

PRENTON NEWS

The Magazine of
Prenton United Reformed Church
Prenton Road West, Birkenhead



FEBRUARY & MARCH
2026

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Church & Community Activities

Monday	1 st Tranmere Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	5.00 p.m.
Tuesday	Guitar Group	6.30 p.m.
Wednesday	Welcome Space Coffee	10.00 a.m.
	Lunch	12.00 p.m.
	House Group	7.00 p.m.
	Men's Group	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	Creative Writing Group	7.30 p.m.

Donations towards the cost of the magazine would be appreciated

FROM THE MANSE

PANCAKES AND PROHIBITIONS

When I was a child growing up in Kirkdale, one of the few religious things that united Catholics and Protestants, in a deeply divided community, was Pancake Tuesday. All the talk in the school playground at the beginning of the first week of Lent was how many pancakes each of us were going to eat.

And I can remember both Mum and Dad making what seemed to be a myriad of pancakes for the six hungry mouths waiting at the table, and it was a treat watching my Dad trying to flip a pancake from a cast iron frying pan.

Shrove Tuesday, to give Pancake Tuesday its real name, comes immediately before Ash Wednesday which marks the first day of Lent, which this year is on 18th February. And Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and spiritual preparation leading up to Easter.

The word “*Shrove*” itself comes from “*shriving*,” meaning to confess and receive forgiveness. So, at its heart, Lent is about preparing our hearts, acknowledging our need for God’s grace and getting ready to walk more closely with Christ during Lent, not just giving up chocolate.

As children we didn’t particularly understand or even care about what Lent was. After all, giving up chocolate was easy because we never had any anyway. And, as adults, our abstinence during Lent can be a bit haphazard and meaningless. The giving up of things is designed to help us focus more on God as we approach

Easter. But if you find it hard to give up things or if you'd like a new approach to Lent this year then maybe ask yourself these questions:

1. When I wake up on Easter Sunday, how will I be different? What am I preparing for?
2. Is there something in my life that keeps me from loving God with my heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving my neighbour as myself? How might I address it throughout Lent?
3. Lent is a time to listen to God, but sometimes God speaks through others, particularly the poor, oppressed, marginalised, and suffering. Who should I be listening to this season?
4. Is there a spiritual discipline such as Lectio Divina, or the Examen that I've always wanted to try? How might I alter my daily routine to include one of these disciplines? (you'll find details for both in this magazine)
5. Death and resurrection are central to the Christian faith. In what ways are they present in my life right now? Where am I experiencing expressions of suffering, death and decay, and how might new life emerge from them?

So, as we flip pancakes this year, let's take a moment to reflect on what lies ahead in the Lenten journey - a time to simplify, to seek God more intentionally, and to prepare ourselves for the joy and hope of Easter.

God bless.

Jeff

CEREMONIES OF THE CHURCH

FUNERALS

On Monday 15th December 2025
the Rev Jeff Hughes conducted the service
at Landican Crematorium

for

DONALD LAURIE HOWARD

† † †

On Thursday 15th January 2026
the Rev Jeff Hughes conducted the service
at Landican Crematorium

for

DYLIS MAUREEN LETCHFORD

† † †

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

We send our love, sincere condolences to **John & Sue Letchford** on the death of John's mother **Dylis**.

Several members of our congregation and Ron Taylor are still waiting for a date for surgical procedures due to the cleansing machines for surgical instruments still being "out of order" at Arrowe Park Hospital. We do hope and pray that these necessary operations can be

carried out and everyone will be out of pain.

We also remember in our prayers all the members of our congregation who are unable to join us on a Sunday morning.

We started our Christmas celebrations with our TOY SERVICE

which was held on 14th December and was led by Mr Ray Craig. Ray used the story of Jesus blessing the children (Mark, chapter 10, verses 13 - 16) as a lead into his talk about all the children in our country who have different lives and often in situations where there is not only poverty in terms of possessions, but also a lack of love and care.

Ray also talked about his long experience as a foster parent and the many children who have been helped by him and his wife, Marian.



