

NEWS UPDATE—starting 1st February

Dear Friends, dates for your diaries:

SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY — 14:30

Piano Recital by Professor Graham Scott

Tickets £12 can be bought on the door (cash only)

WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY — WEM

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE at 19:00

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY — 10:00-12:00

Coffee Morning in the Church Hall

CHURCH FLOWERS SPONSORSHIP

Would you like to celebrate a special date and or remember a special person by sponsoring church flowers. If so please add your name, occasion and/or person by the relevant date to the list at back of church. Sponsorship money should be paid to Wem PCC via our Treasurer Caroline Sinclair. Please speak to me if you wish for further information.

RAFFLE PRIZES

At our coffee mornings and concerts raffles are popular so we would be grateful for donations of prizes to support these events. We aim to have 8 prizes for each raffle, so if you could make a donation; Chocolates, Bottles of Wine, Toiletries or other small prizes, that would be greatly appreciated. You could let Kim or Me have the prize any Sunday or at the event itself.

To view our February services
please go to our website:
<https://wemcofe.co.uk>

Services in the Benefice

Sunday 1st February—CANDLEMAS

WEM	08:00 09:45	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist
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WESTON	09:30	Holy Eucharist
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LEE	11:15	Holy Eucharist
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Monday 2nd February—Funeral Service

WEM	12:00	John Edward Henry Hall RIP
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Thursday 5th February

WEM	09:30 12:00 19:30	Holy Eucharist Funeral Service Jason Robert Roberts RIP Choir Singing Practice
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Sunday 8th February—2 before Lent

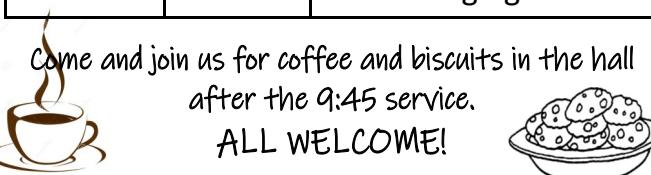
WEM	08:00 09:45	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist
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WESTON	09:30	Morning Prayer
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LEE	11:15	Holy Eucharist
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Thursday 12th February

WEM	09:30 19:30	Holy Eucharist Choir Singing Practice
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Sybil

Sybil Farmer, PCC Lay Chair
SS Peter & Paul's Church, Wem

St Peter & St Paul's, Wem

CANDLEMAS

Sunday 1st February 2026

THE COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

1st READING: MALACHI 3:1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do

not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

2nd READING: HEBREWS 2:14-end

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 2:22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Prayer Diary For Sunday 1st February 2026

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE CANDLEMAS

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Psalm 32:6-7

Today

Let us be faithful in prayer together so that God's will may be established here on earth and that we may know God's protection from trouble.

Monday 2nd February

Pray for the Youth Club that the leadership team will be increased by persons called to this important service. May this work be of great benefit to the young people.

Tuesday 3rd February

Pray for the lonely and bereaved that they may not be forgotten but provided with opportunities for friendship and social stimulation.

Wednesday 4th February

Pray for those working in the medical services at this busy time, that they may be strengthened and protected from illness themselves.

Thursday 5th February

Pray for our Rector, John, that the Lord will bless his ministry in St. Peter's school. Pray for the children that they will grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus.

Friday 6th February

Pray for the Food Bank and the Food Hub that they will be supported with the resources that they need in order to help families in food poverty.

Saturday 7th February

Pray for opportunities to speak about your faith in conversation with others. Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to speak clearly.