

St Mary's in the Marketplace

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Rector:

Rev Roger Scoones

St Mary's Rectory

24 Gorsey Mount Street

Stockport

SK1 4DU

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Service times at St Mary's

Sunday:

10:30am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

Normally the first and third Sunday is Holy Communion with Morning on the second and fourth.

Tuesday:

10.00am Holy Communion

12.15pm Lunch-time Service

Wedding, Baptism, Funeral and other services by arrangement with the Rector.

St Mary's and the Nave Café is open – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 9.00am – 3.00pm

Readers contributions to the magazine are always welcome. Editorial discretion with regard to content and space available will apply.

web site: www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com



St Mary's in the Marketplace, Stockport



2015

1st February



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (Septuagesima)
Education Sunday

2nd February

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

6th February

The Queen's Accession (1952)

8th February

The Second Sunday before Lent (Sexagesima)

15th February

The Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima)

18th February

Ash Wednesday - Holy Communion 7.00pm

22nd February

The First Sunday of Lent – 10.30pm Sunday Service

24th February

“Dig Greater Manchester” Salford University Workshop
1pm (Open session)

28th February

Members of Stockport Symphony Orchestra join us for
“Music at Lunchtime” Entry FREE - Lunch available from the Nave Café
“Welsh Evening” at the Nave Cafe

TUESDAYS IN LENT

(Guest Speakers) Lunch-time Service 12.15 – 1.00pm

24th February

Andy Williams

3rd March*

Andrew Lythall

10th March

Richard Lawry

17th March*

Elaine Chegwin Hall

24th March

David Brewster

31st March*

Brett Cane



* Christian Aid – Super Soup Lunches

2nd April

Maundy Thursday - 7.00pm Holy Communion

3rd April

Good Friday

- 10.00am Family Service

- 2.00pm 1hr devotional service

5th April

Easter Day

- 10.30am Holy Communion

Are you listed on the Electoral Roll for St Mary's?

If NOT and you worship regularly at St Mary's there are three reasons why you should put your name on the Church Electoral Roll:

- Electoral rolls provide a true indication of the real membership and strength of the Church, both locally and nationally. Putting your name on the roll is a way of saying “I belong”; it is an act of commitment to your local church and to the Church as a whole.
- Joining the electoral roll opens up the way for greater involvement in the life of the Church, at parish, deanery, diocesan and national levels. You become entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
- It is an important statement of witness, and step along the path of discipleship. With your name on the electoral roll the strength of the Church can be seen in our area, and across the country.

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll for St Mary's and wish to be included (assuming you qualify of course) you will need to complete the necessary form within the next few weeks for inclusion on our 2015 revision. Details of the time-table for completion of forms and publication of the new register will be made shortly, after the date for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting has been announced.

Forms are available in Church and should be returned to the Electoral Roll Officer (Margaret Forster). You can leave them in Church or post to the Rectory Office, St Mary's Rectory, 24 Gorsey Mount Street, Stockport, SK1 4DU.



You may have seen our “church-guest” – a most beautiful “peacock” butterfly first spotted on a window (November 2014) then fluttering around church, clearly a little confused with the hibernation process!

The Peacock butterfly is a familiar sight in gardens across the British Isles (well not in February of course) and is unmistakable, with quite spectacular eyes on the upperside of the hindwings that give this butterfly its name. These eyes must appear very threatening to predators as at a glance look very much like the face of an “owl” the body of the butterfly being the beak. The butterfly apparently also able to make a hissing sound by rubbing its wings together which is actually audible to human ears.

The underside is almost black, providing perfect camouflage (like a dead leaf) when the butterfly is at rest on a tree trunk, or when hibernating.

Butterflies, so says Google, can eat anything that can dissolve in water. They mostly feed on nectar from flowers but



back to sleep for awhile (preferably Spring)!



also eat tree sap, dung, pollen, or rotting fruit, none of which is served in the “Nave Café”. Ours enjoyed a little honey mixed with water (January 2015) before being encouraged to go

From the Rector’s “i-pad”

Dear Reader



On January 30th 1965 London was a sombre place. It was a bitterly cold day. It was the scene of one of the greatest historic occasions in the history of this nation. It was the day of the State Funeral of Sir Winston Churchill who had died on 24th, which was, by coincidence, the same day as his father had died in 1894. No commoner had had a State funeral since the Duke of Wellington in 1852!