Members of the congregation had brought along toys, which were collected by Charles Thompson's Mission to be given as Christmas presents to needy children in our community who might otherwise receive no presents. Some people also made donations of money to be used by the Mission to buy further presents.

Philip



These photos show the gifts on display in the Church Hall



NATIVITY SERVICE

Our Nativity Service on Christmas Eve was well attended. It was good to see so many people in the hall.

Jeff presented a novel and humorous account of the Nativity story with Heather, Jan and Rachel playing all the parts; Joseph, Mary, Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men, Sheep and not forgetting Heather's starring role as the donkey. Rachel even took the role of nasty King Herod and was soundly booed, firstly by our visiting Moderator, Rev Geoff Felton, then the rest of the congregation joined in.

We had both traditional and more modern carols, with most of the music provided on the electronic keyboard by Jenni, Jeff and Heather's daughter. For one of the carols, the music was played from the internet and Jenni demonstrated the matching actions; we were all encouraged to join in, and some of us struggled to keep up!

At the end of the service, both children and adults were given the opportunity to dress in costumes to represent characters in the story and have their photographs taken.

The service was a lovely presentation of Jesus's birth in an entertaining way and put everyone in the mood for Christmas the following day.

Philip

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be on Sunday March 22nd. If you are one of the people who appear on the list of "job holders", please let me know before the AGM, that you are willing to continue, or if you wish to relinquish your role. If you do wish to give up, it would really helpful if you could suggest a replacement.

We are always glad of volunteers and are looking for people to Meet and Greet on a Sunday, volunteers to do Readings or lead Prayers of intercession.

More help is also needed for Wednesday Coffee mornings - it is not a problem if you only have to do it every three months, but that needs more helpers! Many hands make light work. Please offer, it's not too difficult.

Thank you,
Jean

MEMORIES OF DON HOWARD
25th JULY 1936 - 25th NOVEMBER 2025

On the 25th of November when our lovely Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad passed away I felt I could hear Auden's poem ringing in my ears.

“Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone” and “He was our North our South, our East and West” ... What now ?

Then, very quickly the realisation came that whilst Dad won't be with us physically, he has left an abundance of memories that give us strength and will lead us forward.

To share just a few

I remember Mum and Dad buying a big orange and green dinghy to take on holiday to Barmouth. Every day Dad took the 3 of us out into what felt like 'huge' waves and it was fun - we had not a care in the world.

Jason too remembers holidays in Barmouth but for him it's linked to Mum and Dad organizing a game of “Superstars” on the beach. We all took it quite seriously but we really enjoyed it. He also recalls Dad taking us kayaking around a Viking village in Yugoslavia and going to the south of France by coach.

For Jane the memories are linked to cars. When she got her first Mini Dad would help her wash it every Saturday as she couldn't reach the middle of the roof. Then, much later on when she was worried about her car he said "Pop the bonnet up and I'll have a feel" (of course he couldn't see anything) and he'd reassure her that everything was fine.

For Tim too, there's a memory related to cars. When ours was written off he turned up the next day with his Volkswagen Golf. He parked it on the drive and said "I've insured it for you, use it as long as you need to - your need is greater than ours".

Paula remembers the Garden parties, the Christmas parties and playing Jack, Jack at Birthday parties. She also remembers Dad was always a good listener, he never judged. He had a wonderful laugh and warmth - he was a true gentle- man.

Olly remembers when Grandad used to pick him up from primary school and they'd go straight to 'Snips', the DVD shop on Cross Lane and then get a Chicago Town pizza for tea.

For Rose there's the memory of getting to know Grandad as she got older. He took her to orchestra on a Friday evening and on the drive they'd talk about all sorts of topics and she felt she got to know what he stood for as a person - fairness and making sure everyone had the opportunity to do things in life.

Oscar recalls teaching everyone how to play Risk one Christmas. The game relied on strategic thinking and being able to recall everyone's position on a map of the world where everyone was constantly moving. Quite a challenge for Dad - and he won!

Oscar also remembers when he and Rose told Grandad they were going to have a baby girl he said “Oh, that will be an adventure”.

All of us recall Dad’s strength and fortitude when without warning he lost his sight. He devised his own methods to live independently doing his own washing, ironing, cooking and he regularly walked to Cross Lane for a bottle of milk.

