



# Bewsborough Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for Barfreestone, Coldred, Guston, Eythorne & Elvington, Waldershare, Shepherdsweil and Whitfield

[www.bewsboroughparish.org](http://www.bewsboroughparish.org)

## Coming Up This Week

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

9.00am | Holy Communion | St. Nicholas'  
10.30am | Holy Communion | St. Andrew's  
10.30am | Let's Worship! | Whitfield Village Hall  
6.00pm | BCP Communion | St. Martin's

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

7.00pm | Evensong for Candlemas | St. Pancras

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am | Let's Chat | Whitfield Rec. Pavilion  
9.30am | Let's Play! | Guston Village Hall

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

11.30am | Informal Communion | SS Peter & Paul's  
7.00pm | Small Group | Whitfield

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am | Let's Play! | Whitfield Village Hall

## For Our Prayers

Please pray for the following people, all known to God, who need our prayers and for those who tend to them and show them love and care:

**Tallulah, Michael, Ian M, Janet B, Madge, Jill R, Ian, Marion G, Margaret C, Kelly W, Susan. C, Sheila, Olivia, Margaret. S, David B, Gwen W., Mariann, Molly, Edith and John, and Eddie.**

## Worship Weekly Playlist

This week's worship playlist for Whitfield can be accessed by clicking on the image below:



## Candlemas – Joy and Sorrow

Candlemas can feel like a quiet hinge in the church year. Christmas joy is fading, the nights are still long, and Lent has not yet begun. And yet, Candlemas invites us to notice something surprising:

light arriving in an unexpected place.

In the Gospel story, Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to the Temple. There, two older figures, Simeon and Anna, recognise what others miss. They see in this tiny, vulnerable child the fulfilment of God's promises. Simeon's words are both beautiful and unsettling: Jesus will be "a light for revelation" — but also a sign that will be opposed. Joy and sorrow sit side by side.

That tension feels familiar. As a church family, many of us may be holding mixed emotions at the moment. We are grateful for what has been, deeply thankful for faithful ministry, and at the same time aware of the sadness and uncertainty that comes with change that is ahead of us. Change, even good change, can feel like loss. Candlemas gives us permission to name that honestly.

But Candlemas also gently stretches our vision. Simeon and Anna remind us that God is often at work in ways we do not immediately recognise. What looks small, fragile, or even disruptive can become the place where God's future breaks in. The Holy Spirit helps us to see not just what we are losing, but what God might be growing.

For us as church, this is deeply encouraging. We believe that the same Spirit who opened Simeon's eyes is active among us today. As we pray, worship, and listen together, God can turn seasons of sadness into moments of fresh calling. New leaders emerge, gifts are released, and unexpected opportunities appear.

Candlemas teaches us this: light does not deny the darkness, but it does redefine it. As we carry both gratitude and grief, may God help us to see with hopeful eyes — trusting that the Light of Christ is still being revealed among us, often in ways we do not expect.

## Keep in Touch

**Rector – Rev. Sean**

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# Sunday and Mid-Week Worship for February

Date	Location	Service
1st February Presentation PRESENTATION OF CHRIST (transferred) <b>Gold or White</b>	St. Nicholas, Barfreestone	9.00am BCP Communion
	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	10.30am Holy Communion
	Whitfield Village Hall	10.30am Whole Church Worship
	St. Martin's, Guston	6.00pm BCP Communion
Mon 2nd February PRESENTATION OF CHRIST <b>Gold or White</b>	St. Pancras, Coldred	7.00pm Evensong for Candlemas
Thur 5th February	SS Peter & Paul's, Eythorne & Elvington	11.30am Informal Communion
8th February 2 before Lent <b>Green</b>	St. Pancras, Coldred	9.00am BCP Communion
	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	10.30am Holy Communion
	Whitfield School Hall	10.30am Whole Church Worship
Thur 12th February	SS Peter & Paul's, Eythorne & Elvington	11.30am Informal Communion
15th February Sunday before Lent <b>Green</b>	St. Nicholas, Barfreestone	9.00am Morning Worship
	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	10.30am Whole Church Worship with Communion
	St. Peter, Whitfield	10.30am Family Communion
	St. Martin's, Guston	6.00pm Evensong
Wed 18th February <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Purple</b>	SS Peter & Paul's, Eythorne & Elvington	11.30am Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	7.00m Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
22nd February Lent 1 <b>Purple</b>	St. Pancras, Coldred	9.00am BCP Communion
	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	10.30am Morning Worship
	Whitfield School Hall	10.30am Whole Church Worship
Thur 26th February	SS Peter & Paul's, Eythorne & Elvington	11.30am Informal Communion





# Candlemas

## Malachi 3:1-5

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

## Hebrews 2:14-18

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant 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.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.



