



15th February 2026.
We extend a warm welcome to
Brenda Saunders and to all our
members, friends and visitors,



For meditation: *Each day and each night, may the wisdom of the Wonderful Counsellor guide us,
The strength of the Mighty God defend us, the love of the Everlasting Father enfold us
And the blessing of the Prince of Peace rest upon us.*
Based on Isaiah of Jerusalem (eighth century BC)

NEWS AND VIEW

This week we move into the season of Lent.

Shrove Tuesday is celebrated in different ways in many parts of the Christian world. For some it is a time of Carnival – the word derived from the Italian word made up of *carne* meaning ‘meat’ and *vale* meaning ‘farewell’. In French speaking countries the day is called *Mardi Gras* – literally ‘Fat Tuesday’ and in Germany it is *Fastnacht* – ‘fasting night’. Here *Shrove* comes from the medieval verb ‘to shrive’ i.e ‘to hear confession and to forgive sins’. The custom dating back to around the year 1000AD. Nowadays it’s Pancake Day – traditionally using up, before the start of Lent, any animal fat, eggs and milk by making pancakes. Enjoy!

On **Ash Wednesday** there is a Communion service at Keynsham Queens Road church at 7.30pm, a service in the Wesley Room at Southdown at 7pm and closer to home there will be a Communion service at St Christopher’s at 10.30am.

FOR PRAYER

Merciful God, you are so far above us that we cannot fully understand you, yet so deep within us that you know our closest secrets. We come to seek your forgiveness, for those occasions when love has not been the guiding principle of our lives, when we have been impatient, unkind or envious, when we have been rude or selfish, quick to take offence. God our Father, forgive us, and may we know the peace of your forgiving love, Amen

We remember the staff and students at Kingswood school and the Chaplain Rev Katy Thomas in our prayers this week.

LECTIONARY READINGS – 22 February

Genesis 2: 15 -17

Psalm 32

Romans 5: 12 -19

Matthew 4: 1 - 11

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1: 19 - 21

DIARY

Tuesday 17th February

Compass Point 11.00am

Led by Rev Simon- All welcome

Thursday 19th February

Café + Soup 9.30 – 1.30pm

The meal will be served at 12 noon.

Sunday 22nd February

Morning worship 11.00am

The last of our Lay-led services.

Michael will reflect on the history of our church as we give thanks for all we have achieved since our first service on 27 September 2020

The Lord is my pace-maker
Deep within he sets the pattern,
The limits of the possible.
At his rate I unfold.
Through the demands of the world
And its people around me
He stimulates the lazy heart.
Through routine living,
Eating this day’s bread,
He soothes and stabilises it.

He is the maker, creator of order,
In the worlds of my body,
Of nature, of man.
He is the maker, brings poetry of vision
Outside our structured
Ways of knowing.
Both mysteries are his.

I cannot step outside his governance.
For if I try,
And seek my pace, not his,
He sets the price I shall pay,
And at his time I pay it.

In some measure of his pace
Must I abide,
There is no other.
But he gives me choice
How shall I know my life.
He has many paces
In his peace.

W.S Beattie