On one occasion he famously caught a train to Hooton and met me at my house for lunch.

In all these memories you can see that Dad was all about being as good a Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad as he could be. He always said that marrying Mum, “Bel” as he called her was the best thing he ever did. Before she passed away she told him to look after the 3 of us. He kept his promise. Every day, right to the very end he told us he loved us.

Over the years he had sometimes been asked to read from 1 Corinthians 13 at weddings but for Dad it feels appropriate for his funeral.

“Love is patient and love is kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail. Love never ends”

For us this is Dad - full of love. In recent years we remember Dad’s bravery as he confronted everything life threw at him with great calmness and dignity - he really did do it ‘his way’ and ‘his way’ was full of love. In my pocket today, I have one of my most treasured possessions. It is a soapstone heart that Dad made for

Tim and myself.

He took a rough piece of stone, rubbed it down with different grades of sandpaper, cleaned it and polished it. He did this with no sight. It is a gift that cost nothing but is full of his love. He made one for each of our homes, (plus an extra special one for Olly), and last summer he made his very last one for Sabrina - providing a memory for her of her Great Grandad that Rose and Oscar can talk to her about in the future.

This is Dad's symbol of love and we hope that all of you will take the love that Dad shared with each and every one of you forward in life today.

By his daughter Julie

MEMORIES of DON HOWARD

Don was an Elder for many years, he was Fabric Convener, he did join the choir for a short period and many years ago when we had live shows in our church hall, Don was in a lot of the shows.

We first got to know Don and his family when we were on holiday in Cornwall. We were on the beach when the weather turned wet and windy we were sheltering under the cliffs and so were they. Beryl invited us back to their caravan to dry out because we were camping. We dried out and Don cooked sausage sandwiches!

Don and family were very good friends with our family and we had New Year's Eve fancy dress parties together, we had

days out fruit picking followed by picnics and rounders. Don was a good churchman, missed by all of us who knew him.

Anne & Fred

During my 30 years at Devonshire Park Primary School as a Senior Teacher, I first met a number of members and congregation of Prenton URC as parents of children I had taught, and among them were Beryl & Don Howard.

I doubt they ever missed a Parent's Evening, and were eager to see the work and endeavours of their 3 children and were always supportive of the school and of the teachers, including myself.

In later years I was able to meet up with Don through church attendance and at the Wednesday Coffee Morning. It was always a pleasure to collect him from his home and drive him to church. He was very interesting to talk with and was a fountain of knowledge, enthralling us with his history of this church and past members.

I visited him on a few occasions at his Care Home, along with his daughter Julie, and was amazed at his positive attitude to his blindness, and his stoicism.

He was a lovely person to know. I for one, will be forever grateful that I knew him as a friend and was able to learn so many life lessons from so truly a humble man. I miss him!

Barry

A minister put hot-air hand dryers in the toilets at his church but after two weeks he took them out.

Asked why, he confessed that they worked fine, but when he went into the men's toilets, he saw a sign that read:

“For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button.”

According to Folklore, hearing the Lark sing in Spring heralds good weather and fortune. The songbird has also been used by Shakespeare and Chaucer as a symbol of daybreak and new dawns.

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2026

FEBRUARY			
Sunday	1st	11.00 a.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes
Tuesday	3rd	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday	4th		<i>Warm Welcome Space</i>
		10.00 a.m.	Coffee Morning
		12.00 p.m.	Lunch
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
Friday	6th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Sunday	8th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Mark Williams
Wednesday	11th		<i>Warm Welcome Space</i>
		10.00 a.m.	Coffee Morning
		12.00 p.m.	Lunch
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
Friday	13th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Saturday	14th	///	Valentine's Day
Sunday	15th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes
Shrove Tuesday	17th		Pancakes!!
Ash Wednesday	18th		<i>Warm Welcome Space</i>
		10.00 a.m.	Coffee Morning
		12.00 p.m.	Lunch
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
Sunday	22nd	11.00 a.m.	Rev Geoff Felton. Moderator
Tuesday	24th	1.00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting at the Manse
Wednesday	25th		<i>Warm Welcome Space</i>
		10.00 a.m.	Coffee Morning
		12.00 p.m.	Lunch
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse

