

Pews News for February

From the Vicar....



No sooner have we celebrated Candlemas - (the presentation of the infant Christ at the temple as required by the law where there is a beautiful encounter with Simeon and Anna) and put the Christmas decorations back into their boxes, than we find ourselves entering the season of Lent and driven out into the wilderness with Jesus.

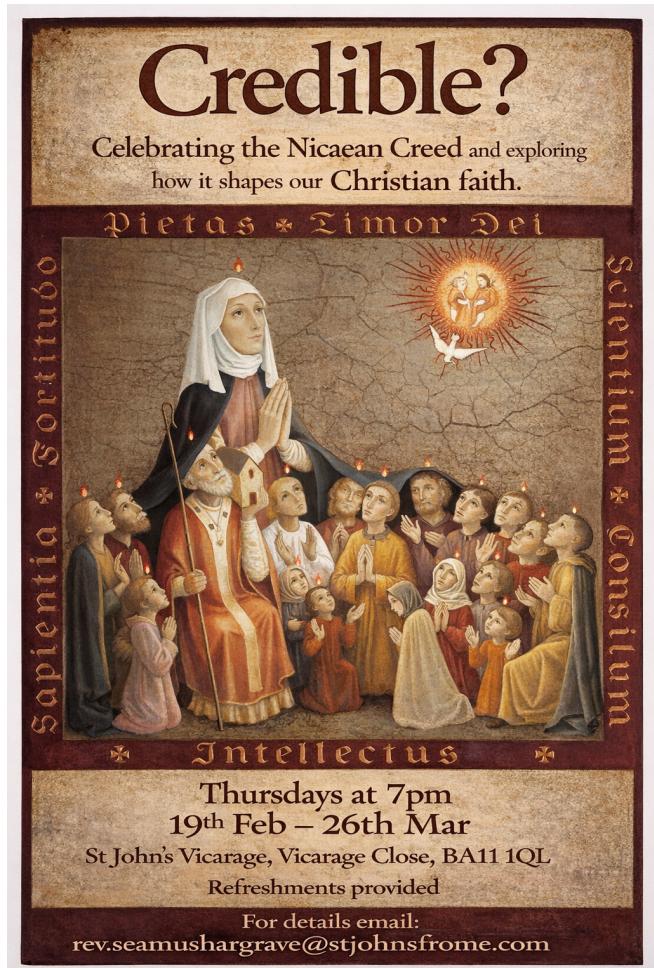
Lent is the season of preparation leading to Easter. For the early Church, Easter was the principle occasion for baptism and the restoring of those who had been excluded for wrongdoing. This explains the Lenten focus of self-examination, penitence, self-denial and study. Each year the existing Christian community was invited to journey alongside those undergoing preparation, and the season lasting for 40 days reminds us of Jesus' time of preparation and temptation.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday when during our services people can receive an ash cross on their foreheads. The ashes are made from the previous years' palm crosses, and they remind us not only of our own mortality but also of the ashes that people wore as they lamented the sins and woes of the world.

If you don't usually come to church on Ash Wednesday, why not give it a try this year?

You might also set aside a time each day for reading and reflection. There will be some Lenten books available to borrow at the back of church before Lent begins.

Revd Seamus at St. John's is leading a series of sessions on the Nicene Creed and we are invited to join them

