

PARISH NEWS February

St Mary Wroxham, Hoveton St John,
Hoveton St Peter
St Peter Belaugh, St Mary Tunstead

2026



Is 11:10, Ps 20:5

Team

Rector

The Reverend Liz Jump
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Associate Priest

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Churchwardens

Wroxham

Mr Angus Turvill

Hoveton St John

Mrs Sue Cobb

Hoveton St Peter

Mrs Sandy Lines

Website: wroxhambenefice.org Facebook The Wroxham Benefice
For enquires regarding Baptisms, Wedding and Funerals please contact
the Rector. Liz's rest day is Monday

*If you would like to receive this news letter or our weekly sheet by
email, please let Liz know.*

Sunday Services for February

1st	10am	Informal Worship	St John, Hoveton
	10am	Holy Communion	St Peter, Hoveton
	5pm	Celtic Communion	St Peter, Hoveton
8th	10am	Holy Communion	St Mary, Wroxham
15th	10am	Holy Communion	St John, Hoveton
22nd	10am	Holy Communion	St Mary, Wroxham

Can't get to church?

If you aren't able to join us in church, either temporarily or as a long term thing, you are welcome to receive communion at home - just get in touch with Liz, and we will do our best to organise that for you.



Events Across our Churches in February

Coffee Mornings

St Mary, Wroxham Monday 2nd February in our Church Hall

We have cakes, marmalades, books, bring & buy and raffle.

Come along & meet your friends in the warm hall, and it's free.

There is a donation box for anyone to contribute
which goes to the upkeep of our Church.

Open 10.00-12.00 everyone is made most welcome.

Hoveton St John Wednesday 11th February from 10.30 in the Church.

Home made scones, tea and coffee, cakes.

A good selection of jigsaws and bric a brac.

Do come - you will be most welcome.

Thank you to all those who work so hard to put on events across our Benefice. These are not only helpful for fundraising (yes we are struggling like everyone with bills and need all we can raise - more about that next time!) but - and actually more importantly - they are brilliant for ourselves and for the community to help us grow together and to do the work of God and the church - to reach out with his love to those around and draw them into the love we have found.

So - thank you all!

And if anyone would like to help with future events, all offers would be gratefully received!

Praying through February

Prayer is the foundation of our Christian life - and one everyone struggles with at times! Each month we provide resources for prayer, whether you are able to get to church or not.

Prayer Diary

We are using this diary to pray for all those who live and work in our parishes.

1st	As we celebrate Candlemas, and remember Simeon and Anna, we pray for the older members of our community, and especially the residents of Overbury House and Heron Lodge Wroxham: Salhouse Rd, Skinners Lane, Staitheway Rd
2nd	For Wroxham's coffee morning, and for all who will attend. With thanks for those who faithfully run it each month. Hoveton: Summer Drive, The Drive, The Rhond, Three Acre Close
3rd	Our funeral directors, with thanks for their love and care Belaugh: Church Lane, Hill Piece, Top Road
4th	All those working in our local shops, cafes and restaurants Tunstead: Shop Ln, Vicarage Ln, Watering Pit Ln, Weavers Loke
5th	For those who serve on Wroxham St Mary PCC, and for its officers - Angus the Warden and Fabric Officer, John the Treasurer and Carolyn the secretary. Wroxham: Stevenson Rd, The Avenue, Trafford Walk, Beech Rd
6th	For Liz's monthly visit to Overbury House. Hoveton: Tunstead Lane, Tunstead Rd, Two Saints Close
7th	For those who serve on Hoveton St John PCC, and for its officers - Sue the Warden and Secretary and Tom the Treasurer and Fabric Officer Belaugh: Back Lane, The Street
8th	For our service at St Mary, Wroxham this morning, for those who prepare the church, those who lead, those who serve coffee, and for all those who attend. Tunstead: Anchor St, Belaugh Ln, Church Ln, Coltishall Ln