DIARY FOR MARCH 2026

MARCH			
Sunday	1st	11.00 a.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes
Tuesday	3rd	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday	4th		<i>Warm Welcome Space</i> 10.00 a.m. Coffee Morning 12.00 p.m. Lunch 7.00 p.m. House Group at the Manse
Sunday	8th	11.00 a.m.	Dr Philip Roper
Wednesday	11th		<i>Warm Welcome Space</i> 10.00 a.m. Coffee Morning 12.00 p.m. Lunch 7.00 p.m. House Group at the Manse
Mothering Sunday	15th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes together with Mrs Pam Lawrence Articles for the April & May 2026 Church Magazine
Wednesday	18th		<i>Warm Welcome Space</i> 10.00 a.m. Coffee Morning 12.00 p.m. Lunch 7.00 p.m. House Group at the Manse
Sunday	22nd	11.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Mr Ron Taylor ? Church Annual General Meeting
Wednesday	25th		<i>Warm Welcome Space</i> 10.00 a.m. Coffee Morning 12.00 p.m. Lunch 7.00 p.m. House Group at the Manse
Friday	27th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Saturday	28th	Clocks go forward this evening	
Palm Sunday	29th	11.00 a.m.	Our Elders

EXAMEN (LATIN FOR EXAMINATION)

1. **Awareness of God's Presence:** Begin by asking God for the grace to see your day through His eyes.
2. **Gratitude:** Give thanks for the gifts and blessings of the day, big or small, as this is a way to recognise God's love.
3. **Review Your Day:** Look back on your experiences, noting specific moments, thoughts, and feelings, asking, "Where was God in this?"
4. **Ask for Forgiveness:** Seek healing and forgiveness for times you fell short, and embrace God's mercy.
5. **Look Ahead:** Prepare for the next day, asking for guidance and peace to cooperate with God's will in upcoming events.

LECTIO DIVINA (LATIN FOR DIVINE READING)

The Four Steps of Lectio Divina

- Read:** Read a short scripture passage slowly, listening for words or phrases that stand out or resonate with you.
- Reflect:** Ponder that special word or phrase, letting it interact with your life and feelings, like chewing on it.
- Respond:** Respond to God in prayer about what you've heard and reflected upon, perhaps offering praise, thanks, or a petition.
- Rest:** Rest in God's presence, simply being with Him, without needing to "do" anything, allowing His grace to work.

RESOLUTIONS. At the beginning of a year, people made Resolutions for what they are or are not going to do in 2026. At the moment one of the most popular is to have a “dry” month in January i.e. giving up drinking alcohol for 31 days. That is rather like a “detox” after over imbibing at Christmas. Many other Resolutions you know are not sustainable!! How are your New Year’s Resolutions doing?

LENT. Ash Wednesday to Good Friday. This year that is 18th February to 3rd April. By tradition it is a time for “Fasting”. Giving up food that you enjoy, such as anything sweet, chocolate biscuits, or rich food like cream cakes, or meat and becoming vegetarian.

I could “give up” cream cakes but if Sainsbury’s have an offer on their Belgian Chocolate Eclairs, I would probably be tempted!!

When I lived in Taunton, my mother had a friend Marjorie, who was a very faithful Christian and a member of the Church of England and every year, for Lent, she gave up two of her “enjoyments in life - smoking and a flutter on the horses”. The money she saved by making these sacrifices she gave to her Church and in all the years I knew her, she never waivered on her Lent “Fasting”.

In the past the Churches Together in Prenton, ourselves, Prenton Methodists, St Joseph’s and St Stephen’s, held Lent Lunches of soup and sandwiches, which were held once a week at each church in rotation. It gave us the opportunity to socialise with the other congregations, but interest waned and the tradition has faded away.