I was at school in Kent at the time, and though denied the opportunity to go up to London for the Lying-in- State in Westminster Hall (for which I made up many years later by attending the same solemn occasion on the death of the Queen Mother) the school's enlightened Headmaster decided that the boys should be allowed to attend the funeral in person.

And so it was that on that day probably dozens of us older boys, I suspect, were allowed to board a train from Tonbridge to Charing Cross, near Trafalgar Square, in the heart of London. It must have seemed quite an adventure at the time. From there we could decide where to watch the great and solemn procession passing by. Memory does not serve me well, except to say that I found myself in a great throng on Ludgate Hill, looking up towards St. Paul's Cathedral. We had obviously decided to walk as far as we could towards the cathedral .It was to be a good vantage point. Many years later I would stand in almost exactly the same spot to watch the Queen going by in the Gold State Coach in her Silver Jubilee year 1977.

The commentator, Clive Aslet, writing in Country Life last month, described the scene on that day as it having been "television's finest hour", "uniting the nation, just as the Coronation had done 12 years before." While many were able to watch the TV, in black and white of course, many like myself were able to experience this momentous occasion in person.

Lent Lunchtime Services, 12.15 Every Tuesday

The season of Lent is an important time in the Church's year, as Christians prepare for the great events of Holy Week and Christian festival of Easter. The Tuesday Lunchtime service has Bible teaching at its heart, and a time of prayer and worship as its context. During Lent clergy from the Deanery of Stockport have been invited to bring to this service their own personal view and the Bible teaching so much valued by many who attend.

A programme of readings and hymns is published in this magazine and can be obtained in church. The Lent series is part of the regular pattern of worship which takes place throughout the year at St. Mary's .

Stockport Sunday School - the saints of Stockport

There have probably been many personal links between Stockport Sunday School and St. Mary's, the Parish Church, over the years. After all, the Christian family has many manifestations in Stockport, and the family ties are strong between many of the churches and Stockport Sunday School (S.S.S.) The Rector, Roger, has found the "Christian family ties "with Stockport Sunday School , and with other churches, to be very encouraging to his ministry over the years he has spent in Stockport. A few years ago, when S.S.S moved to their present buildings, Roger was asked to take part in a Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving. On Sunday March 1st Roger has once again been called upon to lead a Service of Dedication and Blessing of a fine Board depicting the names of the 167 Teachers, who have given 50 or more years of unbroken service to S.S.S. And one of that esteemed number Mr Norman Sellers will be present on the day to see it unveiled! As will our own Margaret Forster, who has also served The Lord in this remarkable way, for over 50 years! Thanks be to God for these "saints of Stockport"!

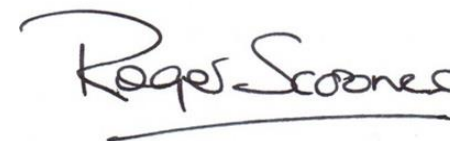
If my memory serves me right, I may have seen that final image too, on that cold winter's day 50 years ago, as I stood on Blackfriars Bridge or was it London Bridge? What I do remember more clearly is sitting in front of a small tv screen back in school later that evening, and shedding a teenage tear , as I watched the day's events in London, of which I had been a part, being screened again. It is a memory I shall cherish for life ,and I am so grateful to those enlightened men, our headmaster and housemasters, who allowed us to make that journey, on trust, to London and back, and to then see it for ourselves on TV.

This month I am meeting up with the 16 boys who joined the school house in the same year 1961. It should be an interesting experience as some of us haven't met for 50 years! I've no doubt that one or two will have the same sort of memory of that day in London as I have, but undoubtedly with a different tale to tell.