9th	For those who serve on Hoveton St Peter PCC, and for its officers - Sandy the Warden and Secretary, John the Treasurer Wroxham: Bircham Close, Bridge Broad Close, Bure Close, Castle St
10th	For those who serve on Belaugh St Peter PCC, and for its officers - Jan the Secretary and Marcus the Treasurer Hoveton: Waveney Close, Waveney Drive, Albion Way, Alderfen Way
11th	For Hoveton St John coffee morning, and for all who will attend. With thanks for those who faithfully run it each month. Belaugh: Church Lane, Hill Piece, Top Road
12th	For those who serve on Tunstead St Mary PCC, and for its officers - Christine the Secretary, John the Treasurer Tunstead: Coltishall Ln, Crowgate Street, Culley's Pit Rd, Fletcher Cl
13th	For our schools as they break up for half term, with thanks for the work and skills of the teachers and supporting staff. Wroxham: Charles Close, Christopher Way, Church Ln, Grange Walk
14th	For those across our parishes who are housebound Hoveton: Barton Drive, Belaugh Drive, Belaugh Rd, Blackhorse Ct
15th	For our service this morning in Hoveton St John, and for our churches and congregation as we prepare for Lent Belaugh: Back Lane, The Street
16th	For our emergency services, for their safety in their work, and thanks for they skills they use in the service of others Tunstead: Forge Estate, Granary Ln, Manor Close, Market Close
17th	For the other churches in our area, St Helens RC, and the URC as we move into the six weeks of Lent in our shared faith journey Wroxham: Hartwell Rd, Keys Drive, Loynes Drive, Nobel Crescent
18th	All those attending our Ash Wednesday services today. Hoveton: Blofield Loke, Brimbelow Rd, Burnt Fen Way, Carrs Loke
19th	For the safeguarding work in our Diocese and our Benefice, for the Diocesan staff and for Carol our Parish Safeguarding Officer Belaugh: Church Lane, Hill Piece, Top Road
20th	For those who share their musical gifts for our worship. For Wroxham praise, and Nik our organist Tunstead: Market Street, Mill Ln, Mill Road, Old Lane, Sco Ruston Rd

21st	Our GP surgery and all who work there Wroxham: Salhouse Rd, Skinners Lane, Staitheway Rd
22nd	For our service this morning at Wroxham on the first Sunday of Lent Hoveton: Summer Drive, The Drive, The Rhond, Three Acre Close
23rd	For Stay and Play, its leaders and those attending Belaugh: Back Lane, The Street
24th	For those who faithfully meet each week to pray for the parishes and the work of God across our Benefice Tunstead: Shop Ln, Vicarage Ln, Watering Pit Ln, Weavers Loke
25th	For our midweek communion and Lent conversation following Wroxham: Stevenson Rd, The Avenue, Trafford Walk, Beech Rd
26th	For the staff and residents of Heron Lodge and Overbury House For Stay and Play as it reopens after half term, giving thanks for those who attend and for all those who come to help each week. Hoveton: Tunstead Lane, Tunstead Rd, Two Saints Close
27th	Thanks for the four footed members of our churches whose companionship and skills give support and love to those who bring them each week. Belaugh: Church Lane, Hill Piece, Top Road
28th	For our Parish Councils, with thanks for their service to our villages Tunstead: Anchor St, Belaugh Ln, Church Ln, Coltishall Ln

Please also hold in your prayers the things happening in our churches, and each other.

You can also access the Diocesan prayer diary online at <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/news-and-events/prayer-diary/>

There are lots of online prayer resources, why not try

<https://sacredspace.com/>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> You can listen to this service if you prefer!

If you have a smart phone, there is an App for Daily Prayer from the Church of England

Readings for the coming month

Each Sunday we follow the Lectionary for our readings in church. If you can't be with us, or would just like to look at them ahead of time, here are February's readings.

