

Free - donations welcome

February 2026

BATHWICK NEWS

www.bathwickparishes.org.uk



St John's
(opposite the fire station)



St Mary's
(by Bathwick Hill roundabout)

WHO'S WHO IN THE BATHWICK PARISHES

(All telephone numbers are Bath 01225- unless otherwise stated)

CLERGY

Parish Priest The Revd. Peter Edwards Contact Church Office
Bathwick Rectory, Sham Castle Lane, Bath BA2 6JL
(Normal day off: Monday)

Asst Priests The Revd. Antony Claridge 427462
The Revd. Richard Hunt 938529
The Revd. Robert Webb 484042

READERS Dr Marilyn Kirby 835765
Mr Stephen Howard 466590

READER EMERITUS Mr Marcus Wedge 07493 198778

DIOCESAN SYNOD *(House of Clergy)* Fr Peter Edwards

DEANERY SYNOD *St Mary's:* Mr S Howard, Mrs N Parker
(House of Laity) *St John's:* Mr David Wright, Mr Mark Humphries

CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

affiliated to The Society of St Wilfred & St Hilda
St John's Road, BA2 6PT

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Di Shelley 722917
Mrs Chris Plummer 01249 712894

HON PCC SECRETARY

please contact the Churchwardens or Church Office

HON TREASURER

Mr Mark Humphries 07717 814508

ORGANIST

Dr David Hyatt 571037

ALMSGIVING SECRETARY

Mrs Mary Barry 464139

ELECTORAL ROLL SECRETARY

Mr Charles MacCall 428391

SACRISTAN

Mr Adrian Plummer 07880 701139

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Nadia MacCall 428391

FLOWERS

Mrs Jackie Newman 422450

CHURCH HALL HIRE

Parish Office (see page 3 for details) 447450

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Darlington Street, BA2 4EB

CHURCHWARDENS

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Mrs Clare Goodhart | 315638 |
| Mrs Nicola Parker | 834108 |

HON PCC SECRETARY

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Dr Marilyn Kirby | 835765 |
|------------------|--------|

FINANCE TEAM

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Mr Nick Lennard (Hon Treasurer) | 07980 591449 |
| Mr Keith Moss | 445234 |

PLANNED GIVING AND GIFT AID

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Mrs Dawn Lennard | 429277 |
|------------------|--------|

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Mr Andrew Parker | 834108 |
|------------------|--------|

BATHWICK NEWS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Advertisements</i> Mr Nick Lennard | 07980 591449 |
| <i>Distribution</i> The Parish Office | 447450 |

SACRISTY TEAM

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Mrs Molly Wedge | 07493 198778 |
|-----------------|--------------|

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Mrs Nicola Parker | 834108 |
|-------------------|--------|

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Mr Andrew Parker | 834108 |
|------------------|--------|

TOWER (*Bell Ringers*)

Tower Captain

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Correspondent</i> Molly Waterson | 07790 230767 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Mr Gary Desmond | 07980 818445 |
| Email: garyc.desmond@gmail.com or via the Parish Office | |

JUNIOR CHURCH AND BABIES & TODDLERS GROUP

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Mrs Nicola Parker | 834108 |
|-------------------|--------|

BATHWICK ST MARY PRIMARY SCHOOL

| | |
|--|--------|
| <i>Head Teacher:</i> Mr Kevin Purkiss, | 465654 |
| St. Mary's School, Darlington Road, Bath | |

FLOWERS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Parish Office (see below for details) | 447450 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|

CHURCH HALL HIRE

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Parish Office (see below for details) | 447450 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|

The Parish Office for both churches is based at St Mary's

Telephone and Answerphone 01225 447450

Email: office@bathwickparishes.org.uk

www.bathwickparishes.org.uk

(Mrs Kerry Hughes is usually in the church office Tuesday and Friday 9am - 12noon)

FEBRUARY SERVICES

ST MARY'S CHURCH (*Bathwick Hill roundabout*)

10.30am every Sunday, Parish Eucharist & Sermon

10.30am every Wednesday, traditional language Eucharist

9.30am every Friday, said Eucharist

Sunday evening services at 6pm:

