

9.30am Working Party

Sunday 9th February

Fourth Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Tuesday 11th February

7.30pm Mothers Union AGM

Wednesday 12th February

10am Holy Communion

2pm First Steps service. If you are a family with pre-school children, please come and join in the fun.

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 13th February

11am Pilgrim Bible Study Group Genesis 13.1-18
Wandering with Abram

Sunday 16th February

Third before Lent Septuagesima

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

God's Gang meets during the service

Wednesday 19th February

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 20th February

2.30-4pm Mustard Seed – Chat, Tea, Good Company

Sunday 23rd February

Second Sunday before Lent Sexagesima

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Wednesday 26th February

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 27th February

11am Pilgrim Bible Study Group **Genesis 15.1-21**
A covenant with Abraham

Sunday 2nd March

Sunday next before Lent Quinquagesima

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with God's Gang followed by refreshments

Tuesday 4rd March Shrove Tuesday

4pm to 6pm Pancakes at the Vicarage

Wednesday 5th March

Ash Wednesday

10am Holy Communion (BCP) with imposition of Ashes

8pm Choral Eucharist with imposition of ashes



The first daffodils of spring



Morning Prayer Monday Tuesday Thursday and Friday 8.30am join us in church or on line <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82117921556> Please check the weekly sheet for any changes. Not during the weeks beginning 3rd and 10th February.

PALM CROSS AMNESTY

We need your palm crosses. As we approach Ash Wednesday we are inviting people to bring their palm crosses from previous years back to church. These will be burnt to make the ash we will use to mark the beginning of Lent. Please place your crosses in the basket by the door.

Ash Wednesday falls on 5th March. There will be two services at Christ Church, 10am and 8pm.



Mothers Union Sunday

In December our Mothers Union branch took responsibility for our Parish Eucharist. During the service two new members were welcomed: Alison Davis and Priscilla McBean.



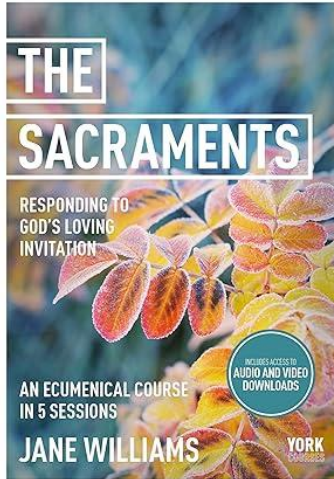
Our meeting this month on Tuesday 11th February will be our annual general meeting. In March we will be visited by Peter Murphy, an iconographer based in Thanet, who will be talking about icons – their history, how they are made and how they are used.

Brownie News

Congratulations to Lydia who received her Golden Brownie Award in December.



Lent Learning



Lent study groups will begin in the week of 9th March on Monday evenings at 7.30pm and Thursday mornings at 10am, meeting in the choir vestry. We will be looking at the book *Sacraments: Responding to God's Loving Invitation* by Jane Williams.

Acknowledging that the sacraments can seem confusing, divisive or (frankly!) incomprehensible, she reveals them to be a glorious expression of God's love for the world in all its beauty and brokenness. The sacraments invite us to enter into the mystery that the world has meaning and purpose and that all things come together in Jesus. If we are willing, in loving response, to become part of the action ourselves, we will surely find ourselves not only refreshed but re-enchanted.

The books will be available later this month at £6 each.

2025 Charities and good causes

Our designated charities for 2025 will be :

St Mungo's- *working with homeless people*

Shelter Box- *providing emergency resources to the most vulnerable*

Elliott Holmes Memorial Fund – *working to improve mental wellbeing of young people*

Choice Support (Peppercorns) - *providing a wide range of opportunities for adults with learning disabilities*

We will continue to support: Christian Aid, Embrace the Middle East, ADSS, School and Street Pastors, Sanctuary and Children's Society through targeted fundraising and smaller contributions.

Our Charites 'pot' can be supported using the 'Jar of Grace' by the south door and will be the focus of our Lent appeal.

Good causes we are supporting



the

at Christ Church in 2025

PRAYER CALENDAR for February

	THE COMMUNITY	CHURCH
1	The Elderly Those who are housebound or isolated	Those who use our hall
2	Those with poor mental health	Our preschool
3	The armed services	Our clergy – Andrew, Jacqueline & Chris
4	GPs and community health workers	Our Churchwarden Our Parochial Church Council
5	Schools	The children in our church Tots' Group, God's Gang and First Steps
6	Young people at university & college, or in work or apprenticeships	For vocations in the church, and those in training for ordained and lay ministry
7	The unemployed	Street and school Pastors
8	Our parliament and MP	Churches Together in Gravesend
9	The victims of racism and discrimination	Our companion dioceses in Estonia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania All who struggle for racial justice
10	Social workers	Neighbouring Parishes
11	All who have served in war and conflict	Our lay ministers
12	Prisoners and prison staff	Prison chaplains
13	Our emergency services	Christian Aid
14	Those who support people in the workplace	Those preparing for marriage
15	Our neighbours of other faiths	Those who are new in our church
16	Our local hospitals	Hospital chaplains
17	All who work with young people School pastors	Inclusive Church and all who work for inclusion and equality
18	Those living with dementia	Our safeguarding team
19	Musicians and artists	Our organist, choir & Semiquavers
20	Family life	Our Mothers Union
21	Our councillors and council	Those who are persecuted for their faith
22	All involved in the production and distribution of food	Mustard Seed
23	All who work on the river RNLI	Our Bishops Jonathan and Simon The interim Archdeacon and Archdeacon designate
24	Victims of domestic abuse	Those who care for our buildings
25	All who work for peace	Mediators and peace makers
26	Those who are affected by modern day slavery	Baptism families
27	Foodbanks and those who use them The homeless	Those who help communicate God's message
28	Local businesses	The bereaved

ASH WEDNESDAY 5th March

