

## February 2026

### Vicar's Voice

As I write I am away for a few days in the Glencoe region of Scotland. Today the weather is wild—driving rain and storm-force winds—so I'm indoors enjoying the warmth and peace. Yesterday, by contrast, it was better and I had a good walk over the snow-covered mountains. The beauty was breath-taking; but climbing icy slopes and walking over steep sided ridges, sometimes buffeted by 50mph gusts of wind, was also a reminder of how fragile life can feel. The fact is that we never quite know what lies ahead or what challenges will meet us on the path.



As we move into February, the Church marks the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to be offered to God, an act full of hope and dedication. Yet the moment is made more profound by Simeon's words. He recognises Jesus as the light for all people, the one who brings salvation. But he also speaks honestly about the cost of that light—the struggles, the revealing, the piercing truth that will shape Jesus' life and the lives of those who follow him.

Our own journeys hold that same mixture of beauty and uncertainty. Perhaps Candlemas invites us to pay attention to the opportunities we have now: to bring light where we can, to shape our communities with compassion, and to live more fully into the values of God's Kingdom, whatever the weather around us may be.

David

### Prayer Saturdays

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026** Starts at 10 am with private prayer until 10.45 am when refreshments are available. Following this there is the opportunity to share concerns and issues which need prayer. All are welcome, feel free to drop in for however long you can manage.

### Church Work Party

The next Church Work Party will be on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 9.00am.

In January we cleaned the nativity figures before they are put away for next year and generally tidying up after Christmas.

### Bible Study Groups

If you would like to join, host or facilitate a bible study group then please contact me either in person or via e-mail. ([annlucas375@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annlucas375@yahoo.co.uk))

# Lent at St Andrew's

Lent starts on Wednesday 18th February with a service of Holy Communion at 10.30 am. This will be followed by a series of 5 Lent Meetings which will take place in St Andrew's Church at 3pm each Sunday afternoon starting at 3.00 pm. The first session will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. If you are unable to make Sunday the same course will be at All Saints on Saturdays at 10.30 am starting on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

## Service and Coffee Morning on Wednesday mornings

Just to remind you that the mid week service in St Andrew's Church is at 10.30 am every Wednesday and this will be followed by coffee morning from 11.20 am til 1.00 pm.

## Retirement of Bishop Malcolm Macnaughton

Bishop Malcolm's retirement has been announced on the Diocesan website. His final day in post will be Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and plans are under way for his farewell service, details of which will be announced in early 2026. Read the announcement in full at <https://derby.anglican.org/en/bishop-malcolm-announces-retirement.html>.

## Recycling opportunities – limited time left

There is a tin on the sound desk for used postage stamps. Keith Pickup has kindly offered to take them to Carmel who are collecting them to sell for charity.

Have you eaten all the chocolates out of the plastic tubs yet? We're all guilty of indulging in chocolate, sweets and crackers over the festive period, and in the UK we are buying tens of millions of these plastic tubs every year!

Make sure your tubs don't go to waste and bring your clean, empty plastic confectionery and cracker tubs to church by 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to be recycled. Ann Lucas will take them to Glossop Parish Church and they will ensure that they are delivered to the nearest collection point at Mottram Wood.

Alternatively if you are planning to visit Mottram Wood Pub /Restaurant at Hattersley roundabout, take them up yourself, but don't forget to register your car as you go in or else you'll get a parking ticket.

## St Andrew's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Will take place in church on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April after the 10.00 am Service at approximately 11.30 am.

We will need to elect people to the following posts at the meeting

Warden, Denery Synod representatives, PCC members, Electoral Roll Officer, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Parish Safeguarding Officer.

We would also like volunteers for sides people, refreshments after the service, prayer rota and reading.

Please prayerfully consider if you could fulfil any of these roles.

For further information please ask the Current Wardens or PCC members.

Nomination sheets will be available nearer the time.

Also a reminder that just before the APCM the electoral roll will close and only people on the roll can vote at the meeting. If you are not on the roll but would like to be then please ask Sue Barnes for an application form.

# 'Til the whole world knows

## Philippa Hanna tour



**Comes to St Andrew's Church**

**On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 @ 7.00 pm**

**See poster for more details**

**A limited number of tickets are available  
from Sue Leighton**

**More available on Eventbrite**

## Diary of Services in Church in February 2026

Please note funerals can be arranged at short notice

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<b>Sun 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Vince Ryder</b>
<b>Presentation of Christ</b>			
<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Sue Leighton</b>
	<b>11.20 am</b>	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Sat 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	<b>Vince Ryder</b>

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<b>Sun 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Rev David Ridley</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent</b>			
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Rev David Ridley</b>
	<b>11.20 am</b>	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	<b>Ann Lucas</b>

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<b>Sun 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>John Roberts</b>
<b>Sunday before Lent</b>			
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Rev David Ridley</b>
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>11.20 am</b>	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	<b>Ann Lucas</b>

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<b>Sat 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>Church Working Party</b>	<b>Ann Lucas</b>
<b>Sun 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Rev David Ridley</b>
<b>Lent 1</b>			
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Rev David Ridley</b>
<b>Ember Day</b>	<b>11.20 am</b>	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	<b>Ann Lucas</b>

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Follow St Andrew's Church on AChurchNearYou website where you can find all the latest information about services and events. Our entry is administered by Judith Shaw please contact her if you would like to advertise an event. If you have anything you would like to be included in the next Newsletter (subject to editorial review) then contact the Wardens - Ann and Sue. The wardens telephone if you need to contact us – 07598164646.