—Epiphanytide Carols: 1st February

—(said) Evensong: 15th February and 22nd February



ST JOHN'S CHURCH (*opposite the Fire Station*)

9am every Sunday, Parish Mass & Sermon

9.30am every Tuesday and Saturday, said Mass

10.30am every Thursday, said Mass

Sunday evening services:

—Evensong & Benediction: 8th February 4pm



ASH WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY

- 10.30am Mass at St Mary's
- 7.30pm Sung Mass at St John's



LENT IN THE BATHWICK PARISHES

We will reflect on The Lord's Prayer in our Lent study group—see Fr Peter's article on the opposite page of this magazine for further details.

Meetings at 7.30pm on Thursdays in Lent starting on 26th February at The Rectory BA2 6JL—all welcome.



The devotional meditation on the Passion of the Lord known as The Stations of the Cross will be prayed each week:

- 10am on Thursdays at St John's (from 19th February)
- 10am on Fridays at St Mary's (from 20th February)

LETTER FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST, FR PETER EDWARDS

Dear brothers and sisters

As we begin February, so we celebrate the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, the feast known as Candlemas. The gospel reading for that festival (Luke 2:22-40) features the words and actions of the faithful Simeon and Anna in the Temple, and Simeon's words to Mary, 'a sword shall pierce your own soul too.' So Candlemas looks back 40 days to the birth of the Lord at Christmas, and at the same time forward to the events of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection that we celebrate in Holy Week.

On Wednesday 18th February, Ash Wednesday, the Church begins that formal time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter that we call Lent. It is a time that calls us to renewal, to spiritual refreshment, a precious gift for Christians to seek a deeper relationship with the Lord. One of the ways in which we do this is through our lives of prayer, and +Michael Bath & Wells has asked everyone in the Diocese to have a special focus on developing and renewing our lives of prayer in 2026.

To support +Michael's call, all our invited to attend our Lent study group on Thursday evenings at The Rectory (26th Feb onwards at 7.30pm) when we will be invited to reflect more closely on The Lord's Prayer, that model of prayer that Jesus has given us and which can so easily become something that we take for granted. All members of our congregations will be invited to take a copy of Archbishop Stephen Cottrell's booklet on The Lord's Prayer—and whether or not you are able to attend our discussion group in person, please do take some time during these weeks of Lent to reflect on the different petitions that the prayer contains—the booklet has the subtitle 'Ten great lessons and one great hope.'



Other opportunities in Lent include attending the meditation on the passion of the Lord known as the Stations of the Cross—to be held every Thursday (19th Feb onwards) at 10am at St John's, and every Friday (20th Feb onwards) at 10am at St Mary's.

With my prayers and all best wishes

Fr Peter

WALSINGHAM PRAYER GROUP



Prayer meetings are usually on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 5pm.

The next prayer meeting will be on:

Sunday 8th February at 5pm at St John's.

See Chris Plummer at St John's for more information or telephone her on 01249 712894 - *All welcome.*

St John's Regular Giving

Our treasurer, Mark Humphries, is asking if regular givers would please consider signing up to give by standing order, thus enabling him to simplify the banking process and have an insight into what monies comes into the bank regularly. Please note that all donations are confidential, in whatever form, and the only person who is aware of them is Mark. A Gift Aid form will also be available for those who are tax payers and are eligible for us to claim Gift Aid from the government. Mark asks that even those who have previously signed a Gift Aid form do so again so that he has an up-to-date list of who is eligible to allow the Church to make reclaims and, correspondingly, whether other possibilities are available for the Church to claim government funds as a consequence of the donations. These two forms will be available at the back of church.

Many thanks.

Chris Plummer
Church Warden

St John's Christmas Coffee Morning

The pre-Christmas coffee morning held on 6th December was a great success and our thanks to Marilyn for joining us with her lovely toy stall. Despite fewer numbers attending a splendid sum of £494 was raised. We also raised £207 on the Christmas Hamper Draw, which was won by Jackie Newman. The draw was made at the lunch arranged for Fr Robert's 55th Anniversary of Priesting on 21st December 2025. Many thanks to Chris for organising the Christmas Hamper Draw.

