

NOTICE SHEET for SUNDAYS 1st and 8th FEBRUARY 2026

If you would like to see the latest newsletter at any time, it can be downloaded from:

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'God's love at the heart of all our activities and communities'

CHRIST CHURCH & ST MARK'S, WATFORD

Priest-in-Charge, the Revd Vicki Davies.

Candlemas

READINGS

Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40

SERVICES

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mark's.

11.00am All Age Service of the Word at Christ Church,
followed by our monthly Bring & Share lunch.

We look forward to seeing you all for some lovely lunch and a catchup.

For your monetary offerings, there is a plate and a card reader at the back: for help please ask.

Alternatively, set up a standing order: please ask for details.

Christ Church Car Park Management System: Register Your Car.

Please remember to enter your car registration number into the tablet located either in the church or in the hall. Please note that if this is not done you will be fined by the parking company.

Some of you may have noticed that the kiosks (for the carpark) don't always appear to be working which has been very frustrating. The manager of EPS did say that they were having some trouble with all their kiosks. For the moment we continue to monitor and work with EPS to secure the parking area.

FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE

1st February Collect: Candlemas

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

- **Those who are unwell or who need prayer:** Kay; Jessica's grandad, John Woods; Heidi; Julian, Caroline's brother; Ian, Paul's brother; Deloris; Stephen; Ruth and Mary; Jim G; Angela; Emma; Mandy; Laura Chappell; Caroline H.
- **People of the Parish:** those living in Halsey Place; Ridge Street; St George's Road.
- **Businesses operating in:** Brixton Road; The Harebreaks; Maytree Crescent.
- **Local organisations:** South Herts Credit Union; Citizens Advice Watford; Alternatives.
- **Local churches and congregations:** St Michael and All Angels; St Matthew's Oxhey.
- **Our Link Churches abroad:** Bishop Wilson Kamani and the Diocese of Ibba, South Sudan; and The Christian community at Kwa Mkono, Tanzania.

THIS WEEK

Morning Prayer Readings		
Mon 02 February Matthew 27.11-26		
Tue 03 February Matthew 27.27-44	9.30-11am 10-11.30am 1.15-2.45pm	Messy Tots (1) at St Mark's. The Joy Toddler & Parent Hub at Christ Church. Messy Tots (2) at St Mark's.
Wed 04 February Matthew 27.45-56	10-11am 5-6.30pm	Morning Prayer at Christ Church, then coffee. Homework Club (all ages) in Christ Church.
Thu 05 February Matthew 27.57-end	10am-1pm 8pm	Foodbank at Christ Church. Compline online.
Fri 06 February Matthew 28.1-15	2-3pm 4.30-5.45pm 6.30pm	World Day of Prayer Bible Study at St Mary's Church. Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's. Youth Club at Christ Church.
Sat 07 February Matthew 28.16-end	10am-12noon	Coffee and Chat in Christ Church with Book Swap and Fairtrade stall.

SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2nd Sunday before Lent

READINGS	Romans 8.18-25; Matthew 6.25-34
SERVICES	9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mark's.
	(10.15am Choir Practice at Christ Church.)
	11.00am Holy Communion at Christ Church.

8th February Collect: 2nd Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

NEXT WEEK

Morning Prayer Readings		
Mon 09 February 2 Timothy 4.1-8		
Tue 10 February 2 Timothy 4.9-end	9.30-11am 10-11.30am 1.15-2.45pm	Messy Tots (1) at St Mark's. The Joy Toddler & Parent Hub at Christ Church. Messy Tots (2) at St Mark's.
Wed 11 February Titus 1	10-11am 5-6.30pm	Morning Prayer at Christ Church, then coffee. Homework Club (all ages) in Christ Church.
Thu 12 February Titus 2	10am-1pm 8pm	Foodbank at Christ Church. Compline online.
Fri 13 February Titus 3	4.30-5.45pm 6.30pm	Lift Off! Ignite at St Mark's. Youth Club at Christ Church.
Sat 14 February Philemon	9.30-11am 10.30am-12.30pm	Lift Off! Messy Breakfast for 0-5s at St Mark's. Open Church at Christ Church. A cuppa, chat and a quiet time.

SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY Sunday before Lent

READINGS	2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9
SERVICES	9.30am Holy Communion at St Mark's. 11.00am Morning Prayer at Christ Church.

News

From now on, Rev. Vicki's hours will be strictly three days a week plus Sundays: normally Thursday to Sunday, Thursday being an admin only day.

Joy Club Parent & Toddler Hub meet every Tuesday morning for social activities.
Please do invite any parents that you know with toddlers to join in this fun activity.

