

**Blackwater Benefice  
The Waterside Parishes  
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**Layer de la Haye, Tollesbury, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Tolleshunt Major, Salcott-Cum-Virley**

**SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2026**

Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Candlemass.

|         |  |   |
|---------|--|---|
| 9.30am  | Holy Communion<br>With Rev Andrew Vince                              | St Mary The Virgin, Tollesbury            |
| 10.00am | Cafe Church with Holy<br>Communion<br>Rev Sally Morris & Penny Adams | Church Hall,<br>Tolleshunt Major          |
| 10.30am | All Age Service celebrating<br>Candlemass<br>with Rev Jo Wood        | St John The Baptist, Layer de<br>la Haye  |
| 11.30am | Holy Communion<br>With Rev Andrew Vince                              | St Mary The Virgin, Salcott<br>Cum Virley |

For more information relating to our churches, please look at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

**CONTACTS:**

Team Vicar: Rev Jo Wood [josephine.h.wood@btinternet.com](mailto:josephine.h.wood@btinternet.com) 01621 503802

Lead Associate Minister: Rev Andrew Vince

Benefice Administrator; Rosie Pollock: [office.blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:office.blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com)

*Please email Rosie: [office.blackwater@gmail.com](mailto:office.blackwater@gmail.com) with any items for this newsletter by Tuesday p.m. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please let Rosie know.*

**SAFEGUARDING**

We are committed to Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Benefice.

The PCC's have adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice of safeguarding which can be found via [www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding) or [www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding)

**Revd. Sarah Clare**

Having served faithfully in our communities for several years, Revd. Sarah will be stepping back and taking a break from active ministry for an extended period of time from the end of January.

We are hugely grateful to Revd. Sarah and want to express our heartfelt thanks for all the time, energy, care and compassion she has devoted to ministry in our parishes.

Please keep Revd. Sarah in your prayers as she takes time out to rest and discern where God is leading her in the future.

**Confirmation Classes**

Many people are baptised (christened) as babies, so the Church of England provides confirmation for teenagers and adults who wish to affirm the promises made on their behalf as babies and make their personal commitment to following Christ. If you are interested in this please speak to anyone on the Ministry team. This will involve a short course of preparation explaining what is involved in being a disciple of Christ and a service later in the year at one of the churches in the area (not Tiptree this year).

**PLANNING AHEAD - SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY:**

9.30am Holy Communion with Rev Jo Wood and Penny Adams at St Mary The Virgin, Tollesbury

10.30am Holy Communion with Rev Andrew Vince at St John The Baptist, Layer de la Haye

11.00am Holy Communion with Rev Jo Wood and Penny Adams at Tolleshunt D'Arcy

**Week of  
Sunday 1st February  
& Future Events - Save The Date!**

| WHEN?                            | WHAT?  | WHERE?  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Monday 2nd February: 9am         | Morning Prayer   | Tolleshunt D'Arcy                                 |
| Monday 2nd February: 10-11am     | Edward Bear  | St Mary The Virgin, Tollesbury                    |
| Tuesday 3rd February: 9.15-10am  | Morning Prayer   | St Mary The Virgin, Tollesbury                    |
| Wednesday 4th February: 10am     | BCP Holy Communion   | St Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy                    |
| Wednesday 4th February: 8-9.30pm | Village Voices<br>Details from Debbie: dwalsham63@gmail.com                                  | The Queen Elizabeth Hall, Layer de la Haye        |
| Thursday 5th February: 9.15am    | Morning Prayer   | St John The Baptist, Layer de la Haye             |
| Thursday 5th February: 1.45-3pm  | JB Tots (Baby & Toddler group)   | The Queen Elizabeth Hall Annexe, Layer de la Haye |
| Friday 6th February              | Quiz Night from 6.30pm<br><a href="#">Layer Marney Tower Barn - Buy tickets – Quiz Night</a> | Layer Marney Tower                                |

**Save The Date....**

Mother's Union, Tollesbury - Monday 16th February at 1pm. The Lighthouse, East Street, Tollesbury CM9 8QE.

Email Pam for details: [pamgrant371@gmail.com](mailto:pamgrant371@gmail.com)

**Lent 2026**

**Ash Wednesday:** We mark the beginning of the season of Lent on 18<sup>th</sup> February with an Ash Wednesday service of Holy Communion, 10am at St. Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy. Ash Wednesday services elsewhere include 7.30 pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at Layer Breton and 10am at Great Totham.

**Lent Courses**, open to all, are being held as follows:

**Waterside Parishes:** Resurrection Journeys - Mondays 1pm-3pm at The Lighthouse Café in Tollesbury CM9 8QE beginning Mon 16<sup>th</sup> February

**Heathland Parishes:** Christ and the Chocolaterie – Tuesday evenings at St. Luke's Tiptree or Thursday lunchtimes in Birch beginning Tues 24<sup>th</sup> / Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Feb

See posters for further details.

**100 Days of Prayer**

Bishop Guli is inviting people from across the Diocese of Chelmsford to join 100 days of prayer starting on Ash Wednesday ahead of a conversation about how we sustain Ministry in the Diocese of Chelmsford, that will begin in autumn 2026. Further information here:

<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/about-us/travelling-well-together/travelling-well-together-sustaining-ministry/>