Di and Chris—Church Wardens

Thank you for my final service at St John's Church.

I would like to thank friends for all the kind things conveyed to me on my retirement from Liturgical activity. On the 21st December 2025 it was exactly 55 years since I was ordained priest in the Diocese of London.

The Mass was followed by a splendid lunch provided by the ladies of the parish. It was good to be joined by family members, god children and representatives from other parishes I have served in. Catering in St John's is always good; thank you so much.

It was interesting to hear a comment (from outside the parish!) 'You are a retired vicar'. I have been retired from an English parish for nearly 30 years. Being a vicar is an appointment; being a priest is an order of ministry. I carry on being a priest until the day I die. I hope to keep my ministry going in all sorts of ways.

Fr Robert Webb

**Lent Lunches at
St John's Church Hall, St John's Road
Thursdays from 12pm to 1.30pm**



**Soup, bread and Cheddar cheese will be served
Starting 26th February for 5 weeks
All proceeds to charity**

BATH BACH CHOIR

2026 CHORAL WORKSHOP

Study a Bach Cantata alongside Bath Bach Choir
and singers from Oxford Bach Soloists

All are welcome – whether you're a seasoned singer or
simply eager to immerse yourself in Bach's world.

Die Himmel erzählen die Ehre Gottes Cantata BWV 76
Extracts from *Jesu, meine Freude* BWV 227

REDUCED RATE
OF £10 FOR
YOUNG
MUSICIANS

Saturday 7 February 2026

9.30 am – 4.30 pm | St Mary's Church, Bathwick

TICKETS £25

(including scores & tea/coffee)

Under 30: £10

For more information and to book your place,
please visit bathbachchoir.org.uk and go to
Workshops, or scan the QR code



Thursday 19th February at St Mary's Church 7.00pm George Jeffreys & the Birth of the English Baroque Solomon's Knot

This performance will start with an introduction to our new Artistic Director, Adrian Brendel, followed by a discussion about tonight's performance with Solomon's Knot Artistic Director, Jonathan Sells and the writer/director of this evenings performance, Federay Holmes.

A fascinating programme of discovery and connection. George Jeffreys (c.1610-1685) lived between the great composers William Byrd and Henry Purcell, navigating the upheavals of the English Civil War. Organist to Charles I, he immersed himself in Italian madrigals, blending their expressiveness with Anglican intensity. His contemporary William Lawes can lay a claim to writing the earliest known chamber music, profoundly influencing the next generations of composers, including Purcell himself, through his bold and elaborate style.

Featuring: James Garnon actor / Holly Atkins actor

Tickets £42 £30 £17 Box Office: (01225) 463362

Event Code: BF1 Doors to the venue will open at 6.30pm.

(This concert is followed by the Bath Bachfest Supper at The Bird, Bath).

BATH
Bach
FEST



Friday 20th February at St Mary's Church 7.00pm
Bachfest Ensemble

I'm excited to introduce the specially-formed Bachfest Ensemble that will perform several times during Bath Bachfest 2026, allowing an opportunity for the audience To develop a deeper relationship with these very fine Musicians.

Violinists **Stephen Waarts** and **Tim Crawford** are memorable past visitors to Bath Mozartfest while also specialising in Bach's music; the young Berlin-based violist **Noga Shaham** has made a fantastic impression at the start of her career and has played regularly this season with leading orchestras including Berliner Philharmoniker; **Sergio Bucheli** and **Xiaowen Shang** are both in great demand as continuo players and they recently appeared together in a Nash Ensemble concert at London's Wigmore Hall. Oboist **Nicholas Daniel** needs a little introduction as one of the UK's finest musicians, and I will be providing a bass line for the group with great pleasure! **Adrian Brendal, Artistic Director.**

The opening performance by this year's resident festival ensemble is bookended by Bach's great contemporary, Handel. Handel's rarely heard oboe concerto, performed by Nicholas Daniel, follows Bach's famous Cantata 'Ich habe genug', sung by star countertenor Reginald Mobley, who received a standing ovation at the 2025 BBC Proms.

Tickets £42 £30 £17—Save £5 off when you book for BF 3 & 4 Box Office: (01225) 463362 Event Code: BF3 Doors to the venue will open at 6.30pm.

Friday 20th February at St Mary's Church 9.30pm
Bachfest Ensemble

Bach's Goldberg variations need no introduction. The violinist Dmitri Sitkovetsky arranged the original keyboard version for string trio in 1985 to coincide with Bach's 300th anniversary, dedication it to Glenn Gould. The result is a wonderful reinvention of the piece through the lyrical beauty of the string instruments.

Tickets: £20 (unreserved seating) - Save £5 off when you book for BF 3 & 4 Box Office: (01225) 463362 Event Code: BF4 Please note, doors to the venue will open at the end of the previous performance.



IN DARKNESS LET ME DWELL

Commemorating the life of Shakespearean singer-songwriter
John Dowland (1563-1636)
and his contemporaries



The Minstrels of Melodious Melancholy

Ingeburg Asplund & Marthe As - soprano/alto
Matthew Pope - tenor
James Tomlinson - bass & lute
Michael Fields - lute & director

5 March, 2026
7:30 pm

St. Mary the Virgin, Bathwick
Darlington Street, Bath BA2 4EB

Tickets £12 at the door, £11 in advance from Bath Box Office
bathboxoffice.org.uk

Lady K. Productions Proudly Presents

St. Mary's Church

*Saturday
Come Dancing*

A Fabulous Evening Of
Music & Dancing

All proceeds to R.A.G funds

SATURDAY
MARCH 28th

From 7pm -10.30pm - In the Church Hall

St. Mary's Church, Bathwick BA2 4EB
For Information 01225 071457 stmarysbathwick.org

TICKETS
£10 pp



Fr Peter and Clare were pleased to attend the licensing on 15th January of the Revd Dr Julian Davies (a former ordinand from the Bathwick parishes) as Vicar of Winscombe and Sandford with Churchill in the Diocese of Bath & Wells. Prayers invited for Julian in this new ministry, and for his family.

**St John the Baptist Church,
Bathwick BA2 6PT
(opposite the Fire Station)**

COFFEE MORNING with Stalls

on

SATURDAY 14th MARCH

10:30am - 12:30pm

Please come and join us



SOME CHARITY FOR OTHERS IN FEBRUARY

ST JOHN'S CHURCH gives away 10% of its general income at the end of each year to support 12 charities. Each month we remember the work of one of these charities. Please support these good causes.

Charity for February: THE BATH WOMEN'S REFUGE

The 'Women's Refuge' is a place for safety for women and their children, as a haven, probably at one of the most difficult times of their lives. Needing to escape from abuse, sometimes physical and/or mental, which may have lasted for months or even years. They receive non-judgemental kindness, support, friendship and advice, to help them continue their lives in calm surroundings and plan for their future. As Christians we pray for the staff, the women and their children at this critical time for them, when they need it most, and offer small financial assistance in this crucial work.

Mary Barry

ST MARY'S CHARITY FOR FEBRUARY

ST MARY'S CHURCH make weekly collections during the Sunday services using the "Alms" envelopes which are given away to a different charity each month. On the Sundays in February, we will be supporting **Lux Youth Project**.

Those of us who enjoyed the delicious Charity Parish Breakfast in January were also able to hear first hand from the CEO of LUX, Luke Brightwell, about the vital work of this local charity. There are three ways that the charity works with young people – mentoring, youth clubs and Motus Dance Academy, and Christian Faith exploration. School mentoring is carried out in 7 secondary schools and one primary school, and members of the LUX team support children and young people facing a number of challenges from anxiety and panic attacks to family breakdown and risky behaviours. The charity runs four youth clubs across Bath and the dance academy. The charity also has specific groups for young people to explore the Christian faith. These are safe spaces for them to ask questions and discuss their beliefs and views. Last year the charity worked with 392 individual young people and 100% felt a positive impact from being mentored. 815 hours of youth work were delivered and 358 hours of faith exploration.