World Day of Prayer Bible Study and Service

The World Day of Prayer Service will be held on Friday 6th March in St Mary's Church, Watford, at 2pm, followed by refreshments. The service has been written by the women of Nigeria and is based on a text from Matthew 11.28-30: "I will give you rest: Come." When we totally trust and have faith in God, our burdens become light and we find rest.

There will also be a **Bible Study** on this theme on Friday 6th February 2026, also at St Mary's Church at 2pm. All warmly welcome to both events. Further details from Val Bryce.

Children & Families team **Pancake Party** is on Shrove Tuesday: 17th February from 2-3.30pm at Christ Church- don't miss it!! Please see Anna Adamovic for details.

Confirmation group

Our confirmation sessions will last for one hour after church at Christ Church on Sundays from 12.30-1.30pm

These will start on Sunday 22nd February, then 1st, 8th & 15th March.

The Confirmation service will be led by Bishop Jane at St Luke's Church on Sunday 22nd March at 5.30pm.

Lent

Wednesday February 18th **Ash Wednesday**. There will only be one Ash Wednesday service this year as the evening service last year was not well-attended,
The service will be at Christ Church this year at **2.30pm** - all very welcome.

Wednesday February 25th Lent Study and Lunch 12.00 every Wednesday for 5 weeks at St Mark's church

Thursday February 26th Lent Study online for 5 weeks followed by Compline (no need to stay for that if you don't want to).

Watford Foodbank

Thank you for all your donations of both food and money;
without these we could not help others.

Some suggestions for donations are:



Tins of -
Soup
Meat
Fish
Vegetables
Tuna
Fruit
Tomatoes
Beans & Pulses
Sauce mixes – chilli, cheese, pasta bake
Microwavable rice
Noodles
Pasta
Instant mash potato

Jelly or sponge puddings
Custard
Rice pudding
Cereals
Chocolates
Milk (UHT or powdered)
Long life fruit juice
Sugar (500g)
Pasta sauces
Biscuits/Snack Bars
Jam
Jars of coffee
Tea bags

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Churches Together in Watford

North Watford Cemetery

Chapel Cleaning in Lent

Volunteers are needed to help please!

Good Friday 3rd April, 2026

Churches Together in Watford's Walk of Witness.

10am at Christ Church, & walk to the Scroll Church for 11am service with Dr Jean Stephenson

Lent Course with Scroll Church on zoom. Study of Stephen Cottrell's book: *Godforsaken (The Cross — the Greatest Hope of All)*
Four Tuesdays at 7pm
17 Feb Intro & chapter one
3 March chapters 2 & 3
10 March chapters 4 & 5
17 March chapters 6 & 7
Get the zoom link from Iren: iren.jasko@moose.co.uk



FAIRTRADE



A reminder that our Zaytoun organic Fairtrade extra virgin olive oil is temporarily only available in bottles without certification marks. The previous certifier had to stop operating due to security issues, and the new certifier is taking a little while to come on line.

In the meantime, please do keep choosing this wonderful olive oil - and support the same producers, growing their olives to the same standards, while facing enormous challenges.

The Charity Traidcraft Exchange then Transform Trade - 40 years of fair trade

Dear friends, Having lived in Kenya all my life, I'm not familiar with the taste of Campaign Coffee – the fair trade instant variety sold by Traidcraft in the early 80s. From what I hear, it wasn't the best. But what I am familiar with, is that desire for justice – the need to be part of something that, in the most innovative way, treats people well. The taste wasn't the important thing, was it? Now more than 4 decades on, I want to invite you, once again, to be part of a force for justice in trade. To play an important role in making the world fairer – in 2026 - for the producers of our food and clothing. This year we celebrate 40 years since the beginning of this charity – but perhaps celebration is not quite the right word. Instead, we want to use the attention of our big birthday year to advance with greater speed towards a truly fair trading system. This year – because it's a big year – we want to do more than ever to support producers and work with them to bring about big changes to the way trade works. So this is my one request to leave you with: look out for big things from us this year and get ready to celebrate with us in the best way possible – by changing the world for the better. Thank you for everything you do and everything you have done for 40 years now – it's truly an honour to lead an organisation powered by such brilliant people.

Best wishes, Alice Oyaro CEO, Transform Trade

P.S. One of the things we'll have to celebrate this year is that the Fairtrade coffee tastes great now – the small wins still matter!

Contact us: email ccandstmwatford@gmail.com

Lift Off! Children and Families Outreach: admin@liftoff.org.uk

We're also to be found on <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchStMarks>