



**THE PARISHES OF  
LEDBURY AND EASTNOR**

*Worshipping God,  
Following Jesus, Sharing His Love*



**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024  
CANDLEMAS**

**8am BCP Communion *in church***

**10am Parish Communion**

in the church building and streamed live on the website

[www.stmichaelsledbury.org](http://www.stmichaelsledbury.org)

then available later on video

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024  
Second Sunday Before Lent**

8am BCP Communion *in church*

10am Parish Communion

Church office: phone number: 01531 631 531.

Email: [ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net](mailto:ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net)

our website is: [www.stmichaelsledbury.org](http://www.stmichaelsledbury.org)

Facebook – The church’s facebook page: [fb.me/stmichaelsledbury](https://fb.me/stmichaelsledbury) –

Do have a look, like, follow and participate.

X (Twitter) – Do sign-up to S. Michael’s twitter account: [@LedburyParish](https://twitter.com/LedburyParish)

**Readings for 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024:**

*Candlemas*

**Old Testament Reading:**

**Malachi 3: 1 – 5**

<sup>1</sup> “Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But 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. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup> “Then I will draw near to you for judgement. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

**New Testament Reading:**

**Hebrews 2: 14 – 18**

<sup>14</sup> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He [Jesus] Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil <sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

**Gospel Reading:**

**Luke 2: 22 – 40**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they [Mary & Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons”.

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel and

the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

<sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law,

<sup>28</sup> he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And His father and His mother marvelled at what was said about Him.

<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother,

"Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

<sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon Him.

## COLLECT

God of heaven, You send the Gospel to the ends of the earth and Your messengers to every nation: send Your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous Lord, in word and eucharist we have proclaimed the mystery of Your love: help us to live out our days that we may be signs of Your wonders in the world; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

**We pray for:** Our link CMS mission partners, our Leprosy Mission partners & S' Michael and All Angels, Mtwara and S' John the Baptist Church, Likonde and Father Jackan.

**We pray for those who are sick:** we have amended the list below, but if you know of anyone who should still be included, please let the office know.

Pam Robinson	Thomas Heffner	Stacey Ross	Jenny Barber Iley
David Hicks	Peter Houghton	Elsbeth Barber Iley	Gillian Hewin
Dean Jackson	Terry Dold	Andrew Hicks	Adam Ross

**We remember those who have died and pray for those who mourn their passing:**

William Turberfield	Jane Harvey	Denis Watson	Ian Done
Angela Hooper	Kate Greenall	Colin Thorne	Ella Turner
Janet Epps	Frances Holloway	Pam Foskett	Sally Foxon
Diane Lindeck	David Harling	Julia Matthews	

## Year of Faith 2024

Bishop Richard calls us in 2024 to **grow together in our faith**. This invitation is offered to everyone. There are events, teaching and study days to join in and opportunities to create your own too either as a school community, church or as part of a small group, or in the quiet of your home. Key events for the Year of Faith:

As we continue to build our lives grounded in prayer we seek to encourage everyone to get to know their Bible so that we can learn to live a more Christ like life. Being confident in our Bible marks us out as people of the Christian faith who share our light and point to the hope and love that Jesus offers to all.

As part of living out our values in every corner of our diocese, Bishop Richard calls us in 2024 to grow together in our faith. This invitation is offered to everyone. There are events, teaching and study days to join in and opportunities to create your own too either as a school community, church or as part of a small group, or in the quiet of your home. Bishop Richard will also be encouraging all churches to do the Bible Course together in the summer term after Easter, though you may choose to do this earlier in the year, perhaps as a Lent Course.

We continue to pray that across communities, villages and towns of our diocese, more lives will be transformed and that more people will come to know Christ.

Dates and events are in the 'Dates for your Diary'. There will be a Bishop's Questions and a Bishop's Training event in Ledbury in April and July. More information later.

Please provide information for our weekly pewsheets by Wednesday each week to allow finalisation and printing to take place on Thursdays. Thank you.

Please email your requests to Annie Lindon [annielindon@gmail.com](mailto:annielindon@gmail.com) and to (cc) [rector@stmichaelsledbury.org](mailto:rector@stmichaelsledbury.org).

Please begin your subject line with *Pewsheets*.

Thank you

As you will have noted, the church sound system is time expired, especially the hearing loop. We have received generous contributions to meet the cost of replacing the entire system. The diocese has approved the installation of a completely new system, which will include a new hearing loop. It will be installed between 5 and 9 February. So please be careful if in the nave or chancel over this period to avoid disturbing the contractors. It may be that parts of the church will have to be closed off to allow the contractors to complete their work.