Robin and Sarah Davies

2026 year of action on domestic abuse

Church communities are invited to support the year of action on domestic abuse. Throughout 2026 the Safeguarding team will focus on domestic abuse in partnership with the Mothers Union.

There are several ways you can get involved.

- Sign up to the Mothers Union 'Rise Up' campaign
- PCC members can undertake domestic abuse awareness training, course available online <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>. The Safeguarding team delivers in-person training for those who would rather train in this format. This is likely to take place in February / March.
- Pray for victims of domestic abuse.
- Visit the RISE UP exhibition taking place at Wells Cathedral in March.

Nadia MacCall

Food items Bath Foodbank are currently in need of:

Custard (tinned), rice pudding (tinned), vegetable meals (tinned), fish (tinned), tomatoes (tinned), mash (instant), squash / long life juice, coffee (small jars), and (UHT) milk.

Non-food items Bath Foodbank are currently in need of:

Deodorant, and washing-up liquid.



The next meeting of the Bathwick Book Club will be
on

Tuesday 24th February

at 3pm

in St Mary's Church Hall.

The book we will be discussing will be decided at the
meeting on Tuesday 27th January.

See you there and why not bring a friend?

CHARITY PARISH BREAKFAST

SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

Enjoy a delicious traditional English breakfast followed by a talk by a representative from one of the charities we support at St Mary's.

Charity speaker: TBC

Time: 9.00am – 12.00pm

Breakfast – donations of £5 appreciated

All welcome so don't forget to bring a friend!

Hope to see you there.



The next Charity Parish Breakfast is on:

- **Saturday 21st March**

Green News

Death- Head Hawk Moth

This creature travels to Britain from Saharan Africa. They follow a strangely straight path flying high in favourable winds. Should this insect pass a beehive, it has an ingenious method of getting honey, it can secrete a chemical that makes its smell like a worker bee. Thus, camouflaged, it steals inside a hive and helps itself to a meal. There is more if the disguise is rumbled, the moth squeaks copying the noise a queen bee makes to freeze rebellious workers. This allows for a quick getaway.

Helen and Keith Moss

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The worship of God is not a rule of safety- it is an adventure of the spirit, and flight after the unattainable.

Alfred North Whitehead. from SCIENCE and the MODERN WORLD

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Come, Holy Spirit, and show us in Jesus' life of self- giving service that to serve God is blessing, honour, freedom and hope. Amen



Thank you

A very sincere thank you to everyone, for their prayers and support during 'Thomas' illness. I am particularly grateful to Peter, Nigel and the choir for a memorable and uplifting service and all those who joined us in saying 'farewell' to Thomas.

Deborah Bunn and family

Restoration Action Group News:

After our Christmas break we restart our series of Travel Lectures exploring Queensland, beginning **at 7:30 pm Monday 23rd February in St Mary's Hall: Riding North Queensland's iconic Outback trains, The Savannahlander.** This exciting journey takes us from the former goldmining town of Forsyth down to Cairns. On the way we will discover the long hidden beautiful Cobbold Gorge as well as exploring the famous, and truly amazing Undara Lava Tubes, before heading down past the spectacular Barron Falls. The journey includes several "hair-raising" river crossings on what seem extremely fragile trestle bridges! This is definitely an experience all you train buffs out there shouldn't miss. If trains are not really your thing, "no worries" as they say in Australia because not only will we be discovering some truly wild and remote Outback country but also meeting some amazing wildlife including seeing Australia's heaviest flying bird, The Australian Bustard, actually fly -a very rare sight. There will also be a few other surprises on the way, to discover what you will just have to come along and see!

As usual there is no admission charge for these illustrated lectures. However, we invite donations (Gift Aided if possible as this raises more for Restoration Funds). Each evening there will also be a raffle with the star prize being a bottle of wine.

