



Second Sunday before Lent

Sunday 23rd February to Saturday 1st March
St Andrew, St Paul & St Peter Blackley

Dear Friends

Creation, stewardship, praise and faith

Genesis 2.4b–9, 15–end; Psalm 65; Revelation 4;
Luke 8.22–25

Welcome to the newsletter this week.

In Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-end, we are taken back to the dawn of creation, where God forms humanity from the dust of the ground and places them in the Garden of Eden to work and care for it. This passage reminds us of our sacred responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation, tending to the world around us with care and reverence.

In Revelation 4, we are given a glimpse of the heavenly throne room, where the elders and living creatures offer continuous worship and praise to God. This vision of divine worship challenges us to reflect on our own worship practices and to seek ways to honour God with our lives, both in our gatherings and in our daily actions.

Lastly, our Gospel reading from Luke 8:22-25 recounts the story of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee. This powerful narrative reminds us of the importance of faith, even in the midst of life's storms. As Jesus rebukes the wind and waves, we are reminded that His presence brings peace and that we can trust Him to calm the storms in our own lives.

Come and join us for worship at St Andrew's and St Peter's at 9.30am, and St Paul's at 11.30am.

With every blessing
Pam

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Those grieving

The families of
Brian Helire (St Mary's parish)
Joan Green (St Mary's parish)
Dennis Stead (St Paul's parish)
Alan Kennedy (St Andrew's parish)
whose funerals fall in the next couple of weeks.

Those exploring their faith

Those who have contacted us recently about being baptised.

Confirmation Candidates

Alfie, Emilia, Faith, Favor, Henry, Israel, Louis, Margot, Noah, Oliver, Sally, Timmy, and Violet.

Those getting married

Amy and James 1st March at St Leonard's (Banns at St Andrew's)

Those caring

Norlands Nursing Home

Blackley residents and visitors

Old Road, Old School Drive, Ongar Walk

Community Partners

Our PCSOs

Schools and Young People

All our children and staff at Crosslee Primary School

Worldwide Church

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

NOTABLE CHRISTIANS CELEBRATED THIS WEEK

Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894)

Christina Rossetti was an esteemed English poet, renowned for her deeply emotive and spiritual poetry. Born into an intellectually vibrant family, Rossetti's siblings included the famous Pre-Raphaelite painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Her early life was marked by a strong religious upbringing, which profoundly influenced her works. Rossetti's poetry often grappled with themes of faith, mortality, and unrequited love. Her most famous works include the poem "Goblin Market," a narrative poem teeming with rich imagery and complex themes, and the Christmas carol "In the Bleak Midwinter," which continues to be widely sung today.



Rossetti's legacy endures through her contributions to the Victorian literary canon, where she stands out as one of the era's most significant female poets. Her introspective and devotional poetry has inspired countless readers and writers. Despite struggling with recurring bouts of illness throughout her life, Rossetti's resilience and unwavering faith shone through her prolific output of poems, hymns, and children's literature.

Today, she is remembered not only for her artistic accomplishments but also for her unique ability to blend profound spiritual insight with poetic beauty. Her work continues to resonate, offering timeless reflections on the human experience and the divine.

1st March - David of Wales, c601

David, or Dewi, was a monk and a bishop in the sixth century. He was reputed to be an exemplar of the ascetic, spiritual life but was also highly regarded for his kindness and compassion to others, particularly the poor and the sick. He is believed to have



founded the monastery at Menevia, now St Davids, and also at least a dozen other monasteries. He is said to have based his Rule for his monasteries on that of the Egyptian desert monks, with a strong emphasis on hard work, abstinence from alcohol and refraining from unnecessary speech. He died in about the year 601 and has been regarded as the patron saint of Wales since at least the twelfth century.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, 23rd February

- 9.30am St Andrew's Sunday Worship
9.30am St Peter's Sunday Worship
11.30am St Paul's Sunday Worship
2.30pm Confirmation Service at St Andrew's

Monday, 24th February

- 9.00am Stay and Play reopens
4.00pm Worship Leaders' Think Tank

Tuesday, 25th February

- 12.00pm Funeral of Dennis Stead
1.00pm Funeral of Brian Helire
7.00pm Deanery Synod Meeting at St Paul's

Wednesday, 26th February

- 9.00am Stay and Play at St Andrew's
10.45am Morning Service at St Andrew's
1.00pm Funeral of Joan Green

Thursday, 27th February

- 12.00pm Community Café and Drop In at St Paul's
3.00pm Funeral of Alan Kennedy

Saturday, 29th February

- 10.00am Community Café at St Paul's



UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH DATES

- 23rd February 2.30pm Confirmation Service at St Andrew's

PCC MEETINGS

- 4th March 7.00pm St Peter's *Parish Room*
25th March 7.30pm St Andrew's *Parish room*
TBC *St Paul's*

DEANERY MEETINGS

- 25th February 7.00pm Deanery Synod at St Paul's
25th March 10.00am Deanery Chapter

WORSHIP LEADERS MEETING

- 8th March 7.00pm St Andrew's Parish Room

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 22nd March Join the Great British Spring Clean *details to follow*

LENT STUDY

"Covenants and Promises of God"

Thursday Mornings in person
11.00am at the Hub
or

Thursday Evenings in person
7.30pm at St Andrew's
or

Sunday Evenings hybrid
5.00pm via Teams (link to follow)
OR in person at St Andrew's Parish Room

First sessions will be on **Thursday 6th March** and **Sunday 9th March**. A joint with the whole church will be a service on **Maundy Thursday, 19th April**.

COMMUNICATION

We've been sharing the news of the changes in our communication for a number of weeks now, and we are through that transition spell now and we are fully moved over to our new systems.



Your first port of call is our website: blackleycofe.church where you will find pretty much all the information you need for week to week stuff going on in church.

Please use it to find [rotas](#), [service sheets](#), [calendar](#), [newsletter](#) and [study materials](#).

ROTAS: your up to date rota is on the website, NOT on ChurchSuite. Please disregard any printed rotas you may have from this source as it may be out of date. *The one on the website is the one to work from.* You can also access your own serving rota via the iKnow app, and if you want training on this, please speak to me and I can show you separately.

WORSHIP TEAM: access to the worship resources is found by clicking on the "Team Login" button at the top of the homepage on the website. If you can't get in, let me know – it may be that you are using a different email from the one I have on the system. We can fix it easily, but you will need to let me know.

CONTACTS: we will be taking ChurchSuite offline within the next few weeks. Our contact database is now on a system called "iKnow", and over the next few weeks we will be contacting everyone to share access details and to check the accuracy of our data. Don't worry if you are not tech savvy – we will do this for you if you are not confident of doing it yourself.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need to contact anyone in church, please use the following methods:

Phone 0161 264 9982 **Email** clergy@blackleycofe.church **Website** <https://blackleycofe.church>

If you would like to receive this notice sheet by email, please contact us on churchoffice@blackleycofe.church and we will add you to our mailing list.