As I read and preach the Gospels of Matthew ,Mark ,Luke and John I never cease to be amazed by the stories they tell about Jesus. I notice how one will record one event , which the others ignore ; and another will include certain details which the others chose to leave out. And then all of a sudden, they will all agree on something! And its all true, but written by four men each from a different perspective . This Lent I have invited members of the local clergy from the Stockport Deanery to come and speak at the Tuesday Lunchtime service, and I am sure that each of them will do just the same! They will speak on Lent from their own perspective , and from their own unique experience of life! Hopefully they will all agree on one thing, that its Good News, the Gospel! It should be an interesting time in our church's life. I hope that your memory has been stirred as you read these words, and that you can see the Hand of God in your life now, as He has guided you from a point many years ago, like the day I've spoken about, from memory!

God bless you and reveal Himself to you as we begin the time of Lent together.

Yours very sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Roger Scoones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

Education Sunday



For well over a hundred years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales. It is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education.



Education Sunday 2015 falls on the 1st February with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) on the 2nd February. Education Sunday this year therefore focuses on that moment in the Christian year. **Discovering who you are** - What did you want to do when you grew up? Is that what you're doing now? Who or what influenced your decisions? How were you enabled to grow and broaden your horizons? The readings for this Sunday and the story of Jesus being presented in the temple point to the heart of what education is about - discerning the potential in people and helping them to realize that potential. In Luke, Simeon and Anna see what others don't see; this is not just a baby boy but one with universal potential, as every child has. They share a glimpse of what he might become. In Hebrews, the writer recognises that Jesus became a human person in every respect, so that he might help us to fulfil our potential, as he himself has done. The reading from Malachi suggests that perhaps what we do is less important than how we do it. We are told that the messenger is coming; he will refine and purify, so that we may all achieve our potential, which is to become the means of God's justice for the oppressed, widows and orphans – for the poor.

2015 marks the deadline to meet the Millennium Development Goals, including the goal to achieve universal primary education. Enrolment in primary education in developing regions reached 90 per cent in 2010, up from 82 per cent in 1999, which means more children than ever are attending primary school. However, one in ten children of primary school age was still out of school in 2012. Whether we end up being bankers, shop workers, carers, politicians or teachers we can all help to build God's kingdom of love and justice, and ensure that everyone can live to their full potential, and become the person God intended them to be.

The very first Valentine card - a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

Crossword answers:

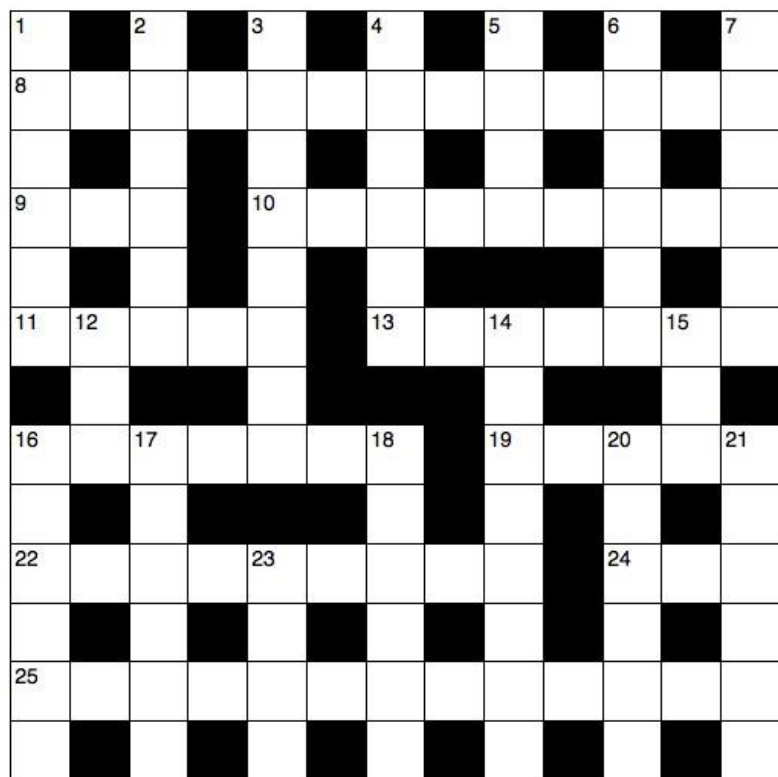
ACROSS:

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

Crossword



11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



Cover image: Valentine, the patron saint of romantic love, but... Love is more than just romantic; it can be found in all manner of compassion and caring for each other.

