



1<sup>st</sup> February 2026



**For meditation:** *Tree of Calvary, send your roots into our hearts.  
Tree of Mercy, enfold us in your branches.  
Tree of Life, overshadow us with your presence.*

*A prayer from India*

## NEWS AND VIEW

Tomorrow is Candlemas – originally a pagan festival marking the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. It came to be a Christian festival of light celebrating the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Forty days after a Jewish boy was born, it was the custom for his parents to take him to the temple in Jerusalem (if they possibly could) to show him to God in thanksgiving for his safe birth. There was also a service of purification or blessing of the mother. In churches around the world candles are lit as a reminder that Christ is the guiding light in the darkness of the world. It used to be the custom for all candles that were to be used in the church during the coming year to be blessed – hence it came to be called Candlemas.

## FOR PRAYER

God of all creation, on the first day of February, we give thanks for snow drops and newborn lambs, signs of your eternal hope for our universe. The darkness of the winter nights do not hold the victory; the starkness of the trees are merely transient signs of death. Your gift of spring cannot be held back, for in the winter wilderness, flowers will bloom, and out of cold sadness, buds of possibility will break forth.

*We remember the congregation at Peasedown St John in our prayers this week.*

## LECTIONARY READINGS – 8 February

Isaiah 58: 1- 9a  
Psalm 112: 1 - 9  
1 Corinthians 2: 1 -12  
Matthew 5: 13 - 20

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no-one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1: 27 – 31

## DIARY

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Café + Soup 9.30 – 1.30pm  
The meal will be served around 12 noon  
All welcome.

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Morning worship 11.00am  
including Holy Communion led by Rev Ian Souter

## Psalm 15 – Paraphrased by Leslie Brandt

Who is the one, O Lord, that remains  
a part of Your Kingdom?  
What are the prerequisites  
for membership of Your family?

It is that one who walks circumspectly –  
and in obedience to your precepts and  
principles.

He must be open and honest before God and  
man.

He must speak and act in love towards his  
neighbour.

He cannot condone that which is evil  
and must not participate  
in that which promotes injustice.

He must listen to his brother's griefs  
and complaints;  
he must seek to lighten his burden  
and to share in his sorrow and pain.

He must reach out to heal rather than to hurt,  
to be kind and gentle to all who cross his  
path.

Those who lovingly relate to God and  
fellowman  
will never be separated from the family of  
God.

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright  
Winter will take another flight.  
If Candlemas Day be cloud and rain  
Winter is gone and will not come again.*