Sunday 1st February

Candlemas

1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 1:18-end

John 2:1-11

Sunday 8th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Psalm 136

Romans 8:18-25

Matthew 6:25-end

Sunday 15th February

Sunday before Lent

Exodus 24:12-end

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-end

Matthew 17:1-9

Sunday 22nd February

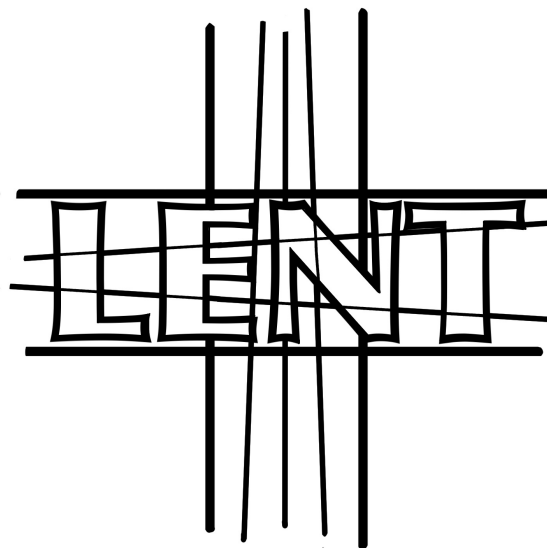
1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



Lent in the Benefice

Following our Advent course we were asked if we could continue with a midweek communion as we did for those weeks. With this in mind we are going to do a very simple Communion each week, followed by a coffee and discussion based around The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 **Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent.**

This year's resources have at their heart the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

During Lent, reflections are centred around a summary of the Christian Way from *Common Worship*, which identifies six activities essential to our calling as disciples.

Each week a different contributor explores a different aspect of Christian discipleship – **worshipping** together, **praying**, **exploring the Bible**, sharing **communion**, offering **service** and **sharing the good news** with others.

"Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too."

Archbishops Sarah Mullally & Stephen Cottrell

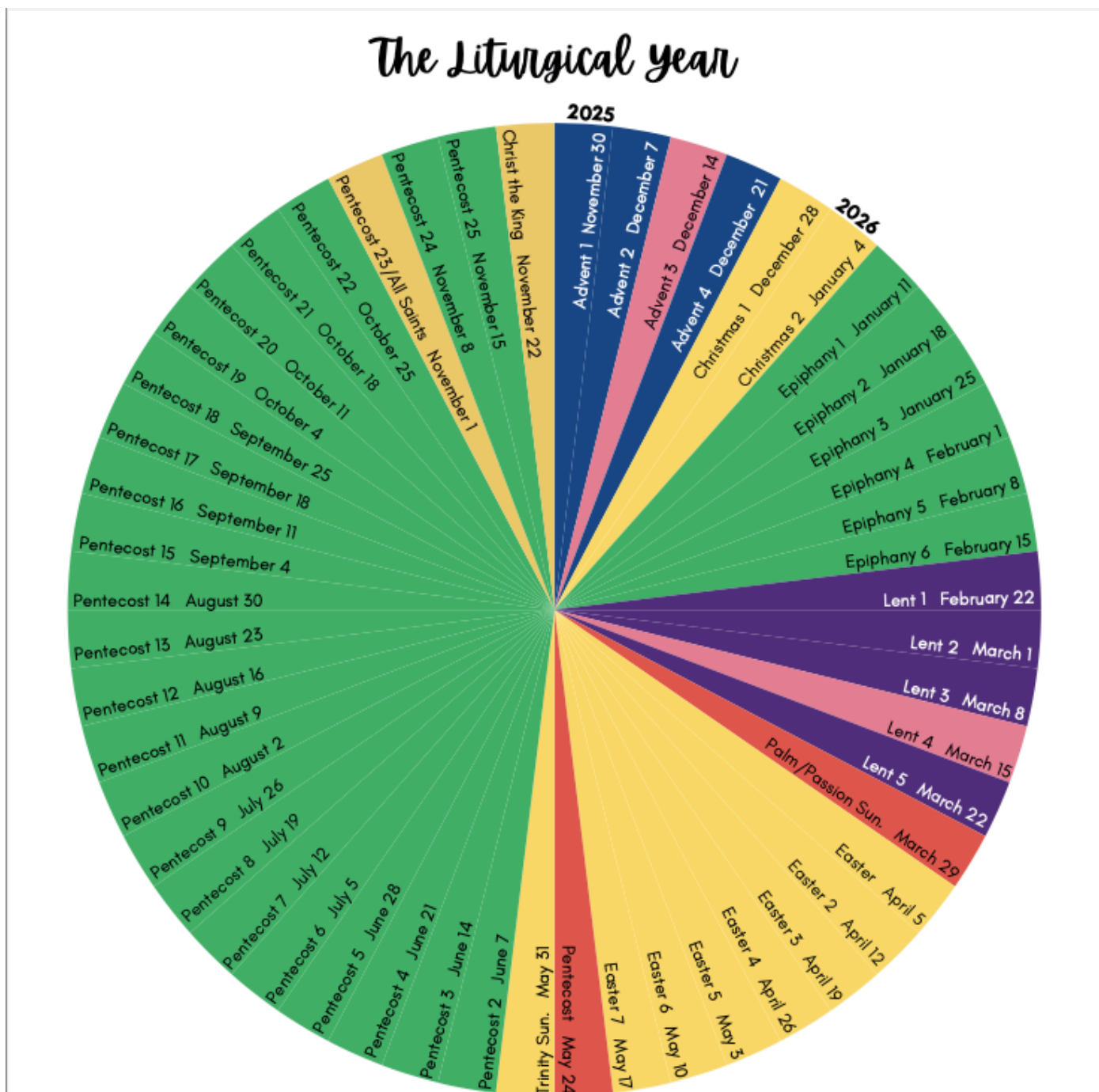
If you use the Church of England Everyday Faith App, it will automatically update so that you can follow the Lent reflections. I will also have a few hard copies available.