14th February - St Valentine's Day

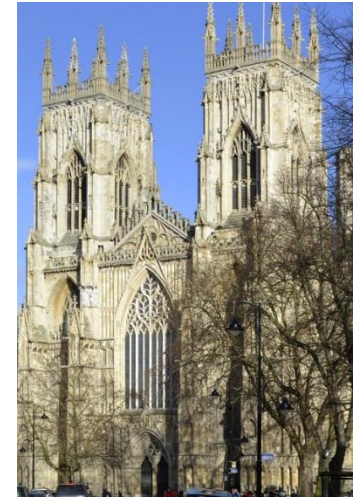
There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. Neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

The NEW Bishop of Stockport The Rt. Rev. Libby Lane, by the Rector

In a historic service held in the glorious surroundings of York Minster, on Monday 26th January the Archbishop of York, surrounded by numerous other Bishops, in the presence of a multitude of clergy, both women and men, and admiring, capacity congregation, consecrated Libby Lane as a Bishop in the Church of England, the first woman Bishop in its long and turbulent history.



We look forward to welcoming Bishop Libby to St. Mary's on 7th June 2015, which will hopefully be the first of many happy occasions on which the NEW Bishop of Stockport will attend Civic and other services in the Civic Church, St. Mary's.

Bishop Libby's episcopal ministry as Bishop of Stockport will be watched by many with interest, as she breaks new ground for women's ministry, a path which will undoubtedly be followed by many others in the months and years to come.

We shall hold Bishop Libby and her husband, the Rev. George Lane, in our prayers at St. Mary's in these early days as they settle into their new home in Dunham Massey, and the Bishop into her new role in the Diocese of Chester.

Rev. Roger Scoones
Rector, St. Mary's Stockport

Bishop Libby will be installed in Chester Cathedral and begin her public ministry in the Diocese as a Bishop, during a service at 3.30pm on Sunday 8 March.

Apparently it was "remarkable how many young people could be seen among the crowd lining the route from Westminster Hall to St. Paul's in, as Dimbleby (that is Richard Dimbleby the eminent broadcaster and father of the two we know now) put it, the new haircuts, fashions and styles"!

Well, I don't think that that described the young Scoones, but simply to be there was extra ordinary, and to watch the stirring procession of soldiers sailors and airmen going by, ending with the flag draped coffin carried on its gun carriage, pulled by 50 sailors, slowly moving past and up Ludgate Hill towards the towering edifice of the Cathedral, all accompanied by dramatic martial music played by military brass bands along the route, was unforgettable. As the service began, the crowds began to move, and so my friends and I walked up to and past the Cathedral still blackened by the smoke of war, intending to make our way to one of the bridges across the Thames. But as we did so we heard a most extraordinary sound coming from the Cathedral, a sound which I have never forgotten, to this day. It was the sound of singing. And the assembled thousands inside the Cathedral were singing The Battle Hymn of the Republic (a tune which to boys like me was the tune to "John Brown's body lies amouldering in the grave"! a strange choice, we thought for a funeral!) However as the commentator of the time wrote, the choice of this old marching tune, with its cheerful lilt, was of course "a reminder of Churchill's affection for his American Mother, beside whom it was evidently his wish to be buried, forgoing a place in Westminster Abbey or St. Paul's for the green seclusion of a country churchyard", Bladon, near Blenheim Palace, his birthplace.

After the service the cortège wound its sad and solemn way through the streets of the City of London to the Tower, from where it made a memorable and dignified farewell to London and the world's gaze, as the coffin was placed on a barge and taken up the Thames "to the pier beyond Waterloo Bridge, from where it was transferred to, a train drawn by a locomotive of the Battle of Britain class, named Winston Churchill".