Everyone is warmly welcome, so why not invite a friend or neighbour to come along with you? I can certainly promise you some great photos during the evening and including short video clips of the Savannahlander making her way over one of those trestle bridges!

If you would like any more information, please have a chat with me.

Future Travel lecture dates for your diary

Monday 23rd March: Mount Isa and the start of a true Australian outback adventure

Thursday 23rd April: An Australian Outback Adventure: Winton to Adelaide via the Birdsville track

Marilyn Kirby Secretary RAG

Monday 23rd February
7:30 pm, in St Mary's Bathwick
Church Hall
**Riding NE Queensland's iconic
Outback Trains
Part 2: The Savannahlander**

An illustrated travel lecture by
Dr Marilyn J. Kirby



Themed Raffle and Light Refreshments
Retiring collection in aid of
St Mary's Restoration Appeal

MONTH'S MIND

Please pray for those whose anniversary of death falls in February

- 1st Thomas Trace, Joy Davenport, Peggy Nesbitt, Winifred Underhay
- 2nd William Grant, Dorothy Cope, Denis Clements (Priest)
- 3rd Winifred Twine, Heather Susan McNally, Patricia Joan Caddy, Kathleen Weeks
- 4th Reginald Weddell, Gladys Blake, Ethel Cattle, Anne Henton
- 5th Archie Row, Leslie Coles, Samuel Murray (Priest), Valentine Munro, Hilda Hamilton, Alice Marjorie Jackson, Alfred William Lynes.
- 6th Winifred Brown, Florence Quennell, Jack House, William Royston-Smith
- 7th William Newing, Gilbert Weigall (Priest), Gladys Powell, Terry Hardick
- 8th Jessie Wassell, Maude Aldridge
- 9th Emily Gunning, Francis Temlett, Olive Westgarth, Charles Parker
- 10th Dorothy Randolph, Elizabeth Fisher, Ada Ward, Dorothy Quennell
- 11th James Rivers, Ronald Dix (Priest), Martin Lee, Violet Cox, Phyllis Reader
- 12th Alice Redstone, Sarah Toone, Eleanor Vick, Elsie Vatcher
- 13th Martha Mundy, Gladys Salusbury, Donovan Millard, Rosina Tolman, Mary Wheeler, Walter Speakman (Priest)
- 14th Ivy Jezard
- 15th Mabel Ackland, Leonard Styles, Alice Witcome, Audrey Taylor
- 16th Arthur Burney (Priest), John Mundy, George Oates, Harry Grubb, Emily Norrish, Ernest Jeffries
- 17th Shirley Bowler, Mabel Jones, Thomas Paine Mather, Betty Griffen
- 18th Arthur Wilkinson, Alice Willis, Helen Cockeram, Dorothy Goodman, William Hussey, Millicent Blake, Alice Townend, Edwin Hillier, Mina Elizabeth Joll, James 'Jim' Cope
- 19th Dorothy Crouch, Edward Hughes (Priest), Stephen Grange,
- 20th Elizabeth Row, Mary Braddon, Hope Murray, Frederick Willmott, Bernard Leigh (Priest)
- 21st Kathleen Semple, Sophie Green, William Sims, Percy Minnett, Winifred Holliday, Noel Bowden Olive, Winifred Taylor, Edna Avent
- 22nd Edith King, Phoebe Wade, Thomas Hawes (Priest)
- 23rd Frank Merrett, Annie Mann, Cyril Palmer, Joyce Britten, Margaret Ward, Albert Smales
- 24th Leslie Sambourne, Thomas Gibson (Priest)
- 25th Ethel Frayne, Caroline Davies, Rhoda Williams, Henry 'Bill' Burden, Vince Wall, Russell Wendover
- 26th Margaret Maslen, Emily Brackstone, Kathleen Phillips, Mabel Barry
- 27th Charles Wassell, Emily Newing, Margaret Dawson, Winifred Benbow, Sophia Michell, Nina Peters
- 28th Margaret Wilkinson, Harold Hull, John Crook, Marjorie Turvey

**Rest Eternal Grant To Them O Lord and Let Light Perpetual Shine On Them.
May They Rest In Peace and Rise In Glory.**

**If you would like a name included in the Month's Mind,
please speak to the Clergy or leave a message at the Parish Office.
These will be remembered by name at St John's Mass at 10.30am
on Thursday 26 February.**

Ash Wednesday - 18th February

The twinkling lights of Christmas have been put away but there already signs of spring in the garden as snowdrops bloom and bulbs begin to show their heads. We look forward to remembering St Mary's Dedication with a Bring and Share Lunch, but what comes after that – it has to be Ash Wednesday.