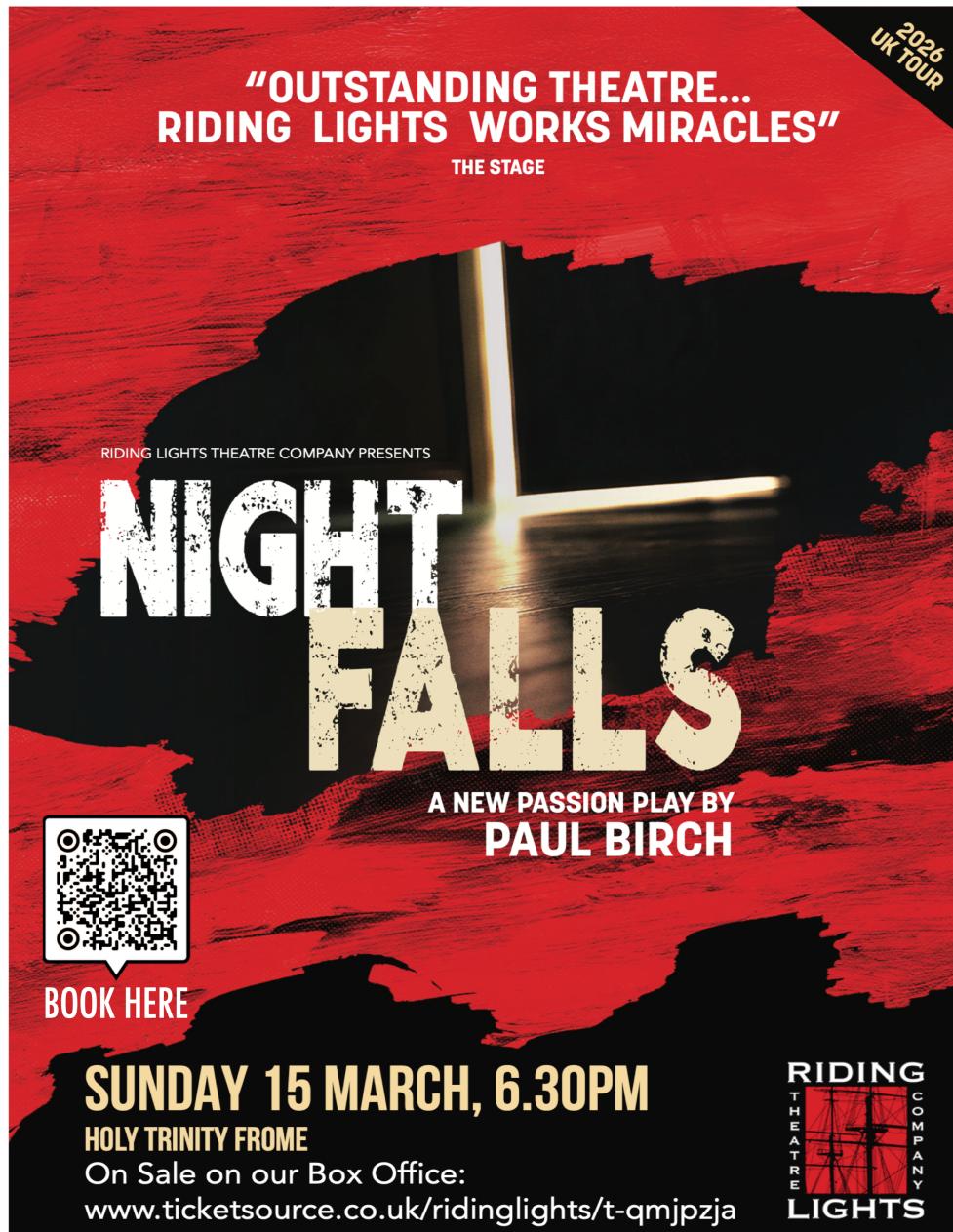


Save the Date..

Four final days before an execution that will change everything.
Three enemies that want to put an end to the so-called Messiah.
Two strangers torn between faith and doubt, hope and grief, trying to prevent Jesus of Nazareth from getting himself arrested.
One safe house in Bethany.

The hours are running out, but even as night falls, a strange hope is wrapped in a secret that both strangers share. For this is the house

of Lazarus, and under his roof, the impossible has already occurred...



Brought to you by Riding Lights Theatre Company, Night Falls is a fresh, vivid and dynamic retelling of the Easter story - a powerful new drama, featuring an original score from Nikki Crowley.

Holy Trinity have kindly agreed to host this evening on behalf of Frome Deanery andewaster surrounding churches. Do come and bring your friends.



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Hope House

Last year we welcomed speakers from the Green Pastures Team to speak about the vision for helping people out of homelessness. Green Pastures is a national charity <https://www.greencities.org.uk> that invites people to invest with them so that they can buy properties to house vulnerable adults.

The big difference is that each house is supported by volunteers who befriend and assist the residents. The intention is to help them find a place in their community thus breaking the cycle that keeps so many people in poverty and isolation.

Frome Churches have signed up to this vision and the initial required investment of £150K has almost been reached. Each project has to have a local name, and the one in Frome is now known as Hope House.

Last year Christ Church PCC decided to use some of the legacy (£25K) that Eileen Knight had left to invest in this project. You might want to invest as an individual or be willing to volunteer as a befriendee.. please keep this vision and the people who it will help, in your prayers in the coming months, and speak to Revd Liz for more information



Christ Church PCC News



Christ Church are seeking a new churchwarden following the resignation of Peter John just before Christmas. Peter has been a great asset to the church and really good at getting things done. He has a real gift for attending to detail and we will greatly miss his dedication and skills greatly. If you are interested, please speak to either Revd Liz or Alan Burgess before the APCM in March.

Rob Lee has agreed to be the acting treasurer until the APCM. If you are interested and have some experience in financial things please speak to Revd Liz about joining the finance team.

Marys House Community Gratitude

How living intentionally with gratitude could be our first step away from ecocide

Led by Jonathan Herbert from Hilfield Friary
10am-4pm in St. Mary's hall.

The day will comprise presentations, a contemplative practice and some practical outdoor work (weather permitting).

A simple soup lunch will be provided

Marys House Community is a community for the spiritually curious - a gathering of seekers exploring together what Christian wisdom can teach us about how to live more fully in an uncertain world. All are welcome.