The sessions will be on Wednesday mornings, which seems to be the most popular time for these groups, and we will move between Wroxham and Hoveton St John.

Dates and locations for the sessions are as follows

How does the Church Year work?

I've been asked a few times to explain the liturgical year - the structure that we follow each year - so I'm going to put a simple (I hope) overview here, and then expand on that each time we move to a new season.



Key Liturgical Dates:

November 30, 2025- Happy New Liturgical Year!

December 24- Christmas Eve

December 25- Christmas Day

January 6, 2026- The Epiphany

February 2- The Presentation

February 18- Ash Wednesday

March 25- The Annunciation

April 2- Maundy Thursday

April 3- Good Friday

April 4- Holy Saturday

April 5- Easter Day

May 14- The Ascension

May 24- Pentecost

November 1- All Saints Day

The wheel of the year shows the pattern of the seasons that we follow. This one has the dates for this year, but the pattern is always the same. The colours are those we use to mark the seasons, and you will see those reflected in our altar frontals, and the robes worn by the priest at communion.

There are a few differences in this wheel to the colours we use, but that just reflects the slightly different traditions that exist.

Purple is the colour of preparation, penance and sacrifice and so is used for Advent and Lent. In the wheel here they use blue in Advent, and that is an accepted tradition, but most churches stay with purple. Similarly there are two Sundays marked in pink - *Gaudete* Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent and *Laetare* Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent. Both words mean Rejoice, and are Sundays where the solemnity of Lent or Advent are relaxed a little. More of that in each season.

White or Gold is the colour of celebration and we use it for Christmas and Easter and major feasts like All Saints and Christ the King or feasts of some Saints.

Red is the colour of fire, blood, passion, and the Holy Spirit, so we use that at Pentecost when we remember the coming of the Spirit on the disciples, and for Palm Sunday to mark the passion of Christ

Green is the colour of life, faith, and hope, and is used for all the other Sundays which are known as Ordinary Time. That isn't to mean boring or the Sundays where nothing much happens; the term comes from ordinalis (numbered/ordered), referring to the ordered, non-festal (from festival) weeks. It occurs in two parts: between the Baptism of Christ and Ash Wednesday, and between Pentecost and the start of Advent.

So where are we now?

2nd February (but marked on the first Sunday in February) is Candlemas, and marks the end of the Christmas season, 40 days after Christmas. While most have put away all thoughts of the festival well

before now, in the church we hold on to it through the season of Epiphany which holds the earliest stories of the life of Christ, and the final feast of the Christmas season is Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the temple.

The Epiphany season is full of moments of, well, epiphany! The arrival of the wise men which brought the epiphany, or realisation, that this messiah is for all people. The whole season then brings more of these moments - the Baptism of Christ with the voice from heaven saying 'this is my son, the beloved', the wedding feast at Cana - the first of the miracles of Jesus, and the recognition of Jesus by John, and the first disciples. We finish this season with the Feast of the Presentation, where Simeon and Anna, the elderly prophets in the temple, have that realisation that this baby is the Messiah they have waited for and we hear the wonderful words of the Nunc Dimittis - Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace....