St Mary's in the Marketplace, Stockport Tuesdays in Lent 2015 12.15pm – 1.00pm

Tuesday	Speaker	Reading	Hymns
24 th February	Rev Andy Williams St Luke's Brinnington	Mark 1: 4-11	Forty days and forty nights Spirit of the living God
Tuesday	Speaker	Reading	Hymns
3 rd March	Rev Andrew Lythall St Alban's Offerton	Matthew 16 13-20	My Song is Love Un- known For Mary, Mother of the Lord
Tuesday	Speaker	Reading	Hymns
10 th March	Rev Richard Lawry St Thomas's Norbury	Mark 10 17-31	All I once held dear Take my life, and let it be
Tuesday	Speaker	Reading	Hymns
17 th March	Rev Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall St George's Stockport	2 Peter 3 1-18	There is a Redeemer In Christ Alone
Tuesday	Speaker	Reading	Hymns
24 th March	Rev David Brewster St Matthew's Edgeley	Psalms 51	I will sing the wondrous story Beauty for brokenness
Tuesday	Speaker	Reading	Hymns
31 st March	Rev Brett Cane Trinity College Bristol	Psalms 22	There is a green hill far away The Servant King

Getting married in church - the Rector



The number of people who are getting married in church has fallen dramatically in recent years, depriving the clergy of valuable pastoral ministry in their parishes, and depriving those getting married of a deep and meaningful experience which is uniquely "a church wedding". When a couple does choose to get married in church, the parish clergy are always glad to give the very best service they can to the couple, in order to ensure that the happy occasion goes exactly as the couple want it to go.

St. Mary's is considered by some to be a fine venue for a wedding, and the greatest effort is made to accommodate those who express a wish to be married in this beautiful parish church, and to make them feel welcome.

This month Richard Wood and Shelley Highcock have chosen to be married in St. Mary's, unusually on a Sunday, 8th February, and we wish them God's richest blessing, and every happiness in the years ahead.



DIOCESE OF CHESTER CONFIRMATIONS 2015

Stockport Deanery: 23rd April 2015 19:30 at St George's
with the Bishop of Stockport

Anyone wishing to be confirmed, or to learn more about the Christian faith, please speak to Roger as soon as possible

Saturday, 21st March

A date for your diary – come and join us at our Spring Fayre.

Items for our stalls are most welcome – jams, cakes, plants, crafts etc. **NO BOOKS OR BRIC-A-BRAC PLEASE.**

Help on the stalls, front of house or in the café area will be most welcome at various times throughout the day. Please let us know if you can spare an hour or so.

If you or a friend would like a stall of your own we are more than happy to "hire" out tables for an agreed fee or percentage of sales (providing of course that the goods on offer are suitable for sale in Church). Local Charities welcome to join us. **Would you like to get involved with the planning and organisation of the event? Your assistance would be welcome – just let us know.**

Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you: 'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32) 'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7) 'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13) God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.





This Lent the Nave Café will donate all the proceeds from the sale of soup on the following Tuesdays:

3rd, 17th & 31st March



Donations to the work of Christian Aid also welcome or you may wish to “be a souper hero” yourself and invite friends and family to your home to share a bowl of soup (for a donation of course) during Lent.

This year thousands of souper heroes will be holding events to help fight poverty around the globe. £30 could buy vegetable gardens for five families in Bangladesh. £120 could buy three pigs for families to breed in Cambodia. 312 could provide a month’s food for women at a shelter who are at risk of, or have experienced, violence in Iraq.



Count Your blessings

Celebrate the good things in your life this Lent with the Christian Aid thought-provoking Count Your Blessings calendar. Available “on line” or you can follow the copy that will be displayed on our notice stand in the hospitality area of the Café.

Week 1:	18 th – 22 nd February	Food & Water
Week 2:	23 rd February – 1 st March	Financial Security
Week 3:	2 nd – 8 th March	Education
Week 4:	9 th – 15 th March	Gender
Week 5:	16 th – 22 nd March	Having a voice
Week 6:	23 rd – 29 th March	Emergencies
Week 7:	30 th March – 5 th April	Climate Change

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first ‘public appearance’. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to ‘present him to the Lord’. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was ‘purified’. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year’s supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon’s great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.*

*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared
before the face of all people*

*To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*