



# St Mary's Church

Prestwich GROWING • GIVING • SERVING

Monthly News—February 2019

Free



## Welcome to our monthly newsletter

There was much sadness in the curate's house this past week as the last vestiges of Christmas were bade a fond farewell, and the remaining ornaments and decorations, among them the Christmas Crib, were carefully boxed up and put away for another year.

The Feast of the Presentation of Christ, commonly called *Candlemas*, was the occasion for this sorry goodbye. It marks the beginning of this February month, and the end of the Epiphany season, and is a tremendous celebration of the enduring activity of God in the world. If Christmas joyfully wel-

comes the God beyond time and eternity born in humble surroundings, witnessed by a privileged *few*, then *Candlemas* is the celebration of the proclamation of this truth to the world, as Simeon and Anna announce the Christ-child as the long-awaited Messiah at the Temple in Jerusalem, the centre of the religious world, to the astonishment of *many*. Historically, at this time the Church distributed blessed candles to the faithful as a sign of the presence of the light of Christ in the hearts and homes and lives of His children, and as a reminder to His followers to spread that light as far and as wide as possible.

Of course, the Presentation narrative is not all joy and delight. Simeon's ominous prophecy to the child's mother stand out: *'and a sword will pierce your own soul too'*. It is a poignant reminder that the path of Messiah is a difficult road, one which will bring temptation, ridicule, suffering, betrayal, and eventually, in a final, dramatic turn, painful and tragic death. It is perhaps apposite that Simeon's words should follow us as

we leave the Epiphany season behind - and begin to look ahead to Lent, that season of the Christian year with a quieter, more penitential, and more sombre character, when sword of grief shall indeed pierce a mother's heart, and perhaps also our own.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed February month.

The Rev. Dr. Owen D. Edwards,  
*Assistant Curate*

## *This month in... 1900*

[An excerpt from the Parish Magazine of St. Mary the Virgin, Prestwich, February 1900]

On New Year's Day the resignation of Canon Jones, as Rector of Prestwich, took effect. On all sides expressions of sympathy and regret are heard at the conclusion of a faithful pastorate.

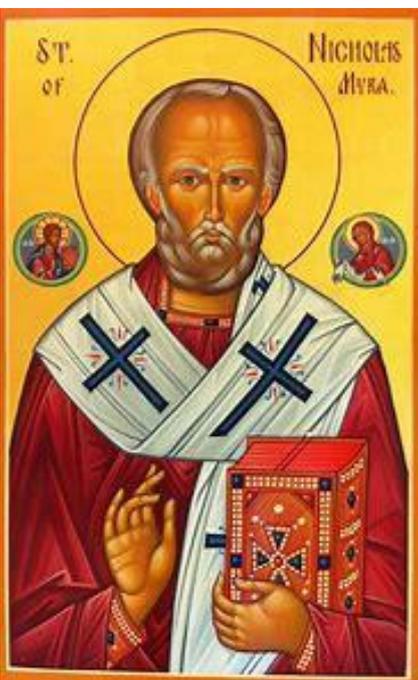
The history of the past fifteen years remains yet to be written - but it is the history of many changes, many social developments, and much progress. Throughout this period, parishioners have been accustomed to look to their spiritual head as a firm ruler, a calm advisor, a sincere friend, and as unflinch-

ingly just.

Prestwich is not ungrateful and will increasingly acknowledge with the passage of time how much it owes to the wisdom and influence of its late Rector. At this point it is for us to follow Canon Jones and his family to their new home with our sympathy and prayers.

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OUR NEW RECTOR. – Our readers will be pleased to hear that the Rev. F.W. Cooper has already come into residence, and that he will preach at the Parish Church at both Matins and Evensong on Sunday next, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

We take this opportunity, on behalf of the parish as a whole, of offering the heartiest of welcomes to Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Cooper, and beg to ensure them of the sympathy and loyal support of all in the difficult and important work which it falls to their lot to carry on.



## Celebrating St Valentine

The commemoration and celebration of Valentine has nothing to do with lovers, doves or Roman courting rituals. However, it has much to do with two separate people both called Valentine, two separate basilicas and a single road – the Flaminian Way.

Valentine of Terni was a bishop in the third century who was taken to Rome and martyred in 273. His remains were taken back to Terni for his burial. An eighth-century basilica named after him is found on the Flaminian Way, a road linking Rome with Terni.

Valentine of Rome was a priest who was also martyred in the middle of the third century but under the authority of Claudius II. His death occurred on the Flaminian Way. A basilica bearing his name is also found on this road. This basilica was completed by Pope Theodosius between 642 and 649.

The two stories have understandably become confused over time, and whereas some have even suggested that the two Valentines are in fact one person, one source suggests that even three individuals may have been conflated! There has been much speculation and misunderstanding surrounding these martyrs. The Valentine commemorated today, who died circa 269, is most probably Valentine of Terni. The two events have become in effect

one commemoration amidst confusion caused by the paucity of historical information.

Although few facts can be gleaned for either Valentine, it can be said that the truth exists in both stories. Both Valentines serve as a reminder of the difficulty of living as a Christian in an era of persecution.