Coffee Morning

St. Mary's

Saturday Feb 21st

10 -12.30

All welcome

Raising funds to restore the car park



From the Registers

Funerals

Jan 16th Sheila Hobbs at Haycombe Crematorium

Jan 22nd Julie Daniel at St. Mary's

Memory Lane

A service especially for all living with memory loss
at St. Mary's on Friday Feb 27 at midday.

There is a short service followed by lunch in the
hall for those who want to stay.

The theme of the service is forgiveness.
All are welcome



Morning Praise at St. Mary's



On the fourth Sunday of the each month at 9am there will be a Morning Praise Service rather than a Eucharist. The service will have music and readings and prayers but will be a little shorter maybe lasting 45 minutes. Come and see ..

Annual Meeting

The last year has been an exciting and challenging one of the two Parochial Church Councils as we face the reality of being church in this present age. Both churches are having to consider the impact of changing expectations in the light of changing resources. Although there is so much to celebrate, as we look to the year ahead and the further future, it is clear that there is a need to think radical thoughts and to work together as a benefice as we all seek to share God's love in a world that is looking increasingly perilous.

This year there will be a joint APCM on Saturday March 21st. It will be held in St. Mary's hall and begin at midday.

The first part meeting is where we elect churchwardens for each church for the coming year. We will then share a simple lunch before moving on to the second part of the meeting. Here we elect members of the Parochial Church Council for a three year term. There is also the opportunity to ask questions about matters of interest in church life as well as about any of the report circulated in the annual report. It is also an important chance to shape and share the vision for our churches. The meeting will be arranged to ensure the legalities are maintained and there will be one annual report. Please make this a priority and come along to find out just how much God is doing in and through our churches, and where you can join in.



Contemplating Wilderness

Continue the journey of Lent
on Wednesday 25th February at 7pm
in Christ Church Lady Chapel.

Using words, music and silence we gather to share the journey into the wilderness of Lent

A Church Near You

From now, all church news can be found on the A Church Near You website rather than the church one. At some point in the very near future the website will cease to be.

General Synod

Please pray for the meeting of General Synod which starts on Feb 9 and lasts the week. This Synod will continue to debate safeguarding in the Church, Living in Love and Faith, the effects of Poverty and Mental Health challenges and lots of other exciting and significant things. Please pray for Revd Liz and all those attending and speaking and voting, and for Archbishop Sarah as she leads us.



Hall Bookings

If you are interested in booking either of the halls. Please visit hallbookingonline.com/frome where you will be able to check availability, make a provisional booking and access all the booking information and forms that you need.

Marys House

On Jan 10 Mary's House community held the first of its retreat days. 18 people turned up to consider how we think and understand each other and how dialogue can help. With a mixture of listening and participating as well

as a delicious lunch, it was a really nourishing and inspiring day. The programme continues on Saturday Feb 7 as Jonathan Herbert from Hilfield Friary helps us consider how "living with intentionally gratitude might be a first step away from ecocide".

Retreat days are stand alone events so come to what interests you.



On alternate Tuesday Evenings Mary House Community continues to meet for contemplative prayer. Each evening is led with a focus.. music, art.. scripture.. poetry and this is followed by a time of silence lasting 20 mins. The evening ends with conversation/sharing/dialogue.

Starting on Feb 3, we are now meeting at 6.30pm to share a simple meal first. If you would like to know more, ask Revd Liz.

Mary's House Community is also holding the space formerly known as the Giant's garden. Although the year is still young, we are working hard to get in there before the nettles take over. On Sunday Feb 15, there is a gardening party staring at 12 midday when anyone can come and help clear the area and begin to share the vision for the future of this very special space. Again, there will be a simple soup lunch available. All are welcome and we have tools!

Epiphany Lunch

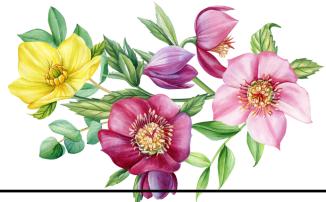
We celebrated Epiphany with a delicious lunch after the morning service at St. Mary's

Many thanks to the catering team who managed to create a fantastic spread as well as take part in the service.

Who knew custard was so popular?
Join us for next time.. date tbc



Sunday Services in February



	Christ Church	St. Marys
Sunday 1st Candlemas	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 6pm Choral Evensong	10.30am Christingle Eucharist
Sunday 8th	10. 30am Sung Eucharist	9am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 15th	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	10.30am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 22nd	10.30am Sung Eucharist	9am Morning Worship
Sunday 1st March	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 6pm Choral Evensong	10.30am Christingle Eucharist

Each Wednesday 10.00am Eucharist at St. Mary's (said)

Critchill Court Holy Communion Tuesday 3rd February at 2pm

Belmont Villa Holy Communion Thursday 5th January at 2.00pm

Greenhill Grange Holy Communion Wednesday 25th February 2.30pm

Frome Hospital Service Friday 27th February at 2pm



Contact Details

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Hall Bookings <https://hallbookingonline.com/frome>

