

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF KELVEDON AND FEERING  
**NEWSLETTER**  
[Benefice Website](#)

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY – SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February at St Mary's: Candlemas –**  
***The Presentation of Christ in the Temple***

**8.00 am Said Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)**

**10.00 am 'Worship for All' Service**

**4.00 pm "From Epiphany to Candlemas" Service *with St Mary's Choir***

**NB No service at All Saints' on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

**ST MARY'S WORSHIP FOR ALL SERVICE – SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY AT 10.00 am**



We're delighted our monthly 'Worship for All' services are becoming very popular, with a growing congregation. As usual this is a non-Communion service, aimed at those who prefer something more informal. Please let us know as soon as you can if your child would like one of Geraldine's craft bags, as we wouldn't want anyone to be disappointed if they run out. Our theme is Candlemas, which fits in well with this lively service.

**"FROM EPIPHANY TO CANDLEMAS" – ST MARY'S, 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY AT 4.00 pm**

This special afternoon service focuses on the full Epiphany season up to Candlemas, from 6<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February. It is a reflective service of Bible readings, poems, fine choir anthems and popular Epiphany hymns, celebrating the key events of the season, starting with the Star and the Wise Men, and ending with the Candlemas story, in which Mary and Joseph bring the 40-day-old Jesus into the great Temple in Jerusalem and are met by two elderly, faithful people, Simeon and Anna, who both recognise him as the Messiah .

From Epiphany to Candlemas  
All welcome



4th February 2024  
4pm

Service of carols, hymns and readings,  
celebrating the journey of the three  
wise men, and ending with the  
presentation of Christ in the Temple.

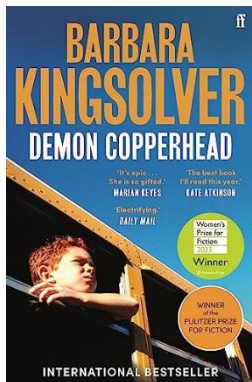


**ST MARY'S PANCAKE PARTY – A FLIPPING GOOD EVENING...**

Pre-Covid St Mary's always had a Pancake Party. We've rather got out of the habit, so... it's not just a Pancake Party, but a Pancake Party for everyone, not only children. Why should they have all the fun? Join us on **Shrove Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, at 6.30 pm**, starting in church with some games, then to the Church Rooms for pancakes. All ages are invited, all will be welcomed! Also for your diaries, St Mary's will host a **Good Friday Messy Church at 10.00 am**

**PALM CROSSES PLEASE**

**Ash Wednesday** is fast approaching on **14<sup>th</sup> February** – please can you bring last year's palm crosses to church or to the Vicarage, so we can turn them into ash ready for our Ash Wednesday service at 4.00 pm on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We will need them by **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> please**. *Thank you.*



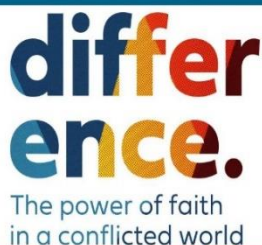
## ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB - TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 7.30 pm

At our next book club we're discussing *Demon Copperhead*, a novel by Barbara Kingsolver. It's a reimagining of David Copperfield by Charles Dickens that follows one boy's struggle to survive amid America's opioid crisis.

Probably half the group loved our January book choice, *Murder Before Evensong* by Richard Coles. The other half didn't like it at all! Those who liked it recognised the C of E as we know it: the jealous guarding of a pew, the fierce opposition to removing pews to make more space for community events, the anger at the very thought of putting in a kitchen, let alone a toilet... who needs

that? We and countless other churches like us have frequently witnessed such arguments before our very eyes. Everyone enjoyed Stephen Cottrell's book, *Do Nothing to Save Your Life*. We hope we'll all stop feeling guilty, now we aren't filling every moment of our lives with endless To Do lists and frantic activity. The Bishop (now an Archbishop, so probably busier than ever) had suggested music we could listen to to help us slow down. So we listened to it, thanks to Cherry for suggesting it and Robert for supplying it. Thanks to Natasha for navigating us through so well, everyone had a lovely evening. Do join us next time!