MOTHERING SUNDAY always falls during Lent, this year on March 15th, and the tradition was that people who

were “in service” were given the Sunday off so that they could go back to their home and their mother taking with them a Simnel cake to eat with their family. You don’t often see Simnel cakes in the shops these days but they are a light fruit cake with a marzipan top and another layer of marzipan baked in the middle of the cake. A traditional Simnel cake will have 11 or 12 balls of marzipan on the top representing the 11 disciples and Jesus.

What are you giving up for Lent? If it is “food” don’t forget to tell Pauline and Heather so that they can adjust our Wednesday Lunch menu to suit your fasting!
Margaret

DYLIS LETCHFORD

21st JUNE 1935 - 18th DECEMBER 2025

Dylis was born Dylis Maureen Lloyd on 21st June 1935, the youngest of 7 children.

Her nearest sister Doreen died at the age of 3 from diphtheria when Dylis was still a baby and her brother John was killed just before his 21st birthday in Italy during the 2nd World War.

She grew up in Manchester with her parents and 4 older sisters, Jessie, Mary, Irene and Peggy. The older sisters often had to take Dylis with them when they went out much to their annoyance. The eldest, Jessie once said to her mother, ‘I’m not taking her out in the pram, they’ll think she’s mine!’

When Dylis left school, she joined the Civil Service before meeting her husband George Letchford while on holiday with a girlfriend in Folkestone. After marrying George, she lived in Dover with him but she found it strange down south.

She went into a bakery once and asked for a barm cake. The assistant had no idea what she was talking about so Dylis pointed one out only to be told, 'that's a plain teacake!'

She lived in Dover for less than a year as things weren't working out between her and George and she came back to Manchester where soon after she found out that she was pregnant. She stayed in Manchester, divorced George, and on 12th February 1962, her son, John, was born. He remained an only child and Dylis devoted herself to bringing him up with the help of her parents as she went back to work for the Civil Service, and working for the Territorial Army at several locations including the Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Army Medical Corps. She was a conscientious and highly valued worker, so much so that when she retired, she was awarded the Imperial Service Medal of which she was very proud.

As a young woman she enjoyed dancing and often went to local dances with friends. She also loved to sing and one of the men she met at a dance, played the piano and she would sing at jazz clubs in Manchester while he accompanied her.

She worked hard to provide for John and to give him a happy childhood. John remembers that on one occasion he'd been to the dentist to have four milk teeth taken out and when he came home there was a colour TV waiting for him in the living room which she'd arranged to cheer him up.

She always made sure he had a holiday and every year she would take him to Bispham near Blackpool for a week. She also took him to Beaumaris on Anglesey to see the place where his grandfather was born. Dylis was very proud of her Welsh roots. Whenever John was Introduced

to people as John, she would correct them with John Gareth!

Once John had grown up and left home, she took the opportunity to travel further afield, visiting her brother John's grave in Florence with her sister Peggy and brother-in-law Fred. She also visited the Holy Land with her best friend Joan which was very special to her because of her faith.

She became a regular churchgoer at the United Reformed church at Woodley in Stockport where she was in the choir.

She loved to write poetry and she wrote a poem to read out at John and Sue's wedding. They had told her that as it was a secular ceremony, she wouldn't be able to put anything in it about religion. She did as they asked but when she'd finished, she whispered a quick God Bless and looked so mischievous as she said it.

She loved gardening and grew her own vegetables and she also loved to bake, making apple pies, and in a nod to her Welsh heritage, baked Bara Brith which was legendary.

She enjoyed watching horse racing on TV and would often have a little flutter and admitted to a soft spot for Frankie Dettori, so much so that when she thought she saw him on a plane once she went over and said, "Excuse me, are you Frankie Dettori?" to which the man who was not Frankie Dettori, burst out laughing and said, "No, but I wish I had his money."

When her health deteriorated so that she was unable to get out on her own, she moved to the Wirral to be close to John and his wife, Sue. It was here she began attending the United Reformed Church in Prenton where she made some good friends and also became a member of the choir. She was so proud when one of her poems, *Thoughts*

of Waking was made into a hymn.

She was sad when her health issues meant she had to stop attending church but she continued to be a supportive member and loved to hear how her fellow members of the congregation were doing, particularly the children as she loved children.

