

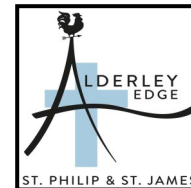
## Calendar for FEBRUARY 2026

| <u>Date</u>  | <u>Time</u> | <u>Service</u>  |
|--|-------------|---|
| <u>Sunday 1st February</u>                             | 8am         | Holy Communion  |
|  | 10am        | Choral Eucharist for Candlemas  |
|  | 11.45am     | Pipnjay   |
|  | 6.30pm      | Taize Service   |
| <u>Sunday 8th February</u>                             | 8am         | Holy Communion  |
|  | 10am        | Family Communion  |
|  | 6.30pm      | Prayer Service on Zoom  |
| <u>Sunday 15th February</u>                            | 8am         | Holy Communion  |
|  | 10am        | Choral Eucharist  |
|  | 5pm         | Choral Evensong at Rainow   |
| <u>Wednesday 18th February</u><br><i>Ash Wednesday</i> | 11.30am     | Holy Communion with Ashing  |
|  | 7.30pm      | Holy Communion with Ashing  |
| <u>Sunday 22nd February</u>                            | 8am         | Holy Communion  |
|  | 10am        | Choral Eucharist  |
|  | 6.30pm      | Prayer Service on Zoom  |
| <u>Every Wednesday</u>                                 | 11.30am     | <i>Holy Communion Service followed by communal lunch at 12.30pm and Voices Together at 1.30pm</i> |

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*Please see website for details of our future services*  
[www.stphilipandstjames.co.uk](http://www.stphilipandstjames.co.uk)

### St Philip & St James Parish Church, Alderley Edge FEBRUARY 2026 NEWS SHEET



*Dear Friends,*

A dark cloud hung over Christmas in Alderley Edge this year in the form of an unanswered question?

What happened to Snowy?

Snowy the donkey appeared faithfully as she always does at the 4pm service on Christmas Eve. The community gathered together, young and old, and the church was packed. We assembled the crib. We sang the same old songs in the traditional way, finishing, as usual, with the Twelve Days of Christmas with all the actions.

And this year we had asked Snowy to come back at 6pm for a second service which we have started to organise at least in part because we can't fit everybody in at 4pm. Another 200 people came at 6pm but Snowy did not show up and there was no word from her.

The good news is that Snowy was fine then and is fine now. There was an accident in Donkeyland that didn't affect Snowy, an ambulance had to be called and there was no time to telephone the church, but now everybody is fine.

Thank you to everybody who came to church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We had record numbers in church over Christmas for the period of eight and a half years since I came to be vicar here. Lots of young people came for midnight mass.

Some newspapers delight to report on how the Church of England is falling apart. That's not how things look in this parish. And nationally, Bible sales are up apparently. God is with us. Maybe we need to hear that and believe that more than ever.

*Rev'd Robin Pye*

## What is Lent?

If you listen to the news too much you will get the impression that you live in a world where nobody will admit to making a mistake. Politicians especially seem to stick to this mantra. And governments seem to think that an apology will just lead to demands for compensation, so they try and express regret that something has happened, or they say they apologise 'if anybody feels upset'. But we know from our own lives that you can't really live like that. Or if you try to live like that, it just becomes exhausting. Every moment becomes an argument about what happened and whose fault it is. When we meet people who seem to live like this, they just wear us out.

Family life works a lot better if we can find ways to say sorry and commit to doing things differently. Compensating people who have been wronged is a way for everybody to move forward on the basis of justice and peace.

Lent is the season when the church tries harder to live like this. It is a time for a more conscious focus on what we have done wrong and what we need to put right. Imagine if the whole of our community was doing this. Imagine if the whole world was doing this. Imagine living in a world where the mantra was: we have made mistakes; we could do better than this; God is merciful; he forgives us; can we not forgive each other; can we move forward in justice and in peace? Can we all imagine living like this, just for a few weeks every year; just for Lent; and seeing what difference that makes?

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday which is 18<sup>th</sup> February this year. And it ends on Easter Day, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Look out for Lenten activities at church to support you through Lent.

## Mothers' Union Trauma Teddy Update

Many thanks to everyone who has knitted Trauma Teddies for distribution by the Manchester Airport Chaplaincy Team, or who provided wool or filling for them. Following our February meeting on Shrove Tuesday at 11am in the West End we will wave goodbye to the Teddies as they are sent off to provide comfort to distressed children. Our guest speaker for the meeting will be a Chaplain from the Manchester Airport Team. If you would like to learn more about the work of the Airport Chaplaincy Team please come along. Everyone is welcome to join us.

## Café Church

We hold Café Church every Thursday at 10.30am at Lily & Rosie Café. Half an hour of reading Scripture, holding silence and praying with free tea and coffee. All Welcome.

## Lenten Meditation

### Tuesdays at 9am for half an hour

Our Lenten meditation includes incense, music, silence a short passage from scripture and one short prayer. If you would like to join us please do so on the following dates *19th February, 5th March, 12th March, 19th March, 26th March and 2nd April*.

## Children's Yoga

Children's Yoga in the Parish Rooms on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3.30pm. Please contact [grochowoska.m@gmail.com](mailto:grochowoska.m@gmail.com) for more information.

## Tuesday Tots

Our Tuesday Tots sessions run every week in the Parish Rooms from 10am to 12 noon. We ask for a donation of £3 per family and serve hot drinks for the adults at these sessions. Almost all these sessions include a story and songs led by the Vicar.

## Voices Together

Every Wednesday 1.30pm to 2.30pm. We are a friendly, welcoming and inclusive singing group. No singing experience necessary! All Welcome.

## ST PHILIP & ST JAMES MINISTRATIONS JANUARY

*Baptisms: 11th Joel Leadley, 18th Charlotte Gill  
Funerals: 9th Ashley Bates, 16th Sheila Adamson*