The present-day custom of sending cards and flowers declaring love only clouds the commemoration and may owe its existence to John Donne. Donne wrote a marriage song for Princess Elizabeth, the daughter of James I who married Frederick V, Elector Palatine on St. Valentine's Day in 1632. His marriage song merged the religious commemoration of Valentine with fertility symbolism. The spring mating rituals of birds and possibly the pagan Lupercalia festival also add flavour to the reasons to the celebration of the day.

[*Extract from Saints on Earth: A biographical companion to Common Worship by John H. Darch and Stuart K. Burns*]

## From the Curate's Kitchen

A new recipe column from the curate's wife.

With veganism on the rise, the need to have vegan recipes on hand is a necessity in the kitchen. We recently welcomed to the curate's house some vegan friends and this is the dish I decided to make. Let me know if



- 1 can black beans, drained
- 1 can kidney beans, drained
- 2 cans tomato paste
- 1 can tomato sauce
- 1 cup vegetable broth

**Procedure**

Put all ingredients in the slow cooker on low for about 5 ½ hours.

Serve with rice, or on its own. Makes 10-15 servings.

It is hoped that this column will become a regular feature in future editions of the monthly newsletter. If you should like to contribute a favourite recipe of your own to share with fellow readers, please contact Anna Edwards, at [marianna-bond@nlesd.ca](mailto:marianna-bond@nlesd.ca).

Thank you! Anna

you try the recipe!

*Vegan Chilli*

**Ingredients**

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 yellow bell pepper, chopped
- 2 onions, chopped
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 package of spinach, chopped
- 8oz frozen corn kernels
- 1 courgette
- ½ butternut squash, peeled and chopped
- 6 tbsp chilli powder
- 1 tbsp ground cumin
- 1 tbsp dried oregano
- 1 tbsp dried parsley
- ½ tsp of salt
- ½ tsp of black pepper
- 2 cans diced tomatoes with juice

# Breathing Space

“A time for you with God”

Starting 2nd Wednesday of each month

13 February, 13 March, 10 April

8-00pm to 8-45pm in church

Come and spend 45 minutes of quiet time with God through music, prayer and private reflection. Any questions?

Please talk with Rev. Carole.

**All are Welcome**

## Regular worship at St Mary's



### Sunday

8.00am Eucharist  
10.30am Sung Eucharist

### Tuesday

7.30am Morning Prayer\*  
8.00am Eucharist\*

### Wednesday

7.30am Morning Prayer\*  
8.00am Eucharist\*  
10.00am Eucharist

### Thursday

7.30am Morning Prayer\*  
8.00am Eucharist\*  
10.00am Pre-School Praise

### Friday

7.30am Morning Prayer\*  
8.00am Eucharist\*  
9.15am Eucharist in St Mary's School

Services marked \* take place in St. Mary's Church, Church Lane. Pre-School Praise and the Friday morning School Eucharist do not take place during the summer holidays.



### St Mary's parish prayer

Loving Father, we pray your blessing on our parish. Help us to have hearts open to your Holy Spirit. Give us the courage to follow the way of Christ. Strengthen us to be faithful in prayer and loving service. Help us to play our part in building up your Kingdom here and now.



### Web:

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### Church Wardens:

Stewart Barnet  
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Susie Mapledoram  
tel. 07710 557833

### Assistant Curate:

Carole Barnet  
tel. 0161 766 2774

### Assistant Curate:

Owen Edwards  
tel. 07512760823

# What's ON!

12 Feb 6-00pm

Ministry team meeting

12 Feb 7-00pm

Standing Committee meeting

13 Feb 8-00pm

"Breathing Space"

23 Feb 11-00am

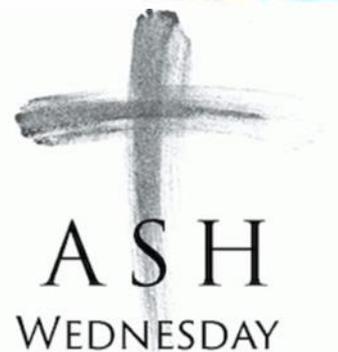
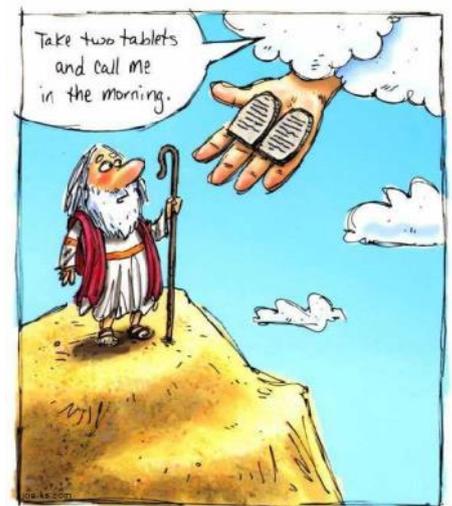
Holy Hour

6 March 7-30pm

Ash Wednesday Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes



**PMP Youth Group** creating an Arc on the theme of Noah. The group meet each Sunday evening in the CLCC from 6-15pm. If you are interested in joining please speak to Adele or Church Warden Susie.



6 March

Ashing will be offered this day at the Metro, School and at services in church