



Notices Sheet - 1st February 2026

Notices

This weekend's Bible readings: Hebrews 2:14-18 (p 1202) Luke 2:22-40 (p 1028)

Church family news: Jim's funeral will be on Tuesday 17th February at 12.00 midday in St Mary's. Julie's will be on Friday 20th February at 1.00 pm, also in St Mary's.

Soup and Snowdrops 21st February at Sacombe: You are warmly invited to Soup & Snowdrops at St Catherine's Church on Saturday 21st February between 12.00 and 2.00 pm. Come and enjoy some home-made soup, bread and cheese. Proceeds will be for the work of the church.

Help needed: In the last few weeks, we've been appealing for more help in our churches. The need is becoming even more acute as we go on in 2026; please consider what you might be able to offer to help with the running of our churches. All Saints is in need of volunteers to help with cleaning; the café really needs more volunteers; we would welcome more people willing to take part in our services and many of our teams are short on personnel. All Saints has no church warden. There is much to celebrate in our benefice, but much still to do. Please pray that God will show you where he is calling you to use your gifts and abilities, and then speak to a church warden, a PCC member or to Caroline.

Support for the Food Bank: Our commitment to supporting our local foodbank continues, and another Sainsbury's delivery of £1,485 worth of groceries was sent this week. However, the way it operates has changed slightly since they moved to a new base in Seth Ward Community Centre, and it has become more difficult to drop items off to them. We have decided, therefore, to remove the collection boxes from our churches, and ask that you either donate money through the Standon bank account towards our deliveries (please mark any donations with 'Foodbank') or drop off goods at Co-op Buntingford, where there is a collection bin for Gemma's team. Thank you for your continuing support for this important work.

Services for the next few weeks:

Midweek services each week:

Tuesdays, 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) & Bible study	St Catherine's
Wednesdays, 9.30 am	Morning worship & Bible study	St Mary's

Sunday services:

1 st February	8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Morning worship	All Saints
8 th February	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
15 th February	8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	All Saints
22 nd February	10.30 am	All age worship	St Mary's
	6.00 pm	Choral evensong	St Mary's
1 st March	8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Morning worship	All Saints

Dates & meetings coming up:

3 rd February, 2.00 pm	Funeral of Leslie Gentry	All Saints
4 th February, 2.15 pm	Libury Hall service	Libury Hall
11 th February, 5.00 pm	Benefice finance committee meeting	The Old Top Shop
17 th February, 12.00	Funeral of Jim King	St Mary's
18 th February, 7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday service	St Catherine's
20 th February, 1.00 pm	Funeral of Julie Williams	St Mary's
21 st February, 12.00 noon	Soup and Snowdrops	St Catherine's
25 th February, 12.30 pm	Midweek Music	St Mary's

Prayers:

On this sheet, we suggest focus areas for prayer, but please continue to pray for the work of our churches and missionary partners around the world (details on our website).

Church family news:

- Please pray for all who are in pain, unwell or just a bit under the weather.
- Pray for all who grieve, especially the family and friends of Julie Williams and Jim King.

Pray for our community

In our cycle of prayers, this weekend we ask you to include in your prayers:

- our local walking groups, exercise classes and other fitness based activities available in our villages
- our village coffee mornings, lunches and other activities where people can meet together
- local community choirs, where people can experience the health and wellbeing benefits of singing
- for all who are feeling the effects of age or illness, and worry about managing into the future

Pray for our outreach, our service and our churches

This week we ask you to include in your prayers:

- our Lay Chairs, electoral roll officers and PCC secretaries as they start on the preparations and pre-work for our annual meetings in April
- all who are giving more time and energy as we continue our mission and ministry while we have no Rector
- that more will step forward to help with God's work in this neighbourhood
- the person God is calling to come and serve him in this benefice and community

Pray for our mission partners

In our cycle of prayers for our mission partners, this week we ask you to pray for the work of Stephen and Catherine McGoldrick. *Catherine and Stephen are working for church growth in Burundi and Central Africa.* More information about our partners can be found on our website.

Having put the contents of their house in storage, the McGoldrick family were due to fly to Burundi on 21st January and prepare to move to Tanzania. However, they have postponed travel because Catherine is suffering from painful shingles on her face and Stephen has been having a bad time with polymyalgia.

- please pray for healing and rest for them both, to enable them to travel soon
- give thanks for the kind hospitality given to them by local family
- pray for the work they are about to take up in Tanzania

If you are aware of anyone who would like our prayers, or who would like the church family to share in some news, good or bad, please let Caroline know (caroline@ubsms.org.uk).

Regular notices

Groups in the Benefice

Mondays (2nd & 4th of month), 2.30pm: Reflections Bible study group at All Saints: contact Jane

Tuesdays, 2:00pm (ad hoc): Benefice Group for World Mission prayer: contact Peter A.

Wednesdays, 2.30pm (2nd Wednesday of the month)

7.00pm (4th Wednesdays): Small Group Marthas & Marys: contact Marion

Wednesdays (term time only): Children's and Young people's Bible clubs at All Saints: contact Lizzie B.

3.15 pm Primary aged children

Thursday (2nd of each month), 1.00 – 3.30 pm: Knit & Natter: contact Diane M

Thursday (3rd of each month), 2.00 – 4.00 pm: New Seasons support group: contact Heather

Thursdays, 7.00pm (term time only): Benefice choir practice: contact Michael (music@ubsms.org.uk)

Fridays 9.30 am (term time only): Little Angels for toddlers and their carers at St Mary's:

contact Cate (littleangels@ubsms.org.uk)

Please Continue to Support our Churches

You can make a donation directly to any of our churches, or you can send donations to any of our treasurers. Bank details are displayed in our churches and on the website. Gift aid forms are available from any of our treasurers.

Contacts:

Contacts during the vacancy: While we have no Rector, if you have any queries or concerns, please speak to any of our church wardens (it doesn't matter of which church). If you know of someone who needs a visit, please liaise with Jacqui. We do have access to clergy who will help if needed, so please don't be put off raising a concern. Please note that Rebecca, our administrator, works flexible hours, but she will respond to emails as soon as she can.

Rector: Until a new Rector is appointed, please direct any enquiries to our benefice administrator.

Administrator: Rebecca Legg benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk 07976 700902

Safeguarding: Lizzy Franks safeguarding@ubsms.org.uk 01920 822723

Our website: <https://ubsms.org.uk/>

Notices: Caroline Franks caroline@ubsms.org.uk