## UNITED BENEFICE LENT COURSE



We are using the Archbishop of Canterbury's Course, *Difference: The Power of Faith in a Conflicted World*. This is for both churches, so please click this link to find out more: [Lent Course](#). *Difference* explores how we can follow Jesus in a complex and divided world, seeing transformation through everyday encounters.

**Evening sessions are at St Mary's on Mondays, starting on 26<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30-9.30 pm for 5 weeks.** There will be daytime sessions in Feering, with the details still to be arranged. Please let Simon or Natasha know if you'd like to attend or know more.

## FILMED WEEKLY REFLECTION

During the lockdowns we filmed a weekly reflection by Simon, and then when she arrived, Natasha, which was put on the website and social media, with a link sent to all on this Newsletter list. It was very well supported, particularly on social media, but numbers have now dropped, so we don't think it's something that's needed any more. So this week's Reflection will be the last weekly one. We will film something for special events or services, but this won't be a regular thing. Many thanks to everyone who's watched the Reflections over the last four years.



## THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING TEA TOWELS AT ST MARY'S - can you help please?

Robert, who organises the Church Rooms kitchen, ensuring supplies of tea/coffee are available, that washing-up liquid and cleaning things etc. are bought and tea towels washed and returned by the groups who have used them, needs your help. The plastic box for the clean tea towels has disappeared with the tea towels in it! If you've moved it, taken it or seen it, please could you let [Robert](#) know as soon as possible. Thank you.



## TIPTREE FOODBANK

The Foodbank is running short of long-life fruit juice, gluten-free biscuits, women's deodorant and laundry detergent. They now have enough strong carrier bags for the people using the Foodbank. Please leave all donations at either church and our volunteers will take the items to Tiptree. Very many thanks.

## NEW BENEFICE WEBSITE – *A message from Sarah*

I'm working on a new United Benefice website which is on track for a launch-date at the beginning of Holy Week (Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March). St Mary's is funding this through the money left to the church by the Revd. Hay, released by the sale of the Easterford Road site; this also funded St Mary's projector and screen. If you have any good photos of either church that we can use – inside/outside, events, special services etc. – please [send them to me](#) via email or WhatsApp them to 07807 214853. I'd particularly like some from All Saints' as I don't have many, and we don't want the site to appear biased towards either church. Many thanks, *Sarah Openshaw*.

## BENEFICE DIARY Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00 a.m.</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Said Holy Communion</b> ( <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> )
<b>February</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Worship for All Service for Candlemas</b>
<b>CANDLEMAS</b>	<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>'From Epiphany to Candlemas' –</b>
<b>(The Presentation of Christ in the Temple)</b>		<b>A Service of Reflection, Prayer and Celebration</b>	
<b><u>NB NO SERVICE IN ALL SAINTS' ON SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup></u></b>			

<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 a.m.	St Mary's	Teddy Bear Club
	2.30 p.m.	St Dominics Care Home	Holy Communion
	8.30 p.m.	Zoom	Night Prayer (Compline)

**Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83398813389?pwd=UitzYjRnQzh5ZlJCRjgyMStyTU8ydz09>

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>** *Simon & Natasha at Colchester Area Ministry Study Day in St Stephen's Colchester, 10.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.*  
**Deadline for information for the Spring issue of Kelvedon News, the Kelvedon Parish Council magazine.** Please send anything for the Benefice that you would like to be included to Simon ASAP. Thank you

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>** *Simon away – back on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February.*

<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b>	<b>All Saints'</b>	<b>United Benefice Holy Communion Service</b>
<b>February – The Sunday Next before Lent</b>			<b><u>NB no service at St Mary's on this Sunday</u></b>

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Shrove Tuesday** 6.30 p.m. St Mary's Pancake Party

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>** 9.30 a.m. St Mary's Teddy Bear Club  
**Ash Wednesday** 4.00 p.m. All Saints' Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup>** 3.00 p.m. St Mary's Burial of Ashes of Marian Bartholomew

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>** 10.00 a.m. St Mary's **United Benefice Holy Communion Service**  
**February – The First Sunday of Lent** **NB no service at All Saints' on this Sunday**

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