Eventually she moved into The Pines residential home where she could access the care she now needed. She was comforted by visits from the minister Jeff and by her friend from the church, Shelby, who visited her on most Sunday afternoons. She also made good friends with another resident Shirley and would be most indignant if they weren't seated together at dinner. At the home, she enjoyed singing all the old songs and she was a prolific winner at bingo.

Dylis was kind and always thought of others, she was very sensitive and hated to upset or offend anyone. People who knew her, described her as lady-like and she always took care of her appearance while she could and loved the hairdresser's weekly visits to the home.

Although she suffered with anxiety in her later years, the mum John remembers was happy and cheerful.

Happiness by Dylis Letchford

Hold on to your happiness

Never let it die

If you find it fading

Revive it with a sigh.

Close your eyes, remember back

And you'll find it for a while

Every day will unfold anew

Your memories with a smile.

Grasp these moments every day

Savour the sun in your heart

Let the gentle rain fall onto your face

Delight in the song the birds impart

MEMORIES OF DYLLIS

I got to know Dylis soon after she came to Prenton because one of the first things she did was join the choir. Singing was one of the joys of her life and she proved a very valuable asset on the front row of the choir. She could sing high notes that were way out of the reach of the rest of us.

One Christmas she brought along a carol she had written and the choir sang it at our Carol Service.

It was a great shame when she no longer had the mobility to get to church. I watched her ongoing struggle to manage on her own in her flat despite John's steadfast care and support. Her move to The Pines brought her companionship and safety.

She soon settled down and took part in all the activities on offer. Her cupboard was full of small prizes she had won at bingo and quizzes. Gradually her failing eyesight was a great source of distress.

It was always a pleasure to visit her. She would tell me interesting tales of her childhood and we often sang hymns together. She had a remarkable memory for the words. Only the Sunday before she died, we sang Christmas carols together.

I found it very rewarding to visit her because she was always so appreciative.

I decided to just add a little of my **MEMORIES OF DEAR DON**. My husband, Keith, and Don were born and bred in the same town in Middlesex, Staines. They must have shared the same haunts frequented by teenagers, but they never met. They would often exchange their experiences of pubs, cinemas, eating places and dancing venues.

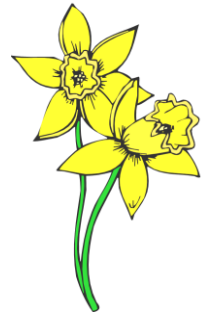
Their friendship grew from happy memories. It was to our great benefit here at Prenton that they both married girls from The Wirral!

Shelby

Spring is just around the corner

On Jayne's way to work every day she drives past a grass embankment just beyond the boundaries of the city where she lives.

There is a stunning display of daffodils there every spring and she always looks for their bright, cheerful faces as a new season unfolds.



One morning she noticed an eye-catching addition to the display of blooms - new daffodils had been planted in the shape of a big smiling face!

A green-fingered person had spent many hours working on that slope to share their love of flowers with passers-by and their thoughtful gesture brings to mind the lovely proverb:

One kind word can warm three winter months.

OUR FAVOURITE BIBLE PASSAGES

I have decided to write about the Service I took on 11th January 2026, firstly for the benefit of those who were unable to be present, and secondly so anyone else interested can enjoy it again at home.

Before Christmas, I began planning a Service for January 11th about some of our favourite Bible passages. I asked the congregation to give some thought

to this topic, and anyone willing to choose a few versus and speak about them would be included. Meanwhile, I planned the layout of hymns and prayers.

By 4th January it was taking shape, and finally I had a plan, with five readings by members of the congregation, and five hymns I had chosen. The prayers were mainly from “Celtic Daily Prayer”. There was a last-minute request from Barbara, for Joshua, Chapter 1, verse 9, which was added to my introduction.

We began with “Who is on the Lord’s Side?” (MP 769), then I read a prayer, and we all said the Lord’s Prayer. Philip read Colossians Chapter 3, verses 12 to 17, and he told us why he had chosen this.

Our second hymn was “Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love” (MP 84) and Esther’s choice of Psalm 121 was read by Shelby. This was followed by “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God” (MP 590) and Pam spoke about her favourite reading – 1 Corinthians Chapter 1 verses 18 to 31.