Our Reader, Michael Llywelyn Jones will be delivering his course **Digging Deeper: Exploring the Bible**. If you would like to join it, or simply to hear more about it before making a commitment please email Michael direct on [mikellywelynjones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mikellywelynjones@hotmail.co.uk)

**Important contact change.** Andrew Beech's former email address, [beech100@virginmedia.com](mailto:beech100@virginmedia.com), is now defunct. If you wish to contact Andrew, please use [andrewbeech1@icloud.com](mailto:andrewbeech1@icloud.com)

**Parking.** On Sundays is for Blue Badge holders only. The town car parks are free on Sundays.

### Services

**Thursday** 7am and midday prayers in church.

**Friday** 10.30am Holy Communion in S<sup>t</sup> Katherine's Chapel.

**'Real' Easter eggs, made from Fairtrade chocolate and including the Easter Story.** These aren't available in shops, only online. There is a saving if ordered in bulk so please let me know if you would like me to buy for you.

The full range (and costs) can be found at:

<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg>

I need to order by 11th February, please.

Mary Anne Keyes (07962 323 454. [makeyes25@hotmail.com](mailto:makeyes25@hotmail.com))

### Easter Lilies

The Flower Guild will be decorating the church at Easter with lilies. As in previous years to help meet the cost of flowers we invite you to sponsor a lily in memory of a loved one. The cost remains £3 per stem. Forms can be found on the table at the North door or electronically from the church website (weekly pewsheets page). Contact Chris Lynch Flower Guild Coordinator on 01531 670 037 or email [Chris.lynch54@btinternet.com](mailto:Chris.lynch54@btinternet.com) if you would like more information.

## Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday 6 February at 7.00pm**, in the hall behind the Catholic Church on New Street, there will be meeting to plan the Lent Groups for this year. Do come along to find out what we will be studying and to put your name down for a group'

**9th -11th February** The Llangasty Retreat The weekend will be led by Revd.Nicky Seabright. To book a place please contact Cherry on 01531 660261 or by email [cherryvabt@gmil.com](mailto:cherryvabt@gmil.com)

**Saturday 10 February 11.00am – 1.00pm** will be the next **LEAF event for children a Forest Fun session** with Becky Davis at Ledbury Primary School. This involves Forest 'School' activities with snacks provided. Becky will devise and lead the activities and all the children are accompanied by parents or carers, but we need some additional volunteers to help welcome and register and also to prepare and serve refreshments. Please publicise to any young families you know, and let me know if you can help. Mary Anne Keyes [makeyes25@hotmail.com](mailto:makeyes25@hotmail.com) 07962 323454

**Saturday 10 February Growing confidence in the word of God. Year. Year of Faith event.** St. Laurence's Church, Ludlow. This is a Bishop's Teaching event. Registration is though Eventbrite:

[Bishop's Teaching Event - Growing confidence in the word of God @ Ludlow Tickets, Sat 10 Feb 2024 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

**Tuesday 13 February at 6:30pm, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party** in S. Katherine's.

**Wednesday 14 February Ash Wednesday** Midday Holy Communion (with ashing) 7pm Holy Communion (with ashing). The midday Holy Communion will be followed by a Soup Lunch

**Friday 1 March 2.00pm . World Day of Prayer** (Women Led, Global Ecumenical Movement). The service this year has been prepared by the Christian women in Palestine, and the theme is "I beg you, bear with one another in love". Our service will be held in Ledbury Baptist Church, The Homend. Do come and join us. Men, women and children are all welcome.

**Mtwara Lent Lunches:** So far we have one Lent Lunch booked for **Fri 8 March** at S. Katherine's Hall. If you would like to host a lunch please contact Elaine Toyer or Hugh Wakeling ([wakelinghugh@gmail.com](mailto:wakelinghugh@gmail.com)).

**Friday 8 and Saturday 9 March Hereford Passion Play. Year of Faith event.** Hereford Cathedral: [Easter | Hereford Cathedral](#)

**Saturday 9 March 10.00 – 12.00** St Peter's Church, Withington when we will welcome the Archdeacon, Derek Chedzey and Diocesan Mission Enabler, Mark Melluish. This will be an open meeting.

**Sunday 10 March Mothering Sunday 10am** Morning Worship.  
**5:30pm** Confirmation with Bishop Richard