

## **Bulletin for the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

At our Candlemas celebration last Sunday with the Bishop of Colchester, we gave thanks for and asked God's blessing for the wonderful building works to the church that have just been completed. They are great improvement to our beautiful ancient building. Thanks again to our Architect and the builders. We also had a very jolly parish lunch afterwards!

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Next Before Lent**

09.00am: Holy Communion

10.30am: Parish Eucharist

**Readings: 2 Kings 2. 1 – 12, Psalm 50. 1 – 6, 2 Corinthians 4. 3 – 6, Mark 9. 2 – 9**

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

09.15am: Morning Prayer – in the hall

5.00pm: Confirmation group – at Rev Wendy's house

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

12.00pm: Ladies Fellowship with Candlemas Lunch

### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Wednesday**

09.30am: Holy Communion with ashing

10.30am: Community Coffee Morning

12.15pm: Pioneering, Planning and Prayer

7.30pm: Sung Eucharist with ashing

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

Sigfrid, Bishop, Apostle of Sweden, 1045

Thomas Bray, Priest, Founder of the SPCK and SPG, 1730

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

09.30am: Prayer Walking

10.30am: Holy Communion at Longanberry Lodge

6.00pm: Stations of the Cross – St Albright's

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr, 1977

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February – First of Lent**

09.00am: Holy Communion

10.30am: Family Communion

## **LENT EVENTS**

### **Ash Wednesday (14<sup>th</sup> February)**

9.30am Holy Communion with ashing

7.30pm Sung Eucharist with ashing

### **Lent Reflections**

A series of talks from visiting speakers on various themes. In church at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings (Refreshments available in the hall at 7.00pm)

21<sup>st</sup> February – Rev John Richardson, formerly Rector of Great and Little Tey Chappel and Wakes Colne

28<sup>th</sup> February – Rev Paul Howes, Methodist Minister

6<sup>th</sup> March – Rev Nigel Kinsella, Army Chaplain

13<sup>th</sup> March - Mrs Morag Bushell, LLM

20<sup>th</sup> March – Rev Erwin Lammens, Area Dean of Colchester

### **Stations of the Cross**

Every Friday evening during Lent at 6.00pm, either here at St Albright's or at St Teresa's R.C Church in Clairmont Road.

This Lent we are encouraged to wait expectantly for God to meet us and sustain us through the storms and trials we all face.

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2024 is Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and life.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus kneels in darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. Though he pleads with his disciples, "Stay here with me ... Watch and pray," they all fall asleep, leaving him alone in his hour of deepest suffering. More information and resources are available [here](#)

### **Archbishop's Lent Book**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has recommended a book for personal study for Lent '**Tarry Awhile**' by Selina Stone. If you would like a copy, please contact the office and we can order one for you. (each book costs £9.99 (paperback) and £8.99 (Kindle).

### **Confirmation**

There will be a diocesan service of Confirmation in Chelmsford Cathedral at Easter Eve (**Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**). If you would like to be confirmed, or know of anyone who would, then speak to anyone in the ministry team. We shall be having some preparation session, probably on Monday evenings starting in February.

Our first session which will be based on general chat and introduction. This will take place on **Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February** at 5pm, in Rev Wendy's house. Anyone interested in taking part in the classes or considering confirmation, please do contact either Rev Tony or Rev Wendy.

### **Church Opening**

The church is now open every day, from 9.00am until 5.00pm.

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to be on the "opening & locking" Rota.

### **Midweek Services**

Morning Prayer will continue in the hall at 9.15am every Monday

Holy Communion will be in church on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the week at 9.30am (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the hall).

### **Snowy Barron**

As some of us may already be aware about the sad news of Snowy's death, the family now have a provisional date for the funeral is on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. More information to follow shortly.