Our fourth hymn was “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” (MP 857) and Pauline spoke of her choice, 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 verses 51 to 58. Jean led our Prayers of Intercession, then Sue’s choice was Romans Chapter 8 verses 31 to 39, and she told us why she had chosen this. Our fifth and final hymn was “For I’m building a people of power” (MP151).

Separating the five sections of hymn and reading from each other, we sang “O Lord Hear My Prayer” (MP 908).

The collection was taken after the second hymn and Julian read the prayer. Finally, our closing prayer of


blessing was my choice, again from the “Celtic Prayer Book” and we finished with our regular weekly blessing sung to each other.

It was very pleasing to have so many people helping with the Service, and thank you all very much. It was unfortunate that the Hall heating went off, and it was **very** cold. We shortened the Service by singing only the first and last verses of each hymn, and blankets and coats were brought from other parts of the building. I hope you have enjoyed reading through our Service, whether or not you were there on January 11th. Later in 2026, I would like to do another Service on our favourite Bible passages, and one on our favourite hymns. So start thinking about how **you** can help.

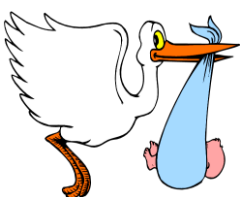
Marian

COFFEE ?

Sally met her friend Joanne and they went into town for a coffee in a brand-new café.

“Two coffees,” Sally said, but the waitress just sighed. She took a deep breath and then quickly  replied, “Latte or mocha or maybe espresso? Lungo, cappuccino or even ristretto? A long black, a flat white or small macchiato. Or perhaps you’d prefer a strong, sweet cortado?”

Sally thought for a minute then smiled and said, “I think maybe we’ll just have two teas instead!”



Congratulations to **James & Katie** on the safe arrival of **Jack Alexander James Parkin** on 28th January. The third, grandson for **Elaine**, nephew for **Claire** and cousin for **Erin**.

ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Duty Elder

February 1st Fred Foulkes
8th Sue Kite
15th Marian Davies
22nd Pauline Green

Communion Elders

February 1st Shelby Ambrose & Pauline Green

Door Duty

February 1st Heather Hughes, Barbara Jones, Elaine Parkin
8th Pauline Green, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
15th Jean & Les Bayley, Heather Hughes
22nd Barbara Jones, Deryk Jones, Barry Lawrence

Readers

February 1st Barry Lawrence & Glyn Roper
8th Fred Foulkes & Marian Davies
15th Pam Lawrence & Shelby Ambrose
22nd Julian Megraw & Philip Roper

Prayers of Intercession

February 1st Philip Roper
8th Sue Kite
15th Barry Lawrence
22nd Pauline Green

Church Flowers

February 1st Peter Carroll
8th Marian Davies
15th Shelby Ambrose
22nd Joyce Holland

ROTAS FOR MARCH 2026

Duty Elder

March	1st	Jean Bayley
	8th	Shelby Ambrose
	15th	Elaine Parkin
	22nd	Fred Foulkes
	29th	Sue Kite

Communion Elders

March	1st	Marian Davies & Sue Kite
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Door Duty

March	1st	Sue Kite, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	8th	Jean & Les Bayley, Elaine Parkin
	15th	Heather Hughes, Deryk Jones, Sue Kite
	22nd	Pauline Green, Barbara Jones, Elaine Parkin
	29th	Barry Lawrence, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper

Readers

March	1st	Deryk Jones & Barry Lawrence
	8th	Glyn Roper & Fred Foulkes
	15th	Jean Bayley & Marian Davies
	22nd	Pam Lawrence & Julian Megraw
	29th	Joyce Holland & Shelby Ambrose

Prayers of Intercession

March	1st	Jean Bayley
	8th	Claire Thomas
	15th	Philip Roper
	22nd	Barry Lawrence
	29th	Sue Kite

Church Flowers

March	1st	Pam Lawrence
	8th	
	15th	Heather Hughes
	22nd	Joan Lawrence
	29th	