

FEBRUARY 2026

WORSHIP

Sunday 1st February: Candlemas

9:30am	Oxhill	Holy Communion
11am	Tysoe	Holy Communion
11am	Brailes	Christingle Family Service
6:30pm	Sutton	Evensong

Sunday 8th February: 2nd Sunday before Lent

9:30am	Oxhill	Morning Worship
9:30am	Sutton	Holy Communion
11am	Tysoe	Morning Worship
11am	Brailes	Holy Communion

Sunday 15th February: Sunday Next before Lent

9:30am	Oxhill	Holy Communion
9:30am	Sutton	Family Service
11am	Tysoe	Holy Communion
11am	Brailes	Morning Worship

Wednesday 18th February: Ash Wednesday

11am	Brailes	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
7:30pm	Tysoe	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes

Sunday 22nd February: 1st Sunday of Lent

9:30am	Sutton	Holy Communion
11am	Brailes	Holy Communion
11am	Tysoe	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Oxhill	Evensong

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On Ash Wednesday we have special services as shown in the service list above. Here we enter the penitential period of Lent by receiving a cross of ash, made from last year's palm crosses on our foreheads. This is a symbol of penitence as we prepare ourselves to celebrate Easter through a time of self examination; of increased devotion and attention to spiritual matters.



**We celebrate Candlemas –
the Presentation of Christ in the Temple
on Sunday 1st February then the
penitential period of Lent begins on
Ash Wednesday 18th February**

The presentation of Christ in the temple is described in Luke's Gospel (chapter 2 verses 22-40). Luke is keen to introduce his readers to Judaism and Jewish life and customs. In this story we see Jesus' parents following the conventions of their time, taking Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, offering the poor-people's sacrifice for Mary's ritual purification after childbirth, and dedicating Jesus to God.

In the Temple Mary and Joseph meet Simeon and Anna, two people characterised by their devotion to God, sharing a recognition that Jesus will be the fulfilment of Jewish hopes for a Messiah. Simeon's song, known as the Nunc Dimittis, gives voice to his belief that Jesus will be important not just for Jews, but for the whole world.

As Easter is quite early this year, Lent begins on 18th February. Historically, Christians confessed their sins on Shrove Tuesday in order to start the Lenten period of self-examination, repentance and prayer with a clear conscience. The name "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the verb "to shrive", meaning to absolve after confession. Being the last day before the penitential season of Lent, popular practices, such as indulging in food that will be sacrificed for the next forty days (like pancakes), are associated with Shrove Tuesday.

SOUTH FELDON GROUP OF CHURCHES PEWS NEWS

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Games Night, in aid of St Lawrence Church
Saturday, 7th February in The Old Chapel,
Oxhill, at 6.30 pm.

FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH
GAMES NIGHT
SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY
6:30PM THE OLD CHAPEL
£13 INCLUDES A BUFFET SUPPER
DONATIONS BAR
BOOKING ESSENTIAL, CONTACT
RUTH MERCER 07400 615999
Cluedo
SCRABBLE
Rummikub
MONOPOLY
Articulate!

Candlemas marks a turning-point in the Christian year; we move away from Christmas and begin to look towards the Cross. Candlemas also marks the moment when we begin to see signs of spring, which is why snowdrops are sometimes called Candlemas Bells.

A flame that cannot be put out

In the dark days
under rain-heavy clouds
among broken branches
and sodden earth,
the snowdrops light their candles.

A flame that cannot be put out
by darkness or gales or doubt.

In the salt wind,
rooks buckle like broken umbrellas;
as the bare trees
heave a great sigh,
the snowdrops tremble

But their flame cannot be put out
by darkness or gales or doubt.

Perfect,
as though carved in green-veined marble,
life pulsing through tissue
delicate as the eyelids of a sleeping child
curved like small fingers, holding on.

Their flame is steadfast:
Darkness or gales or doubt
cannot put it out.

Jan Sutch Pickard
Between High and Low Water

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 17th at St Mary's Tysoe
from 9:30am
with **Stay and Play** for preschool
children, carers and parents



MISSION AND MINISTRY

Shipston Food Bank

Please continue to support the Food Bank by donating food and essential items in the collection boxes in our church porches.

Shipston Food Bank is there for anyone who needs help, and opens on Saturdays at St Edmund's Church between 10.30 am and 12 noon.

There are people in our villages who are really dependent on us so please do help if you can. Thank you very much for your generosity. Please see our Facebook page for our latest requirements. You can also support the Foodbank financially. For more details contact the administrator, Drina Heighton, at drinaheighton@gmail.com

ADVANCE NOTICE

There will be a Deanery Lent Programme.
Details will follow in due course.