What is the story behind Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 days of Lent, a time when we remember that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, fasting and resisting temptation. The day before Ash Wednesday, known as "Shrove Tuesday" or "Pancake Day", is a chance to feast, indulge and maybe even eat a pancake or two. We do this in preparation for our own fasting on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent.

Is Ash Wednesday in the Bible?

Although Ash Wednesday is rich in Christian symbolism, you won't find it mentioned in the Bible. The tradition developed over time, starting with the first Council of Nicaea in 356AD under Emperor Constantine. It established a 40-day fasting period before Easter, but the practice of placing ashes on the heads of the congregation only began sometime between the 8th and 10th century. This was done to replace other practices of public penance which were no longer used, and to symbolize the beginning of the penitential season of Lent.

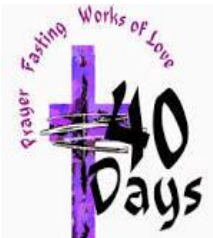
Why are the forehead and heart touched?

The touching of foreheads is an ancient greeting that honors the heart and the soul with the ashes symbolizing our mortality –

"Remember you are but dust, and to dust you shall return."

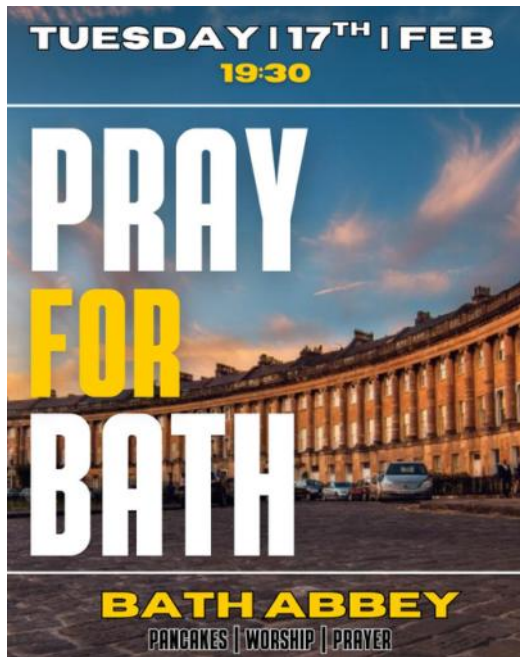
Where do the ashes for Ash Wednesday come from?

The Ash Wednesday ashes are usually, created by burning palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration. Palm Sunday is the last Sunday of Lent and leads into Holy Week and as the palms have been blessed, instead of throwing them away after the celebration, they are saved to create ashes for Ash Wednesday.



Ash Wednesday is important because it marks the start of Lent, the weeks leading up to Easter, when Jesus died and was resurrected. The ashes symbolize death and repentance, so it is during Lent that Christians repent and mourn for their sins, because they know Christ died for them.

Jenny Jones



Tuesday 17th February | 7:30pm | Bath Abbey
An evening of pancakes, worship, and prayer

Hello,

We would love to invite you to come together to pray for Bath and the communities around us at Bath Abbey on Tuesday 17th February at 7:30pm.

During this evening, we'll be praying for all aspects of life in Bath and the surrounding areas. In particular, we want to lift up:

- The upcoming spending of the BANES Council budget
- Those experiencing homelessness
- Church leaders across the city

We would especially love to pray with church leaders in person, if able to join us. As we gather, our desire is to seek God together for the welfare, wisdom, and flourishing of our city.