## Parish Giving Scheme A Simpler Way to Give



## Parish Giving Scheme How it Works

### Regular giving

Givers can set up a Direct Debit with PGS online, over the phone or by filling in a gift form at church. This can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Each gift is restricted to a parish or church chosen by the giver and cannot be used elsewhere. The gift will be passed back to the church of the giver's choosing by the 10th of the month. Any eligible Gift Aid will be sent separately once it has been received from HMRC.

A unique feature of the scheme is the option for the giver to commit in principle to increase their regular gift annually in line with inflation. This is entirely at the giver's discretion on an opt-in basis.

### One-off giving

Givers can also make a one-off gift to their chosen church or parish through the PGS website. One-off gifts are received initially by PGS, and our team will process any Gift Aid claims. The parish will then receive all one-off gifts (minus a transaction charge of 1.5%) from the previous month in one transaction, and any Gift Aid contributions in another transaction.

### Direct Debit Guarantee Scheme

Givers are protected by the Direct Debit Guarantee, making PGS a safe and secure giving mechanism. More information is available at [www.directdebit.co.uk](http://www.directdebit.co.uk) or [www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk](http://www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk) (search online for 'Direct Debit').

### How is Gift Aid claimed?

The gift is claimed through PGS and will be passed back to the parish's bank account by the 10th of the month. Any eligible Gift Aid will be sent separately once we have received it from HMRC, which usually takes 5–8 working days.

PGS is a charity and therefore the Gift Aid declaration is made to, and held by, the charity. If HMRC audits a church, they will audit PGS for all its gifts to that church.

Over the coming weeks, we will be introducing the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and inviting everyone to consider it being the preferred way for those who give so generously to continue regularly financially supporting the life, ministry and mission of the parish.

The Parish Giving Scheme is a secure, Church of England-supported way of giving by Direct Debit. It is designed to be simple for givers and helpful for our churches. For those who are able, it allows gifts to be increased automatically in line with inflation, helping the church plan confidently for the future. Gift Aid is also claimed efficiently and the parish will receive Gift Aid payments monthly, ensuring that not only does every eligible gift go further, but we are not having to claim manually.

We are choosing to move towards PGS because it provides stability, transparency, and sustainability for our parish as a whole. Regular giving underpins everything we do – from worship and pastoral care to mission and community outreach – and PGS helps us steward those gifts well.

Because we are a parish of six churches, we will be rolling out the Parish Giving Scheme in a phased and supported way, making it as straightforward and accessible as possible for everyone. No one will be rushed, and existing ways of giving will continue during the transition.

There will be **more information coming soon**, including clear guidance and practical opportunities where we will help congregation members sign up if they would like to. Our hope is that this will be a gentle, well-supported step that strengthens our shared life and witness across all our churches.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting God's work in our parish.



The Sunrise Cafe is moving!!

We'll be relocating to the Charlton Centre in February, so watch this space for more news. We look forward to welcoming you to our new venue 😊

We're moving!





# Come & Sing Choral Evensong

*by candlelight for Candlemas*

St Martin's Church, Great Mongeham

Sunday 1st February 2026 4.30pm

Responses Jebb/Lichfield    Canticles Wise in E flat

Lord ! I trust thee (Handel)



St Martin's Church, Great Mongeham CT14 0HL

Rehearsal 2pm    Evensong 4.30pm

Conducted by Phil Price    Organist David Hoople

Service led by Rev. Monica Cameron

*This Come & Sing Choral Evensong is open to any with choral singing experience. If you are interested to take part please contact Phil Price at [phil@withcheerfulvoice.org.uk](mailto:phil@withcheerfulvoice.org.uk) or on 07814 720086.*

*All welcome to join us in the congregation.*



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*Future Come & Sing Evensongs:*

*Sunday 22nd March    St Nicholas, Ash*

*Sunday 26th April    St Clement, Knowlton*