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.

While Christmas decorations come down on twelfth night, it is not unusual to keep cribs up in homes and churches until Candlemas/The Presentation.

Liturgically, Candlemas is the day we take a last look back at Christmas, and a first look down the road to Lent. Where we see Jesus as a baby for the last time, and get ready to prepare ourselves for his passion and death, before the joy of the resurrection.

This year Easter is earlier and so we have only a little time in green before we move to purple, (I can try and explain why Easter moves if that would be helpful!).

I hope that's helpful. If you have any questions, let me have them and I'll fill that in next time, along with the next part of our liturgical journey - Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January 2026, when she was legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

1. She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.
2. She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London
3. She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.
4. In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.

5. She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.

6. She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as "the biggest decision I have ever made".

7. In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.

8. On 12th May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.

9. Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24th May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."

10. She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.

11. As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.

12. She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.

13. As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.

14. This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.

15. Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide.
16. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.
17. Archbishop Sarah has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital.
18. She is Chair of Christian Aid.
19. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.
20. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pott

People and Feasts of February

1st February – Brigid of Ireland, showing compassion and love

Brigid, you could say, was the female Patrick of Ireland.

Historical facts about this first abbess of Kildare (d.c. 525) may be scarce, but her 'Lives', written from the 7th century, tell many anecdotes and miracles which over the centuries have become deeply rooted in Irish folklore. Brigid came from a village near Kildare, of parents of humble origin, and is said to have been baptised by Patrick and became a nun at an early age. She is credited with founding the monastery of Kildare, a powerful influence for Christianity in Ireland.

The miracles attributed to Brigid show her to have been a woman of great compassion and generosity. There are stories of how she could multiply food, especially butter, for the poor. Other stories tell of her changing her bathwater to beer, in order to satisfy the thirst of unexpected visitors. Even her cows gave milk three times the same day, to enable visiting bishops to have enough to drink.

Brigid's cult grew rapidly in Ireland, where it became second only to that of Patrick. In England, there were at least 19 ancient church dedications in her honour (the most famous is St Bride's Fleet Street). There is also

St Bride's Bay, Dyfed, which underlines the strong connection between Irish and Welsh Christianity. St Brigid is patron of poets, blacksmiths, and healers. She is usually depicted with a cow lying at her feet, which recalls her phase as a nun-cowgirl.

2nd February – Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

As the end of the Christmas season approaches, the Revd Dr Peter Doll, Norwich Cathedral's Canon Librarian and Vice Dean, shares a reflection for Candlemas. It is based on art work in the Cathedral, and you can watch a video of this reflection online at <https://cathedral.org.uk/news/a-reflection-for-candlemas/> but it works as a written piece and so is shared here.

"The Feast of Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, celebrated on 2 February, marks the fortieth day of Christmas and the full end of the Christmas season.

It is also known as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a recognition of her time of ritual cleansing after childbirth in the Law of Moses. It is appropriate that we come for this reflection to the Cathedral's Lady Chapel, the Bauchun Chapel of Our Lady of Pity. William Bauchun, a local merchant and benefactor of the Cathedral, depicted in the stained glass window, had the Chapel built around 1330. A later benefactor had the vaulted roof added, with the bosses honouring St Mary. In more recent times a painting of the Presentation by the late eighteenth century artist John Opie has been added as an altarpiece. The painting presents the dramatic events in the Temple in a remarkably condensed way. In the foreground we have Mary and Joseph, who have come to the Temple in Jerusalem in obedience to the Law of Moses to present their first-born son and to offer sacrifice in thanksgiving for his birth.

There they encounter Simeon, a righteous and devout old man to whom God had revealed he would see the Lord's Anointed One before he died. He sees the baby Jesus, takes him in his arms and blesses God, saying the

words we sing each day at evensong, the Nunc Dimittis: 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy Word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people, Israel.' Here in the painting, Simeon holds up Jesus as an offering to God, his eyes looking up, as if seeing visions of God's promised future. 'Mine eyes have seen thy salvation.' In the background we also see Anna, the elderly widow who came daily to the Temple and who confirms Simeon's insight.