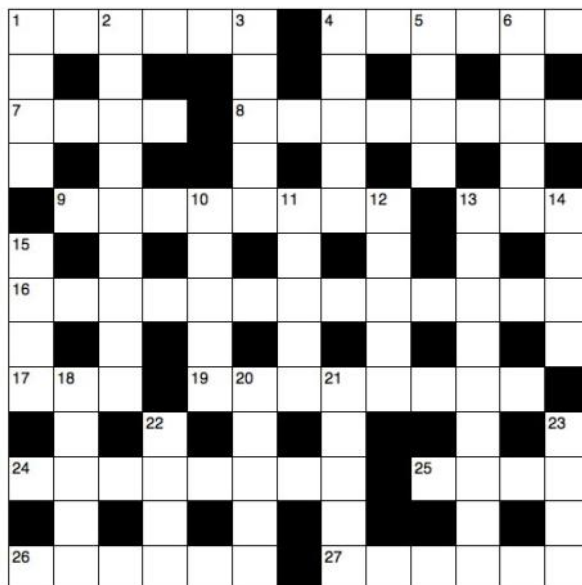
Please find the attached promotional poster with further details, and feel free to share it with others in your church community.

We hope you can join us.

With warm regards,

The Pray for Bath Team

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

Answers to December / January crossword

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

Bathwick Baby & Toddler Group Job Vacancy

We are looking for someone to lead our Babies & Toddlers Group on Wednesday and Friday mornings. For full job specification and details of remuneration please contact the parish office on (01225) 447450.



Fun and friendly drop-in group for babies, toddlers and their parent/carers.

**Wednesday & Friday mornings 9.30am-11.30am inc.
school holidays except August
at Bathwick St Mary's Church Hall
£3 per family**

The Bathwick Baby and Toddler Group meet at Bathwick St Mary's Church Hall on Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9.30am-11.30am (including school Holidays except August).

We are a fun and friendly drop-in group for babies, toddlers, and their parents, grandparents and carers, currently offering indoor and outdoor activities and play for babies and toddlers and singing at the end of each session.

The entrance fee is £3 per family, which includes fruit juice, breadsticks and fresh fruit for the children, and coffee and tea all morning for the adults.

Sessions are set up and run on a rota basis by church volunteers. We are always thankful for anyone who is able to offer his or her time to help.

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PUBLIC WORSHIP WITH THE CHURCH DAY BY DAY

SUNDAYS

ST JOHN'S



9.00am MASS & SERMON

followed by breakfast in the hall

4.00pm EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

*(usually 2nd Sunday of each month;
6pm April-October)*



ST MARY'S

10.30am EUCHARIST & SERMON

followed by tea/coffee and biscuits in the hall

*(this service is live-streamed whenever possible
on YouTube—search 'YouTube Bathwick parishes')*

6.00pm CHORAL EVENSONG *(usually 1st Sunday of each month)*
or **(SAID) EVENSONG** *(usually 3rd/4th/5th Sunday of each month)*

*For changes and details of other services please see the weekly Sunday leaflet
and p.6 of this magazine*

USUAL WORSHIP ON WEEKDAYS

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| TUESDAYS: St John's | 9.30am | MASS |
| WEDNESDAYS: St Mary's | 10.30am | TRAD. LANGUAGE EUCHARIST |
| THURSDAYS: St John's | 10.30am | MASS |
| FRIDAYS: St Mary's | 9.30am | EUCHARIST |
| SATURDAYS: St John's | 9.30am | MASS |

Morning Prayer is usually said around 9am and Evening Prayer around 5.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) by arrangement:
Please speak to Fr Peter (01225) 460052

Applications and Enquiries for Baptisms, Weddings, etc,
Please ask at Church or Tel (01225) 447450 for an appointment

***The "Bathwick Parishes Weekly Noticesheet" is available in Church,
by e-mail on request and at www.bathwickparishes.org.uk***

*The Clergy wish to receive information about people who would welcome a visit
at home or in hospital. The Sacraments of Holy Communion and Holy Oils are
reserved for ministry to the sick and housebound. For further information about
any aspect of the Christian Faith, please contact the Church Office.*