### **Building Works**

One ongoing matter is the boiler chimney which is in a very poor state of repair and has had to be shorn up with scaffolding to make it safe (hence the haras fencing in the churchyard). It has prompted us to bring forward our consideration of getting a new heating system for the church so as to replace the oil with electric. We have long thought that it is necessary for various reasons, and, of course, there would be no need for a chimney. We have been greatly blessed to receive a generous legacy from the late Andrew Millar to help achieve this. The PCC will now actively, and urgently, pursue what needs to be done. Fortunately the current heating can still operate for the winter! We are also looking in to a proper disabled access in to the church via the north porch door. This would involve a long sloping path from the churchyard into the church so as to avoid the steep step, and there would be some change to the entrance door. This would, hopefully, be carried out at the same time as the installation of the new heating system.

### **Open the Book – Stanway Primary School**

We have been invited to take 'Open the Book' assemblies in Stanway Primary School once every half term on a Monday afternoon. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Rev Wendy by **Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February**. Training and materials are provided by The Bible Society.

### **Stanwell Hub**

'Time to Talk Tuesday' is on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at the Stanway Lakelands Centre, Western Approach CO3 8WD at 12.45pm – 2.00pm. . The next one will be on **Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February**. For further information, please contact Rev. Wendy. You can also find details of what is happening at Time to Talk Tuesday and other wellbeing matters on StanWell Hub Facebook page [here](#).

### **A New Stanway based well-being Group walk**

Reflex-18 in collaboration with StanWell Hub, will be starting a new stanway based walk: 'Walk with a Physio'. This will take place on Fridays between 12-1.30pm, beginning at the Stanway Lakeland Centre Café and finishing there., with the option of staying to socialise over a cup of tea. For more information, call 01206 616 989, or go to the StanWell Hub facebook page [here](#).

### **Community coffee morning**

Our community coffee morning takes place every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, between 10.30am - 12 noon. Our next gathering will be on **28<sup>th</sup> February**. Everyone is welcome to come.

### **A Place for Grace**

Our intergenerational All Age worship service, 'A Place for Grace', takes place on the first Sunday of every month from 5.30 to 7.00 pm, with a meal and various activities. The next one will take place on **Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March**. Contact Rev. Wendy or Rev. Tony for more details.

### **Children at St. Albright's Brights**

Normally on the second and fourth Sundays our Sunday School, Brights meets during the 10.30am morning service. The next Bright will be on **Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February**.

### **Family Communion**

On the third Sunday of the month, we all gather for a service of Holy Communion in church. Baptisms usually take place on this day too. The next Family communion will be on **Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> February**.

### **St Albright's Tots**

A great playgroup for younger children which meets every Tuesday, except the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, from 10.00 to 11.30 in the hall during term time. Thank you to those who came forward to helping with leading Tots. The next gathering will be on **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February**. Celebrating Chinese new year, with a focus on pets. There is an opportunity available to join the Tots leadership team until the summer term, to cover maternity leave. Please contact Rev Wendy if you are interested in this position.

### **Holy Communion at home**

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you know anyone who might, then please contact any member of the ministry team. There is also a Parish Pastoral Support Team whose members are able to visit, help and support those in particular need.

**Thought for the week** written by members of the ministry team and others is available [here](#)

### **Giving**

We now have a card reader in church so that donations may be made using a debit or credit card.

It is also possible to donate to St. Albright's online. There is a dedicated page on the website to make giving much easier.

If you would like further details about how to give, and there are many ways to do so, then please contact any of the ministry team or churchwardens. We particularly welcome regular giving, however small, either using weekly

envelopes or by standing order, and, if you are a taxpayer we can reclaim Gift Aid.

It is also possible to sponsor a day in the life of the church. You may wish to make a one-off donation in memory of someone or to celebrate a particular event. Please contact any of the ministry team or Churchwardens.

Flowers. If you would like to donate towards the cost of providing the beautiful flowers in church then please speak to any of the ministry team.

## **For your prayers**

### **Collect for Sunday next before Lent**

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Collect for Ash Wednesday**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We pray for peace in the Middle East:

Almighty God, from all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle we pray in the hearts of all the true love of peace, and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We continue to pray for the people and nations of Ukraine and Russia. For peace and for the relief of suffering. The prayer tree will be remaining in the church until the conflict is over.

