

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF KELVEDON AND FEERING

[Benefice Website](#)

KELVEDON & FEERING CHURCHES NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY to SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2025

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THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE – ‘CANDLEMAS’

8.00 am	ST MARY’S	Said Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>)
10.00 am	ST MARY’S	Worship For All Holy Communion Service
2.30 pm	ALL SAINTS’	‘Thank You’ Event For Feering Volunteers
5.30/6 pm	ALL SAINTS’	Said Evening Prayer (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>)

NB NO MORNING SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS’ THIS SUNDAY

THE C OF E IN THE NEWS FOR THE WRONG REASONS (AGAIN)

Many if not all of you (like me) will have been shocked, saddened and angered by the news about the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Revd. John Perumbalath, who was Bishop of Bradwell in our diocese until a few years ago. I see little point in adding further words about this, except to say that it does **not** reflect the faithful work our local parishes are doing. Clearly these stories are fast-moving, so please go to the Church of England website to learn more: [Home | The Church of England](#). Above all, please pray for all those affected, and for our Church. *Simon Garwood*

THE FUTURE OF OUR BENEFICE – THE DECISION

The consultation period for all 18 parishes has ended, so a small group from the Deanery Standing Committee got together to look at the choices the 18 had made. They were given three options, each of which grouped the 18 parishes in different ways. There was a clear preference for the first option, in which our Benefice will be grouped with Copford & Easthorpe: 12 of the 18 parishes chose this. So a major decision has been made that will affect our Benefice for a long time to come. To find out more, please come to **the next Witham Deanery Synod on Tuesday 11th February in St Luke’s Church Hall, Tiptree CO5 0SU, 7.00 for 7.30 pm**. There will be a detailed presentation on the new team ministry that we will form together. This is an open Synod meeting so anyone from our churches can attend. *Simon G.*



ST MARY’S WORSHIP FOR ALL WITH HOLY COMMUNION – SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY AT 10.00 am

Our service theme is Candlemas: look out for the Candlemas altar frontal, made by our youth group at St Mary’s many years ago. Our Worship for All services are generally non-communion, but this Sunday the service will end with a simple Communion. This is partly because it is a special ‘Feast Day’ in the church that effectively ends the Christmas preparation and celebration begun at Advent. But it’s also to give Natasha experience of leading all-age worship that includes Communion (very different from traditional Communion services). We hope those of you who enjoy a monthly non-Communion service will understand that it’s important for us all to help Natasha in her training. Please let [Geraldine](#) know as soon as possible if your child would like a craft bag in the service.



CHURCHYARD CHICKEN RUN...

A curate has much to learn in his or her curacy... Natasha's journey as our curate has been full of lots of different experiences: after last Wednesday's Teddy Bear Club, she was chasing escapee chickens round the churchyard. Seen here with their owner, these rescue chickens (now looking very healthy and brave) decided to explore the churchyard and had to be firmly carried home to the Old Vicarage!



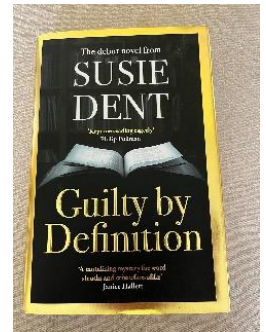
ST MARY'S PRAM SERVICE/TEDDY BEAR CLUB 40th BIRTHDAY



In 1985 St Mary's Pram Service was started. The babies and toddlers who came then are now grown up, often with children of their own. We're planning a celebration to mark the occasion in the summer, details to be decided. If you have any memories or photos of the pram service you would be willing to share, we would be very grateful. Please send to [Geraldine](#). The Pram Service was modernised and brought up to date when it became the Teddy Bear Club.

ST MARY'S BOOK GROUP

The latest book, *Lessons in Chemistry*, was enjoyed very much by everyone in the group. We'll leave a copy on the St Mary's book shelf in the lobby – do borrow it and read it if you'd like to. A fascinating study of life in the 1950's, the role of women and the struggles of a single parent, aspiring chemist, who inadvertently becomes a TV celebrity chef. The next book is the first novel by Susie Dent, of *Wordsmith/Countdown* fame. The group meets on **Monday 24th February at 7.30 in the Church Rooms**, please note change of day. Contact [Natasha](#) if you'd like more details.



THANK-YOU TEA FOR FEERING CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Neither of our churches could function effectively without a large number of volunteers. On Sunday 2nd February there will be a special tea for those who volunteer at All Saints'. As well as tea and cakes there will be entertainment.