Although you would expect this revelation of Jesus as Messiah come to the Lord's Temple to be an occasion of joy and triumph, the painting and the feast are suffused with a sense of foreboding. The gaze of the infant Christ is also heavenward, full of serious apprehension. Jesus is naked, as he would also be at the end of his life, on the Cross.

The Feast of Candlemas is a day of transition, as we take one last look back towards the Crib at Bethlehem and look forward to the coming of Lent in a few weeks, and to the Passion of Christ that will follow. At the end of the liturgy of Candlemas we will come to the Cathedral's Cross of the Passion on the High Altar, saying together, 'Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion. Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.'

And in the Chapel in the Cathedral we see the same juxtaposition. If we look up from the Opie painting of the Presentation, we see a medieval boss of the Pieta, of Mary mourning with the dead body of her Son just taken down from the Cross on her lap, the image known in English as Our Lady of Pity.

As we turn from Christmas towards Lent, may God guide us to negotiate with Christ the path of his suffering and death, that we might come to share with him in his Resurrection and to share with Our Lady, Simeon, Anna, and all the saints in the joy of heaven."

Norwich Cathedral Services and Events

Evensong and Installation of the Canon Pastor 24 Feb, 17:30

All are welcome to join us in welcoming the Revd Liz Leaver as Norwich Cathedral's new Canon Pastor.

The special Evensong with the installation of the Canon Pastor will take place at 5.30pm on Tuesday 24 February and the Bishop of Norwich will preach at the service.

This service will also be available to watch online on the [Norwich Cathedral Services YouTube Channel](#).

Lent Addresses: Who do you say that I am?

Wednesday evenings from 25 February to 25 March, 19:30

Location: Nave

One of the themes running through Lent and Holy Week this year is the question Jesus puts to his disciples: 'Who do you say that I am?' The Wednesday addresses will reflect this, focusing on different aspects of Jesus' person and ministry, each of which reveals something of who Jesus is.

- **Wednesday 25 February** – Jesus the teacher and healer (Mark 1.16-28), *Bishop Peter Eagles*
- **Wednesday 4 March** – Jesus the priest (Matthew 21.1-13), *The Revd Dr Peter Doll, Canon Librarian and Vice Dean*
- **Wednesday 11 March** – Jesus the prophet (Hebrews 4.14-16), *The Revd Canon Aidan Platten, Canon Precentor*
- **Wednesday 18 March** – Jesus the king (John 18.28-19.3), *The Bishop of Lynn, the Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen*
- **Wednesday 25 March** – Jesus the saviour (Luke 9.18-22), *The Archdeacon of Norwich, the Ven Keith James*

Prayers for Healing, Wholeness and Reconciliation

Those wanting to partake in the ministry of reconciliation (confession) will be able to do so in St Andrew's Chapel from 7pm before each Lent Address and Eucharist.

After each Lent Address and Communion, prayers for healing and wholeness will be offered in St Luke's Chapel.

Art in the Close

Sept 2025 to Spring 2026 Location: Cathedral Close

Ancient architecture and contemporary sculpture combine in an exciting new exhibition of outdoor art at Norwich Cathedral.

Art in the Close will run from September 2025 to Spring 2026 and sees the Cathedral Close become the inspirational setting for a mix of works by artists Lynn Chadwick and John Maine.

The free open-air exhibition is planned to be the first in a new rolling programme of art at the Cathedral and it will give visitors the chance to enjoy discovering works in three different areas of the Close.

Lectio Divina

Every second Friday of the month, 2.30-3.00pm

Location: Library

Lectio Divina is a contemplative way of reading the Bible, focusing on a short passage and allowing it to speak to us; the passage is read aloud, and we may share a word or phrase that resonates with us, but without discussion. It is a traditional Benedictine approach to the scriptures. Open to all, readings and full outline of the approach provided. Come along to try it out, or contact gwarren@cathedral.org.uk if you want to know more.

The next Lectio Divina will be on **Friday 13 February 2026** at 2.30pm in the Library.

You can find more information about these events and more by visiting the website at www.cathedral.org