A Prayer for Ukraine:

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen  
*Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

**We pray for our King, HM King Charles III, our sovereign Governor of the Church of England**

**In our church community, please pray for:**

Our churchwardens and PCC  
Our director of music and the choir  
All who help lead our worship - especially readers, intercessors, servers and sidespersons  
The ministry and pastoral teams as we seek to help those in particular need.  
Those who care for the hall.  
Our Architect and the building team  
All those who are to be baptized

Pray for all those who have been baptised and for our continued connection with baptism families.

All those who have been married in St. Albright's in 2024 and all who will have their banns called here.

Our outreach, particularly with young people and to the schools in the parish

**In the diocese of Chelmsford, please pray for** the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt. Rev. Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, and for the Bishop of Colchester, the Rt. Rev Roger Morris. Please also pray for our Archdeacon, the Ven. Ruth Patten, and for all the other parishes in the Colchester Deanery. Our Area Dean is the Rev. Erwin Lammens, vicar of Wivenhoe, and the Assistant Area Dean is the Rev. Hannah Cooper, vicar of St. Luke's, Highwoods. Please also pray for those recently ordained.

**In the Anglican communion, please pray for** our Archbishops, the Most Rev Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and the Most Rev, Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York.

Please also pray for the Provincial Episcopal Visitors - The Bishop of Richborough, the Rt Rev Norman Banks, and the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, the Rt Rev Dr Rob Munro and the Bishop of Oswestry the Rt. Rev Paul Thomas.

The diocese of Chelmsford has links with several overseas dioceses in the Anglican communion: in Kenya - Embu, Meru, Mbere and Marsabit; and the diocese of Trinidad and Tobago. There are also links with the diocese of Karlstad in Sweden and the Archdiocese of Lasi in Romania. Please pray for the bishops, clergy and people of these places.

**In the wider Church, please pray for** the Orthodox Patriarchate of Ukraine, for the Church in South Sudan, for Christian communities in Israel and Palestine, and for all Christians persecuted for their faith.

**In the wider world, please pray for** a better and wiser stewardship of our natural environment.

For the peace of the world wherever there are conflict.

All the nations of the world and their leaders.  
Our Prime Minister and government.

### **In our Community**

Please pray for : The Stanway Environment Group.

The medical and caring professions.

Other Christian denominations - the Tollgate Methodist Fellowship, Stanway Evangelical Church, The Kingsland Church, St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Lexden.

Colchester Foodbank

Colchester CAP Debt Centre

Colchester Koban Project

The StanWell Hub

All families with young children, and for all our schools.

The elderly, vulnerable and those who have to isolate, and for all those who support them, especially their families.

Loganberry Lodge - all residents, staff and supporters and all who are in care homes and hospital at this time.

All our elected representatives - our MPs, county, city and parish councillors.

Those who have asked for our prayers: John Lemon, Karl, Sheila Bradfield , Joan Alexander, Debra, Daniel, Carol Harvey, Gordon Harvey, Keith, Ida Totham, Penny Miller, Daniel Butcher, Ann Booty, Marcus, Mark Claydon, Allison, Sophie, Jo and Richard, Doreen Hales, James Lay, Jenny Richardson, Brian Greenaway, Ann and John, Graham and Viv, Alex, Alexander, Simon, Roy Webber, Joshua

If you have a particular prayer request there is a box in the church into which you can place a card writing the request or person's name on it. Alternatively you can send a message to the office.

The monthly prayer diary for **January** is on our website with printed copies in the church and distributed to those without access to the internet.

There is also the Church of England **Prayer Line** which is open 24/7 and is free: **0800 804 804**

### **RIP**

Esther Adeniyi-Benson, Patricia Jones, Patricia Stapley, Emma O'Connell, Sylvia Bannister, John Currell, Eileen Spurgeon, Richard Van Aswegen, Robert Radcliffe, Phyllis Evelyn Clark, Richard Ives, Shirley McCormack, Snowy Barron

We hope you find this bulletin helpful. If you have any contributions, comments or questions then please contact the office or any of the ministry team.

With best wishes,

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