FEBRUARY ARRANGEMENTS – All Morning Services at 10.00 am

Here is the full list of our remaining alternating services for this month:

Sunday 9th February – 10.00 am United Benefice Holy Communion at **All Saints'**

Sunday 16th February – 10.00 am UB HC at **St Mary's**

Plus at 5.00 pm – Said Evening Prayer (*Book of Common Prayer*) at **All Saints'**

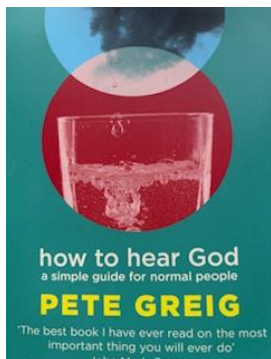
Sunday 23rd February – 10.00 am UB HC at **All Saints'**

Sunday 2nd March – back to our usual 9.30 am/11.00 am pattern, plus 8.00 am Holy Communion on first Sundays

TIPTREE FOOD BANK – [Tiptree Food Bank](#) | [Tiptree](#) | [Facebook](#)

The Food Bank is short of squash, pasta sauce, toothpaste, men's deodorant, cleaning cloths, small packs of rice, toilet rolls and tinned meat. Please leave Food Bank donations at either church and they'll be delivered to the Foodbank by our volunteers. Many thanks for your donations and to Betty and Jill for transporting the donations to Tiptree.





UNITED BENEFICE LENT COURSE 2025

St Mary's Book Group recently read 'How to Hear God' by Pete Greig and enjoyed it very much. However there was so much to discuss in it, we thought it would make a really good Lent Book. So we're reading and studying this book for our Lent Course this year, led by Natasha. Pete Greig is the founder of 24-7 Prayer, an international prayer initiative: [Home - 24-7 Prayer International](#).

He is a Senior Pastor of Emmaus Road Church, Surrey and has written several other best-selling books on prayer. The book blurb says: "This is a book to

make faith come alive by turning prayer into a real, conversational relationship with the God who speaks – more than you know". The course starts on **Tuesday 11th March at 7.30 pm for 5 weeks**, in St Mary's Church Rooms, and **on Wednesdays (from Wednesday 12th March) at 2.30 pm in Sue and Andrew Howard's home, 94 Feering Hill, Feering CO5 9PX**. Please contact [Natasha](#) if you'd like to know more or would like to sign up. *NB please read the book before we start the course.*

KEEPING UP WITH K & F

Keep up to date with service times, events & info about both our churches via our United Benefice website: kelvedonandfeeringchurches.co.uk. Please send church info, photos & events on both parishes to me, [Sarah Openshaw](#), by Wednesday, for inclusion in that week's newsletter. Also the same email address for any church events to go on the Benefice Website. *Thank you.*

BENEFICE DIARY SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY to SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday 2nd February	8.00 am	St Mary's	Said Holy Communion (1662 Prayer Book)
<i>Presentation/</i>	10.00 am	St Mary's	United Benefice Sung Holy Communion Service
<i>Candlemas</i>	2.30 pm	All Saints'	"Thank You" Event for all Feering Church Volunteers
	5.30/6.00 pm approx.	All Saints'	Said Evening Prayer (1662 Prayer Book)
<i>NB No morning service at All Saints' this Sunday</i>			
Monday 3rd	2.00 pm	Kelvedon URC	Funeral of Ron Snowling (taken by Natasha)
	3.30 pm	St Mary's	Worship Group planning meeting in the Church Rooms
Wednesday 5th	9.30 am	St Mary's	Teddy Bear Club
	2.30 pm	St Dominics	Holy Communion Service
	4.45 pm	St Mary's	Junior Christian Club
	8.30 pm	Zoom	Night Prayer (Compline)
<i>Our quiet, reflective online service, to bring a peaceful end to the day. Do feel free to join us, using this link (also on our website): https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83398813389?pwd=UitzYjRnQzh5ZXJCRjgyMStyTU8ydz09</i>			
Thursday 6th	8.30 am	St Mary's	Morning Prayer
Friday 7th	c. 8.30 am – 3.30 pm	Community Payback Team in St Mary's Churchyard & Burial Ground	
Saturday 8th	2.30 pm	All Saints'	Wedding of Abigail Graves & Cameron Cheesman
Sunday 9th February	10.00 am	All Saints'	United Benefice Sung Holy Communion Service
<i>The Fourth Sunday before Lent</i>		<i>NB No service at St Mary's this Sunday</i>	

ADVANCE NOTICE

Tuesday 11th Feb. 7 for 7.30 pm St Luke's Tiptree Deanery Synod Meeting (*open to all*)

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